

Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

In attendance:

Council Members: Linda Achziger, Bob Hea, Barbara Rutter, Terry Utecht, Pastor John Larson, Jim Wert, Dawn Munson, Shelia Beu, Margo Pasha, Stephanie Roettjer, David Kaiser, Ian Kirschner, Chuck Mielke

Excused: Christa Kirschner

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:29 p.m. in room 203 at Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) by the President.

Opening Prayer:

Pastor John Larson offered an opening prayer.

Opening Devotion

Jim Wert read the devotion.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Approved unanimously.

New Business

None

Staff Reports

- Pastor
 - Mike Zender's stepfather has passed. His mother will need to move back to Denver and has health concerns. Mike will keep us updated on his schedule.
 - Severe Weather Network has permanently closed. They have emailed a list of organizations that support the homeless. This will be added to the Happenings, so the congregation is updated.
- Director of Education and Youth
 - Report attached.
 - October 5 – German Oktoberfest, music and food
 - Motion: To have \$500 of Thrivent Dollars used to pay for the celebration.
 - Passed unanimously.

Officer Reports

- President
 - After numerous consecutive terms as Treasurer, Margo Pasha has asked to step down at the end of the year. Mike Price has agreed to run for Treasurer. He will also be the Treasurer of the Foundation. No one had

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- an issue with a member being Treasurer of both the Congregation and the Foundation at the same time.
- Elections are coming up. If your position is up for election, please let Bob Hea know if you would like to run for another term.
- Vice President
 - Meg was the only signer on EDP account. Stephanie and Margo were added as signers.
 - Will ask Dick Castleman, Assistant Treasurer, to conduct an audit on our EDP accounting practices and provide any recommendations.
- Treasurer
 - No questions. Report approved unanimously.
- Secretary
 - None

Board Reports:

- **Education**
 - Right now, we are in the middle of a parent study on "Raising a Strong Daughter in a Toxic Culture." This is scheduled for every Sunday in August.
 - Kickoff Sunday for Sunday school will be Sunday, September 8th.
 - The next KICKS for those in grades 3-5 will be Sunday, August 25.
 - Young Adult Ministry
 - On Friday, August 9, we had our young adult Bible study gathering at the Lawrenz house. It was well attended with 12 adults there.
 - MC2 (Moms Coffee Connect) will not be happening this year. After having low attendance all last year, we decided to focus our efforts on other ministries. Possibly a women's ministry. We still plan to meet in an informal manner for those moms who would still like to get together.
 - Preschool
 - The preschool will start up again for the year on August 19th. This week is a teacher work week. They have been setting up their classrooms and going over policies and procedures. Later this week, the staff will be having CPR/First Aid classes as well as having a Welcome Morning for families to stop in and get a brief rundown of what to expect this year.
- **Youth**
 - National Youth Gathering – we would really love to see you at church, especially since the church is sponsoring.
 - Code of Conduct is being worked on. The rules will be posted in the room.
- **Elders**

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- 1. We continue our search for a director for the Agape and Youth Praise Bands. Stephanie and Mike have met and interviewed several potential candidates:
 - a. Phil Bair from Evergreen
 - b. Ann Kirkpatrick – withdrew her name from consideration.
 - c. Abi Tubbs from Parker – More of a consultant
 - d. Katie Kenkel from Castle Rock
- 2. Elders continue discussions on creating an Elder’s Handbook, outlining and documenting our responsibilities and duties.
 -

- **Congregational Life**
 - Attached
- **Evangelism**
 - Attached
- **Ladies’ Guild**
 - Attached
- Motion: Matching funds of \$1000 from Thrivent dollars for Bake & Craft Sale
 - Passed unanimously.
- **Trustees**
 - Attached
 - **Motion: to approve accept the Policyholder release of \$93,062.36.**
 - \$12,000 to be paid to the lawyers.
 - Passed unanimously.
 - Motion: to approve an expenditure up to \$5000 to replace the water heater from the facility reserve.
 - Passed unanimously.

Announcements

- Next Council Meeting – September 10, 2024
- Next Voter’s Meeting – December 1, 2024
- Board of the Month (September 2024) – Board of Evangelism

Board of the Month duties include:

Devotions for Council Meeting, “Happenings” newsletter article each week, coffee cleanup

Adjournment

- At 8:10 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

———— Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Rutter, Secretary