

Attendance

Our six week average is 338, slightly down from the 358 reported last month. Our online views of 1 minute or greater are averaging 140.

Maintenance

We are currently within our church maintenance repairs and replacement budget of \$25,300, just slightly ahead of the \$14,758 anticipated spend through January. However, there are a significant number of small maintenance projects that keep popping up on the campus that seem to cost between \$1,000 and \$2,000 each. We would like to add large "1600" signs on each side of the sanctuary that match the ECC's address signs, which is \$1,227.40. A flower delivery truck hit the gutter on the east side of the sanctuary and damaged it in December, which will be \$1,180 to replace. We were quoted \$1,650 to stencil and paint new markings on the asphalt, which we may need to do if the delineators we ordered don't work. We are trying some inexpensive solutions to improve the lighting on the stairs and parking lots 1 and 2 at night after we got a quote of \$1,955. All of these items are important, but not necessarily urgent, and there are a variety of solutions that could work. I'm looking forward to some guidance from the reserve study process to add some clarity and strategy for us.

Reserve Studies

The School Board agreed to the Council's recommendation, so I have signed the contract and I am in communication with Fred at Reserve Study Specialists to schedule an onsite visit as soon as possible.

Sonrise Room Equipment

The Sonrise conference room is being used regularly by several groups. We discovered that the inexpensive camera and mic solution that I had found was not ideal, so we returned it and we have been borrowing Pastor Tim's device for Zoom calls. I had to try; we'll find something cost effective that works well.

In additional cleanup efforts, we placed an old Riso copier we had in the Bethlehem Room on Facebook Marketplace, and it sold to a local "Riso enthusiast" for \$240! I deposited the cash into the Property Miscellaneous Reserve Fund. I would like to use some of that fund in the near future for office flooring and paint. My Foundation grant request was denied, but I was encouraged to resubmit in the spring, which I will do. My most urgent concern is the age of the carpet in the Bethlehem Room, main office, and church offices. There are snags and runs in the carpet big enough for the most graceful to trip on, and concerns about mold and glue chemicals by staff and visitors. Our proposal included vinyl plank in the in the entryway by the main door, and new carpet and pad in the Bethlehem room, main office, pastor offices, and my offices. We'd like to scrape away the popcorn ceiling in the hall and put up fresh paint, but we'll do one step at a time.

Human Resources

I have updated the Employee Handbook for the Church. The summary of changes is included in your council packet. I ask that you review them and consider approving the Handbook at the February council meeting.

In related news, I'll be attending a webinar about rolling out employee handbooks on February 27th, so the timing is ideal!

Call Committee

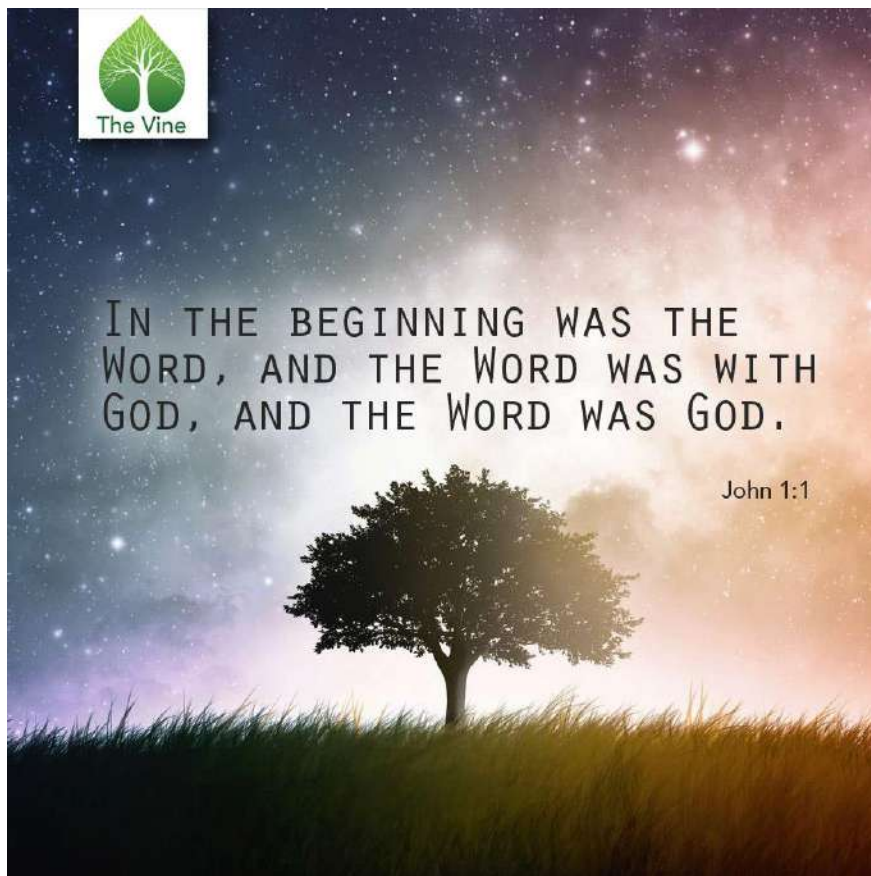
Pastor Tim , Carrie and I worked hard to complete the Ministry Site Profile. Thank you for approving it! I spoke to Julia Morales at the Synod office; our profile is "live." The call committee met Monday, February 12th for an initial meeting, and scheduled their next meeting as well.

Be the Blessing

Ed Klodt did an amazing job preaching on February 4th to roll out Be the Blessing to the congregation at large. The grant request and followup form are online, and ready to be filled out electronically and go directly to the committee for their review. I set up a tracking form in Sheets for the committee to track their requests and followup as the program continues. Stacy Smith Bosco and her husband Dominick linked the spiritual gifts assessment form the ELCA's website, and linked the Ascension Ministries related to each of the twenty spiritual gifts.

We've had a couple of nice stories to share from the initial grants issued by our soft launch last fall. Two of the grants were for the school, who plans to do those service projects in February and March, so those will be great to hear about continue to build momentum with for new projects.

Kaylee Searway





Tim's Council Report- February 24

Grace and peace to you my family in Christ,

Late January and early February has been quite a time in the life of Ascension Lutheran Church. Much is being accomplished and I can see the future unfolding. All the while, we continue through the rhythms of the liturgical year transitioning from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent and, as I am sure you will read by the rest of the reports, the Holy Spirit is flowing through the Church, School, and Foundation.

Perhaps the most important processes going on right now are the search for our Youth Director and our Associate Pastor. January was a month of queuing the tasks in each process, writing job descriptions, interfacing with the Synod, calling volunteers for the Call Committee and the Youth Director search team, and presenting the plans to council, staff and the congregation. These activities culminated in the congregational meeting which was held on February 4th. In this meeting we elected a Call Committee and presented the process to the church. I was pleased by the team that was elected and the good conversation that happened at that meeting. Multiple people have pointed out the engaged and concerned nature of the people that were there. I am so grateful that people understand how important this process is to the future of One Ascension. I iterated one of my major roles in this process: "Captain Catalyst." I believe it is my job to hold the tension between moving fast and picking the right person. We need to do both as best we can. That involves making sure that our Call Committee is equipped with what they need, that we continue to communicate urgency to Synod office as we are required to partner with them, and to continue to network with various pastors and churches around the country to let them know of the position. I really appreciate the hard work and expertise of Carrie Leonard and Kaylee Seaway and we work on these things together.

In the interim there is much regular work continues. My added duties of Confirmation, overseeing the Childrens Ministry activities, and leading chapel are going well. To help during the interim, we have hired Jenni Klemp. She is a former Children's Ministry Director and will be working up to 10 hours a week to make VBS happen and to assist with any Sunday School needs that may come up beyond what the volunteers are already doing.

Lent is off to a good start. We have commissioned Pastor Paul Gravrock to run the Wednesday evening Holden Evening Lenten Worship series and he has done an excellent job in setting

things up. We will have a group of our retired clergy preaching on the Lord's Prayer throughout the season. What a gift our retired pastors are to this congregation.

Our Be the Blessing initiative got off to an excellent start. Thanks to Ed Klodt for heading up this important program. He has done an excellent job of working with his team and church staff to put together a plan and launch the initiative by preaching on the first week of February. While it was launched well, it has become quite evident that we are going to continue to need to communicate and encourage the congregation to avail themselves of the grant program.

Finally, this is the time of the year in which we begin to prayerfully go about the process of picking next year's leaders. Ed Klodt and I will begin this process in the month of February. We ask for your prayers that God will continue to raise up the amazing leadership that He continues to call forth at this place!

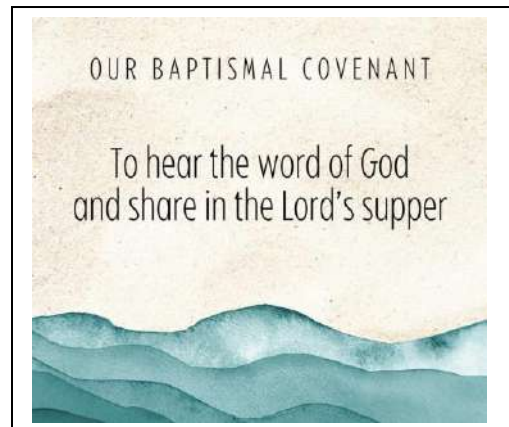
Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Tim". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Church Council Report – Pastor Steve Herder – January 31, 2024

Worship

- + What a joy to celebrate the baptisms of four Duarte children on Jan. 7th.
- + This month I started leading more liturgy at the 9:00am service.
- + Norm Guetschoff and I lead worship services through the month at six senior living places. (Norm leads four of them and I lead two of them.) We appreciate all friends who can join us!

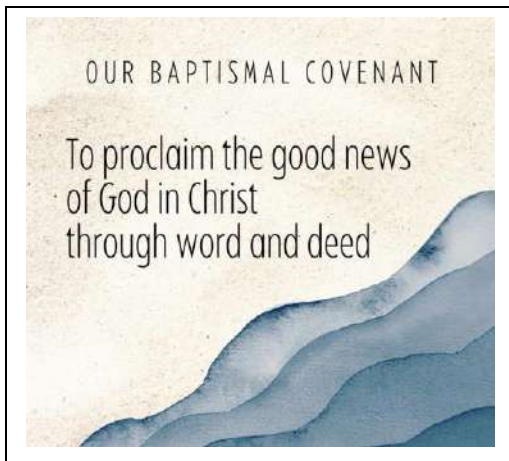


Prayer Ministries

- + Linda Morrow leads our email prayer group, and I send the updates when she is out of town. Your prayer requests can be to this group and/or in our newsletter, or simply private prayers and not public.
- + Bonny Chick led a group of eight of us in our first meeting to plan a bigger and better event for Blessing of our Animals, next October. We'll meet on the 4th Wednesday at 4pm each month to plan. Join us! We already have two veterinarians!
- + At the end of this report, see the two updated prayer pages, the Ascension Prayer Partners page, and the One Ascension prayer page of our leaders.

Adult Education

- + January classes were led by Pastor Paul, Louise Evenson, Carol Bjelland, and Carol Bartell. All excellent classes. Epiphany. MLK Jr. Mt. Meru Coffee Project in Tanzania. The ELCA Study on Civic Life and Faith (that will continue through March 3).
- + We thank Dianne Beck for leading a new group on Wednesdays focusing on studying and praying the Psalms.



Women's Ministries

+ With my increased hours during this interim time as we seek a new full-time associate pastor, I'm glad to be back with the Monday morning women's Bible study, and visit and pray with the five groups, as we study the second half of the book of Acts.

Stephen Ministry

+ Last month our Stephen Ministers presented Norm with a Stephen Ministry cap as a small gift for leading them this past year! Stephen Ministry is one-on-one Christian caregiving ministry.

Ascension Foundation

+ Also, during this interim time, I'll be the pastoral rep to our Foundation, and Pastor Tim will when I cannot be present. This month I worked with our Grants Committee. Present were Anita Cohen, Susanne Hopkins, and Don Weeks.

Senior Adult Ministries

+ We have 423 people who are 65 and older and that doesn't include the seniors for whom we don't know their birthdates! In this new year I'm working hard at connecting with as many of these friends as possible, of course with priority on those who are the oldest, or the ones who are not able to leave their home much. I'm also trying to connect with our senior friends whom we have not seen in a while in worship. To all of you, I invite you to also reach out to me, and invite me to your home for a visit. Thank you! Please let Pastor Tim and I know when you are in the hospital or have another significant event in your life. We care for you and want to support you in prayer. Barbara Krum is doing many senior visits, as are our wonderful Eucharistic Ministers, led by Pastor Ron Cox.

+ I participate in zoom meetings with our synod's Older Adult Ministries Team and try to be a resource to them and learn from them.

+ Brenda Heinrich leads our GriefShare Group every Thursday at 1:00pm. We have many from the community who join us as well. Blessed to be a blessing.

A STUDY CURRICULUM ON
CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH

Join us in Adult Education for a series of thoughtful study and lively discussions devoted to **CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH**. All Classes are held in the library, beginning at 10:30 AM

Jan. 28 Session 1: Dr. Carol Bartell, "How Is God's Invitation to Discipleship Lived Out in a Democracy?"

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. We come together as people of grace to discuss the newest statement under development.

ECC Friday Songs

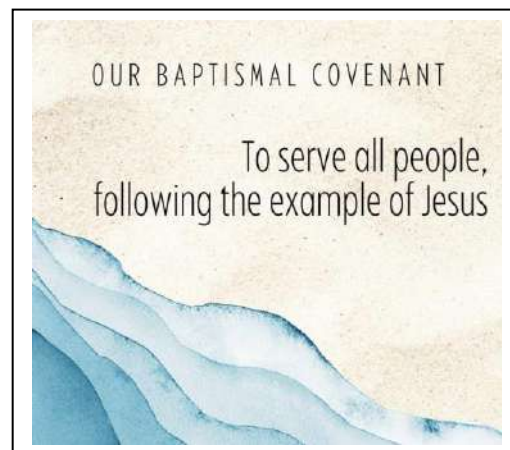
+ One of my favorite times of the week is singing with all the children and staff outside in the playground areas of our Early Childhood Center. A new mic and speaker have really helped that little time of worship together!

Community Concerns Team

+ Our team thanks Jeff and Cam and team for renovating our food pantry storage area and giving us more storage space for this Friday morning ministry!

+ Tania and Barry Disselhorst have a great team who prepare meals for the third Tuesday of each month for the ministry of Harbor House for those in need in our community.

+ Our leader, Chris Daleiden, is organizing another food drive for Feb. 25. Please join us in this caring ministry for our neighbors.



Global Ministries Team

+ Our leader, Louise Evenson, presented a wonderful summary of our 2023 ministries at our January meeting, along with helping us set goals for 2024. She also organized a lunch for 34 people to hear an inspiring update from Lutheran World Relief by Pastor Lisa Kipp. We were pleased that leaders from three other congregations joined us. (Photo is in the middle of the next page.)

+ Our Gifts of Hope blessed: widows and children in Meru, Tanzania (\$35,561); ELCA World Hunger God's Global Barnyard (\$14,010); Friends of Fieldworkers (\$23,550); and Harbor House (\$15,360), plus gifts from our ECC (\$1415), another gift of \$3,265, for a total of \$91,746! One hundred and eight gifts were given. Thank you, Ascension Church, School and Foundation!

+ We invite the congregation and school parents to join us for our next GMT meeting, on Feb. 7th, at 4:00pm, where we will zoom with ELCA leaders and learn more about our ELCA missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, and our ELCA Women International Leaders.



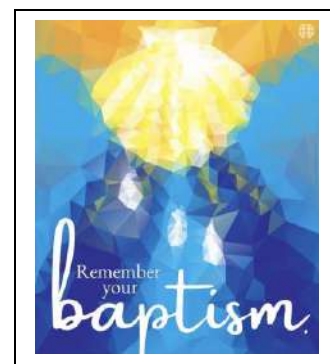
+ Our Fair Trade Ministries continues to thrive with Carol Bjelland’s leadership. Let us know if you’d like to be on our email list for monthly updates.

+ In the coming months you’ll hear more of a fantastic opportunity for us to care for the people in Ukraine. Your GMT leadership is enthused to prepare this opportunity to be a blessing to those who are suffering from the war.

Social Media

+ Each day I do two to six posts on our Ascension Facebook page. One Sunday afternoon as I was reviewing the livestream of our 9:00am service, I was happy to see that we had already reached 373 people who worshiped with us online! More people continue to view the service through the week as well.

We are blessed to be a blessing, in Jesus’ name!



Prayers for One Ascension Leadership

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.”

Colossians 4:2

“In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints.”

Colossians 1:3-4

LEADERSHIP

Church Council

Alan Baker
Rachael Bowen
Bonny Chick
Dave Harkins
Ed Klodt
Carrie Leonard
John Rarick
Jeannette Ruggiero
Steve Smuck

School Board

Scott Bean
Kyle Jones
Jocelyn Myers
Chris Poveromo
Kathy Saneinia
Steve Smuck
Ashley Steere
Nelly Nassar-Trumbo
Anna Woodward

Foundation

Alan Baker
Stefano Borzone
Anita Cohen
Paul Evenson
Susanne Hopkins
Sandra Howe
Lori Hillman
Doug Morrow
Roy Sanchez
Jim Thompson
Don Weeks

ECC STAFF

Christina Alfaro
Stacy Andrews
Jessica Bunting
McKyla Byrd
Brittani Childers
Tiffany Chivaroli
Esperanza Flores
Lyn Derla
Laurie D’Alonzo
Kayla Fromberg
Lauren Jajja
Ariana Hiatt
Liz Hoskinson
Stacy Kealty
Arelly Kendall
Jen Ledesma
Nicole Lewis
Karen Martinez
Tanya Mathews
Jenni McCoy
DeAnna Means
Amanda Munoz
Michele Paniz
Jessica Peters
Jessica Placas
Vanessa Reyes
Karyn Ring
Marissa Saldivar
Nasha Sobieski
Elizabeth Van Mourik
Greta Weinstein
Josie Zapata

CHURCH STAFF

Dianne Beck
Melissa Berg
Stacy Bosco
Matt Cahill
Emilee Crites
Jude Delkeskamp
Pastor Tim Delkeskamp
Camryn Force
Nathan Halvorson
Jeff Hengst
Pastor Steve Herder
Charlie Hulse
Diane Kusnierek
Nancy Lee
Camden Lorentson
Mike Marvin
Lan Merrill
Wyant Morton
Margaret Ricci
Cameron Ruggiero
Kaylee Searway
Jenelle Smith
Christian Teufel

TK- 7 ELEMENTARY STAFF

Acsiris Silva Almanza
Connie Angress
Ashley Babich
Mike Best
Brian Bishop
Elizabeth Bonilla
Mary Bordokas
Mike Burditt
Aidan Delkeskamp
Jennifer Farrell
Spencer Gottmer
Pastor Rich Gregory
Staci H
Camille Harrington
Heather Hartson
Carolina Lopez
Karen Manion
Zach Martino
Amanda McGrail
Devin Milligan
Charlotte Miranda
Tina Mohler
Kelsey Packman
Stephanie Pagano
Erika Quiroga
Andrea Sandoval
Kendra Saunders
Robert Steere
Sara Wallace

Contracted:

Cleaners: Victoria, Valentin, Andrea, Miguel, Meliza

Landscape Staff: Efrain, Jose, Manuel **Updated 1.24.24**

Ascension's Partners Prayer Page

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

"Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you..." First Samuel 12:23a

"Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere, just as it is among you." Second Thessalonians 3:1

Our "Jerusalem"

THOUSAND OAKS, CONEJO VALLEY & VENTURA COUNTY

Our sister houses of faith
in our community

California Lutheran University,
staff & students, etc.

Harbor House
Women's Interfaith
Network (WIN)

Conejo Valley Interfaith
Association

Conejo Interfaith Refugee
Team

Conejo Free Clinic

The Good Shepherd Foster
Family Services
Agency (Iskanders)

Many Mansions
Lutheran Social Services (LSS)

Manna

Jail Ministries

CASA of Ventura County
(Court Appointed Special
Advocates for Children)

Blood drives (Vitalant)

Right Road Kids!

ACTION VC (Ventura County)

Our "Judea & Samaria"

REGIONAL, CA, STATE & NATIONAL

Bishop Brenda Bos and staff at
our Southwest CA Synod
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth
Eaton and staff, ELCA

Pacific Lutheran Theological
Seminary in Berkeley, and the
Center for Climate Justice and
Faith (PLTS)

Lutheran Retreats, Camps &
Conferences: El Camino Pines
& Luther Glen Farm (LRCC)

Fair Trade Ministries
Equal Exchange

Friends of Fieldworkers of
Ventura County

Habitat for Humanity
New City Parish, Los Angeles
African Descent Lutheran
Association (ADLA)

Lutheran Disaster Response
Lutheran Office of Public Policy
in Sacramento

Our "ends of the earth"

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Our sister congregation in El
Salvador, Iglesia Luterana Fe y
Esperanza and Pastor David
Medrano

Our friends in Peru, Pastor David
Covera Quispe and family
Our Gifts of Hope partners
Our missionaries:

Kristen Engstrom, Zambia
Wal Reat, South Sudan

John Rutsindintwarane, Rwanda
ELCA Young Adults in Global
Mission (YAGM)

Cal Lutheran Center for Global
Engagement

ELCA World Hunger / Advocacy
Corus/Lutheran World Relief

Bread for the World
Jubilee USA Network

Global Refuge / Lutheran Immi-
gration & Refugee Service (LIRS)

AMMPARO Migrant Children
Lutherans Restoring Creation
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

National Council of Churches
World Council of Churches
Each country & people group!

Ascension Lutheran School Board Agenda for 1/29/24 Mtg. at 6:30 p.m.

On Campus (Library) & WebEx

1. Call to Order
2. Remembering Our Mission
3. Opening Devotion/Prayer
4. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - Previous School Board Meeting Minutes
 - Principal's Report
 - ECC Director's Report
 - Church Council Rep Report
 - Finance Reports
 - Admissions Report

Old Business:

1. State of Schools – Rich and Jenni
2. Discussion on any reports pulled from Consent Agenda
3. Board Document Storage

New Business:

1. La Reina Closure
2. Appoint a Nominations Committee representative from the School Board
3. Spring Retreat - February 20th – Logistics

Adjournment

Executive Session

1. One Topic

Closing Prayer - Rich
Adjournment