

# *Ascension Lutheran Church*

Church Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2024

## Opening:

- **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m., President Bob Hea presiding via Teams.
- **Members in attendance:** Linda Achziger, Margo Pasha, Pastor John Larson, Terry Utecht, Stephanie Roettjer, David Kaiser, Dawn Munson, Shelia Beu, Bob Hea (via Teams)
- **Members excused:** Christa Kirschner, Ian Kirschner, Jim Wert, Barbara Rutter
- **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Larson opened the meeting with a prayer.
- **Opening Devotion:** Dawn Munson shared a devotion regarding Jesus' baptism among sinners.
- **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 12 Council meeting were approved as submitted.

## Officers Reports:

- **President's Report** (Bob Hea) – Bob introduced new Council VP David Kaiser, passed around the Council contacts list for updating, and sent around the sign-up sheet for Lenten suppers (see attached).
- **Treasurer's Report** (Margo Pasha) – report attached. The report was approved.
  - We received \$106,000.00 more than anticipated in 2023. The Board of Elders will allocate an additional \$9,189.00 to mission projects.
  - After discussion regarding CDs, it was decided that Margo will take \$50,000.00 out of the Chase checking account and add it to the existing \$60,000.00 Chase CD. She will change the maturity from 3 months to 2 months on the CD.
  - Margo presented the Enabling Resolution for Disbursements in 2024, a Motion was made for approval, seconded, and passed (see attached).

## Staff Reports:

- **Pastor's Report** – report attached. Highlights:
  - We have 509 baptized members, 458 of whom are communicant members - a decrease of about 25 from the beginning of 2023.
  - In 2023 we averaged 220, an increase of 25 on a weekend. We baptized 12 children, confirmed 7 adults and 4 youth, and 9 people transferred to Ascension from other Lutheran congregations.
  - The number of people watching online through our YouTube Channel grew by 63 each weekend. Over 11,000 views were recorded.
  - In 2023, more than \$100,000 was given to mission partners and projects.
  - Pastor agreed to provide Bob with names of people who might serve as Assistant Secretary to Council.
- **Director of Education & Youth** (Stephanie Roettjer) – report attached.

- 37 kids from preschool through high school led the Christmas Eve service. There was a youth drama, youth bell choir (10 kids) and children's choir.
- Thirteen youth attended the Youth progressive dinner in December.
- Jenna and Stephanie are working on a Family Game Night on January 26.
- Kids in Christ Knowing the Savior (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders) will meet on January 28.
- Twelve youth will attend the Youth Winter Retreat on Jan. 14-15.
- **Board of Education** (Christa Kirschner) – report attached.
- **Board of Youth** (Ian Kirschner) – no report.
- **Board of Elders** (Jim Wert) – report attached.
- **Board of Congregational Life** (Shelia Beu) – report attached. Pastor and Shelia will meet to further discuss this Board.
- **Board of Evangelism** (Dawn Munson) – report attached.
- **Ladies' Guild** (Linda Achziger) – report attached.
- **Board of Trustees** (Terry Utecht & Chuck Mielke) – report attached. Discussed the asbestos report for the Bell Tower, which showed no asbestos. The footing concrete will only need to be removed down to one foot underground, which will decrease the cost of the project by \$20,000. The removal of the existing lighting and associated wiring will be donated. Heavy equipment will not be used, due to placement of power lines. The work area will be fenced off. A state permit has been filed. The cost is estimated at \$126,595.00, which will come out of surplus funds. Three people have volunteered to serve on the patio redesign committee. A description of the project will be sent out in the Happenings newsletter.
  - A Motion to contract with Horizon West to do the work was seconded and passed.

### **Announcements:**

- There will be a Council Officers' Workshop hosted by Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Broomfield (Pr. Langness' church) on April 27
- Next Council Meeting – February 13, 2024
- Next Regular Voters' Meeting – April 28, 2024
- Board of the Month for February – Ladies Guild
  - Devotion for Council Meeting
  - Coffee Cleanup on Sundays

**Closing:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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DRAFT  
Date of Approval

Dawn Munson, Admin Asst. / Evangelism Chair

cc: Pastor John Larson  
Council President Bob Hea