



# ASCENSION LUTHERAN

CHURCH ■ SCHOOL ■ FOUNDATION

June 21, 2022

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**Saturday Worship**

6 pm Country Spirit

**Sunday Worship**

9 am Traditional  
11 am Praise Alive  
10:10 Sunday School

Dear Fellow Ascension Member,

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is this Sunday, June 26th at 10:10 a.m. in Founder's Hall. We'll be reviewing this year's achievements and sharing our vision of One Ascension's future.

This meeting also sets up our congregation for the fiscal year ahead with two important votes. The first is to vote in a new slate of officers. We've got a particularly strong roster of candidates this year, and I hope you'll come to the meeting to vote and show your support for the important work we'll be doing together at Ascension in the coming year. Your participation in this important process helps ensure that we continue to have the best and brightest people in leadership positions.

The second vote at the meeting will be to approve the 2022-23 budgets for our church, ECC/day school and foundation. Here again we have good news, including a projected balanced budget for One Ascension.

Since we'll have less than an hour at the congregational meeting to discuss and vote on these items, we're providing you with copies of all three budgets beforehand. We know that some of you like to parse the numbers beforehand to help save us some time at the meeting.

Also, here are some key points regarding the proposed budget for next year:

- We are presenting budgets reviewed with a commitment to maintaining pre-pandemic funding for all Church programs, as well as investments for repairs and upgrades in the day school facilities. This is remarkable coming out of the pandemic, during which many congregations, unfortunately, have seen significant reversals in their financial health.
- Our church members continue to be generous in their giving and we are asking for a 2.5% increase in giving in the next fiscal year. Yes, that's a bit of a stretch, but it will allow us to continue to fund our ministries and programs and to maintain and improve our on-campus buildings and facilities, with anticipated higher levels of inflation.

- Our combined day school and Early Child Center is anticipated to show a surplus next year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.
- While assets in the foundation's budget have decreased in the first half of 2022 due to a significant stock market correction, the foundation still shows a healthy ~\$1,460,000 of assets to do its important work.
- Budgeted compensation for our church staff includes an approximately 5 percent increase. This would be only the second time in the past five years where compensation levels would be increased. The ECC and school have also reviewed compensation levels for staff to create parity for similar levels of education, experience, and Ascension seniority.
- The governing bodies of the three organizations – Church Council, School Board and Foundation Board – have developed, reviewed and approved these budgets. They now go to the congregation for approval by vote on June 26<sup>th</sup>. These budgets will then be ratified at the September Congregational Meeting.

Please attend this Sunday's meeting and participate. We need every one of you to help ensure the success of Ascension's ministries.

Blessed to be working alongside of you,

Carrie Leonard  
Council President