



WORSHIP AT ASCENSION

GET THE BLESSING
BE THE BLESSING

Invite			Grow			Serve		
Invitation and Hospitality			Understanding our Motto			Community Engagement		
Invitation Support	Welcome Visitors	Strategic Invite Events	Education	Sermon Series	Life Together	Enhance Existing Ministries	Encourage Ministry Start-ups	SuperCharge Ministries
Provide tools to easily invite friends, family, and community to worship and other campus events.	Create a welcoming environment for Ascension visitors.	Create and implement a strategy for intentional "invite" events (existing and potential) at Ascension.	Together, discover what it means to "Be the Blessing"	Incorporate intentional sermon series throughout the year to encourage living in to our motto.	Leverage and embrace how ministry groups and life groups are central to "Be the Blessing"	Support the growth of our great outreach ministries.	Allow for creativity to explore new areas of ministry outreach.	Set aside resources and establish process to encourage ministry outreach.



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL AGENDA
Wednesday, Feb 21st 2024 – 7:45 PM
Location: Bethlehem Room

Call to Order and Welcome -

Jeannette

Mission Statement of Ascension Lutheran Church:

We are called to create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ

Motto: *Invite, Grow, Serve*

Approval of Agenda -

Jeannette

Informational Items-

Transitional Plan Next Steps / Call Committee

Pastor Tim

Nomination Committee Update

Ed

New Business –

Employee Handbook Update Approval

Kaylee

Bank Resolution Update

Kaylee

March Council Meeting proposed for March 18th

Jeannette

Old Business

Get/Be The Blessing

Ed

Land Sale

Kaylee

Reserve Study Update

Kaylee

Presentation of Treasurer's Report –

Dave

Recurring Business

Affirm New Members, Confirmands & Baptisms

All

Action Items Action Tracker -

Kaylee

Approval of Minutes –

Jan Church Council Meeting

Jeannette

Feb Special Congregational Meeting

Jeannette

Consent Approval of Reports to Council

Jeannette

1. Administrator's Report

2. Pastor's Reports

a. Pastor Tim Delkeskamp b. Pastor Steve Herder

3. School Board

4. Communications Report

5. GMT Report

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

Reminder -

March 18th at 5pm is Joint Church Council / School Board Dinner/Meeting likely with Council Meeting to follow.

Devotion for April meeting is Dave Harkins! Thank you!

2024 Employee Handbook Changes

Page 1

Welcome

Added section to welcome: affirming that nothing in the Handbook intended to interfere with employees' rights protected by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act and other related laws to discuss the terms of their employment or working conditions at any time.

Page 8

Break and Meal Periods

Counsel advised revisions to clarify the existing policy

Page 9

Group Health Insurance Plan

Addition: Part time employees regularly working less than 30 hours a week are not eligible for the Group Health Insurance Plan. Counsel clarified that we can establish 32 hours as full time, but ACA defines 30 hours as eligible for health care.

Page 10

Sick Pay

New California law dictates 40 hours of sick vs the previous minimum of 24 hours for part time employees. Counsel recommended adding allowed restrictions of being able to use 24 hours of after the 90th day of employment and 40 hours available by the 200th day of employment to mitigate losses in the initial months of employment.

Added counsel's recommended language regarding proper use of sick time.

Page 11

Flexible Holidays

New counsel interpreted this policy as discretionary, and therefore subject to 1.5 times the annual allotment can be carried over to the next year, and they should be paid out upon termination.

Page 12

Bereavement Leave

We have been giving three days of paid bereavement leave. New law dictates that we acknowledge five days of bereavement leave, but it can be paid or not paid. We'll continue to pay for three days. Employees can take two additional days unpaid, or utilize other types of time off like sick or vacation to have it be paid.

Page 12

Reproductive Loss Leave

New policy from the state of California. This is a protected unpaid leave that will be managed confidentially with supervisors and human resources.

Page 13

Family Medical Leave

Counsel struck out sentence about completion of a FMLA leave and starting a new period.

Page 13 Medical Insurance/Retirement Contribution

New subsection recommended by counsel to clarify how medical premiums and retirement contributions are made during a leave.

Page 13

Pregnancy Disability Leave

Notes that the Church does not participate in the State's Paid Family Leave (PFL) or state disability insurance (SDI) programs.

Pages 20-21 Policy Against Harassment

Added reference to the California Civil Rights Department.

Refers employees to the internet rather than the telephone directory

Strikes the work "unlawful" twice to be say the policy is application to all harassment and discrimination.

Pages 21-22 Alcohol, Drugs, and Controlled Substances

Expanded language to clarify that marijuana use or being under the influence of marijuana while working is prohibited. Possession of a California Medical Marijuana Card is not sufficient to overcome the prohibitions.

Expanded section to clarify what instances we would test an employee for marijuana, drug, and/or alcohol testing. Our previous policy said we reserved the right to do so, but was vague on what circumstances would prompt us to require a test.

Page 23

Acceptable Use and Internet Access Policies

More language about not inhibiting employees' rights to discuss the terms of their employment or their working conditions.

Page 23

Solicitation and/or Distribution

Clarifies that the point of the policy is not to curtail free speech rights, rather it is to present disruption and avoid undue pressure upon employees to make financial contributions.

Page 24

Privacy Protection

Added language required under the California Consumer Privacy Protection Act

Page 24

Workplace Prevention Policy

This policy remains as written for now. California requires an expanded policy to be implemented July 1, 2024, and is expected to provide a template to employees this spring.

Page 27

Employee Responsibilities for Prohibited Uses of Computer Network Services

Added language about upholding National Labor Relations Act

Page 28

Social Media Policy

Added reference to X (formerly Twitter)

Pages 31-32

Addition of counsel's proposed employee acknowledgements in lieu of the abbreviated version we used previously.

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THOUSAND OAKS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: 2023/24.4
TITLE: BANKING SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION -
PACIFIC WESTERN BANK
SUBMITTED BY: Director of Administrative Ministries
DATE: February 21, 2024

RESOLVED, that the individuals named below shall have signature authorization on only the specific Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks bank accounts as described below unless removed by subsequent action of the Church Council.

RESOLVED, that the individuals named below be authorized to access electronically, maintain all passwords to such electronic access, and be authorized to move funds between accounts within the same institution, as well as receive information by phone, email or online regarding only the specific Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks bank accounts as described below.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As Council members or staff change, it becomes necessary to change signature authority on certain Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks banking relationships to maintain control and oversight with regard to checks written, funds transferred between institutions, and establishment or dissolution of any bank accounts or banking relationships.

To be removed from account 401007741, AGAPE	Continuing on account 401007741, AGAPE
Julie McCain, Pastor	Timothy C Delkeskamp, Pastor
	Steve R Herder, Pastor

Electronic Administrator Access for the following specific Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks bank accounts as authorized by on-line banking administrator:

Continuing with electronic access on the specific Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks bank accounts as described above unless noted as removed:
Kaylee Searway, Director of Administrative Ministries
Mike Marvin, Senior Accountant
Camryn Force, Accountant
David Harkins, Treasurer

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: No financial impact noted.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept this resolution as written.

Jeannette Ruggiero, President

Date _____

Carrie Leonard, President Elect

Date _____

Rachael Bowen, Secretary

Date _____

Reference for Association Reserves

Bill Brown Director of Operations at Oaks Christian School

Why did you seek a reserve study? **We do them consistently.**

Were you pleased with the report you were given – was it thorough?

What type of useful information did you learn in the process? **The primary reason is budgeting for capital reserves in the coming years. It looks 10 years out; it's not a science, but at least it's an idea. Another reason is auditing and showing fiscal responsibility for the asset.**

Was anything not included in your study that surprised you or that you thought should have been included?

What prep work did you do before the onsite days? **Yes! Set aside some time. We have 500,000 (?) square feet, a big campus. The more info you can give them the better the report will be.**

Is there anything you wish you had known/done before you started?

How have you used the data in your study once it was completed?

Do you plan to do another study in future? **Yes!**

Do you plan to continue to work with Association Reserves company for updates to this reserve study? **Yes**

What were key lessons learned?

[Association Reserves] Have you utilized the UPlanIt software? **Not yet, it wasn't available in last 2018 study.**

They worked with Yohan. It's approximate, but helps plan how well funded you are comfortable with being: 50%, 100%, etc.

Remember they are new eyes to your campus; they won't know the nuts and bolts like you do. It will take a few days to a week.

Reference for Association Reserves

Mike Yager, Executive Director for Belair Church

Why did you seek a reserve study?

Were you pleased with the report you were given – was it thorough?

They were easy to work with and efficient.

What type of useful information did you learn in the process?

They'll probably ask about particulars of what is or isn't important for you to understand. EG, for us, we wanted to know more about our infrastructure - Building, Roofs, HVAC, Major Equipment, and MEP's vs our FFE's -Fixtures, Furniture and (minor) Equipment.

Was anything not included in your study that surprised you or that you thought should have been included?

What prep work did you do before the onsite days?

Is there anything you wish you had known/done before you started?

How have you used the data in your study once it was completed?

I think it depends on how experienced, moreover how learned your facilities / maintenance and repair team is goes a long way in slicing and dicing the information into actual action steps.

Do you plan to do another study in future?

Do you plan to continue to work with Association Reserves for updates to this reserve study?

What were key lessons learned?

[Association Reserves] Have you utilized the UPlanIt software?

Reference for Association Reserves

Katie Striegel, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Why did you seek a reserve study?

To evaluate the campus and their funds as a whole; come up with a capital plan, to know what needs to be replaced and when, and to get an approximation/cost to plan for any work or replacements.

Were you pleased with the report you were given – was it thorough?

Yes, the report is thorough; provides an “order of execution.”

What type of useful information did you learn in the process?

Was anything not included in your study that surprised you or that you thought should have been included?

What prep work did you do before the onsite days?

Is there anything you wish you had known/done before you started?

How have you used the data in your study once it was completed?

Confirmed what was known, what was aging out; help set aside funds and come up with an intentional plan.

Do you plan to do another study in future?

Not at this time.

Do you plan to continue to work with Associate Reserves company for updates to this reserve study?

They do not have plans for another study, however she highly recommended Association Reserves; they are very thorough and the report was high quality.

What were key lessons learned?

Reference for Reserve Study Specialists

Sasoon Mananian, Sprecta Associates

Why did you seek a reserve study?

For HOA because it's mandated

Were you pleased with the report you were given – was it thorough?

What type of useful information did you learn in the process?

Was anything not included in your study that surprised you or that you thought should have been included?

What prep work did you do before the onsite days?

No prep work for the physical inspection, just need to provide data in advance. Would recommend sending as much detailed information as possible to make the reserve study as accurate as possible.

[Reserve Study Specialists] Did you have to pay extra consultation hours?

Is there anything you wish you had known/done before you started?

How have you used the data in your study once it was completed?

Yes, particularly for the annual budget.

Do you plan to do another study in future?

Yes, we use Fred at Reserve Study Specialists almost exclusively.

Do you plan to continue to work with Reserve Study Specialists company for updates to this reserve study?

Yes, we use Fred at Reserve Study Specialists almost exclusively.

What were key lessons learned?

Additional commentary:

- Suggested to have a “person who is knowledgeable about the property/building and history” meet for the physical walkthrough.
- Fred at Reserve Study Specialists is well-priced, and the resulting product is just as good as the competition but much more affordable.

Reference for Reserve Study Specialists

Patti Hoster, Community Association Management

Why did you seek a reserve study?

It's mandated by the state of California for HOAs

Were you pleased with the report you were given – was it thorough?

What type of useful information did you learn in the process?

Was anything not included in your study that surprised you or that you thought should have been included?

Since it is "your" study, there is no pushback from Fred about including items in the study, and he easily adds any additional items.

What prep work did you do before the onsite days?

No

[Reserve Study Specialists] Did you have to pay extra consultation hours?

Is there anything you wish you had known/done before you started?

How have you used the data in your study once it was completed?

Yes, it is used for the 30-year funding plan. He also does a physical inspection every 3 years, and a "check-in" ever year or every 2 years.

Do you plan to do another study in future?

Yes, Fred at Reserve Study Specialists across multiple properties they manage.

Do you plan to continue to work with Reserve Study Specialists company for updates to this reserve study?

Yes, we use Fred at Reserve Study Specialists almost exclusively.

What were key lessons learned?

Additional commentary:

- Fred is easy to work with

Reference for Reserve Study Specialists

Shana Underwood, Shoreline Property Management

Why did you seek a reserve study?

It's a legal requirement every 3 years.

Were you pleased with the report you were given – was it thorough?

What type of useful information did you learn in the process?

They are more of the “middleman”, they manage over 100 properties/HOAs, so they provide the info to RSS and schedule to reserve study and update the component list as needed.

Was anything not included in your study that surprised you or that you thought should have been included?

Since it is “your” study, there is no pushback from Fred about including items in the study, and he easily adds any additional items.

What prep work did you do before the onsite days?

[Reserve Study Specialists] Did you have to pay extra consultation hours?

Fred does not bill for extra time in her experience; a lot of the communication is done via email.

Is there anything you wish you had known/done before you started?

How have you used the data in your study once it was completed?

Do you plan to do another study in future?

Do you plan to continue to work with Reserve Study Specialists company for updates to this reserve study?

Yes, they manage over 100 properties/HOAs and use Fred about 60% of the time; he is their preferred vendor.

What were key lessons learned?

Additional commentary:

- She has worked with Fred for 5+ years, he is the easiest reserve study vendor to work with. He is straightforward, has a quick turnaround, and is incredibly efficient.

Treasurer's Report for February 2024

The Church financial summary through January 31 is appended to this report. The school summary is not yet available.

Year to Date Church Operating Results

January was an underwhelming month for offerings. Revenues are lower than budgeted for the month by about \$56K, so that our year-to-date shortfall is slightly over \$80K, or 9%. This tends to be a see-saw story, after a very good month in December. Mike also reports that February looks extremely strong thus far with an overage to budget in the \$60K range. So it continues to be problematic to report month by month offerings based on historic trends. The skew is influenced by individual large donations that do not occur consistently from year to year.

The expense side of the budget continues to be below expectations, mostly driven by staffing shortages. Overall, revenues exceed expenses year to date by about \$1,000. This is \$19,000 less than expected at this point in time. Expenses should continue to be below budget until the Associate Pastor position is filled.

School Financials

January results are not yet finalized, but preliminary is very positive. Mike estimated the numbers will reflect an excess over budget in a combined range of \$70K compared to budget, a gain from the roughly \$25K YTD at the end of December.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Harkins

Ascension Lutheran Church
Budget Summary
YTD through January 31, 2024

	Church '23 - '24 Budget	Church '23 - '24 Budget YTD	Church '23 - '24 Actual YTD	Church '23 - '24 Variance	%
Revenues:					
Offerings (Church)	1,443,210	879,915	797,614	(82,301)	-9.4%
Other Revenues	37,700	21,312	23,087	1,775	8.3%
Total Revenues:	1,480,910	901,227	820,701	(80,526)	-8.9%
Expenditures:					
Salaries & Benefits	1,153,170	666,439	636,588	29,851	4.5%
Allocated Staff Expenses	(183,202)	(106,224)	(113,872)	7,648	-7.2%
Benevolences	62,780	36,835	34,696	2,139	5.8%
Programs / Committees	66,832	41,527	36,162	5,365	12.9%
Administrative Expenses	102,950	63,771	47,235	16,536	25.9% 10k Audit
Property Maintenance	93,750	65,079	67,805	(2,726)	-4.2%
Utilities & Insurance	94,774	55,603	52,979	2,624	4.7%
Operating Expenditures	1,391,054	823,030	761,593	61,436	7.5%
Debt Service	99,675	58,144	58,144	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	1,490,730	881,173	819,737	61,436	7.0%
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(9,820)	20,054	964	(19,090)	
Prior Year Surplus Spend	-	-	-		
PPP spend	-	-	96,844		\$50k Be the Blessing

New Members & Baptisms Report

February 2024

Baptisms for January

Name

Date of Birth

Date Baptized

No Baptisms

New Members for January

Michael Adinew

Christine Baver

Phillip Gregorchuck

Carolyn Coleman-Grady

Fredrick Grady

Elizabeth Doswell

Amy Farrell

Paul Farrell

Vicki Panaro

Dorothy Richardson

Dean Richardson

Ryan Waters

Marlayna Water

Council Action Tracker

Action Item No.	Action Item Description	Assigned To	Date Assigned	Date Due	Notes
1	Be the Blessing	Pastor Julie, Ed	02/15/23		Ed preached on Be the Blessing Feb 4. Four grants have been requested and submitted from the soft launch in fall of 2023. The grant application and followup form are both online, along with a spirtutual gifts assessment and a lift of active service opportunities already available at Ascension. The comittee is ready to meet monthly and review requests!
11	Obtain proposals for an aging report/reserve study	Kaylee	20-Sep		The Council and School Board both voted to share the cost of a study with Reserve Study Specialists in late January 2024. Kaylee has signed the contract and initiated the process with Fred.
13	Budget for new fiscal year		Feb	June	Starts about February, present to council by May for congregation to approve in June. January: School Board has approved 7% tuition increases for both schools. The compensation committee hopes to have the School Board aprove a salary matrix at their February meeting. These numbers largely inform the school budgets. The church budget process with begin imminently with the use of February results.
14	engagement survey survey			each April/May	
15	Senior Pastor's Review	Council President		May	

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024 5:00 p.m.**

The council meeting was called to order by Jeannette Ruggiero at 7:00 p.m.

Council Members In Attendance: Al Baker, Rachael Bowen, Bonny Chick, Dave Harkins, Carrie Leonard, John Rarick, Jeannette Ruggiero, Anna Woodward

Others: Pastor Tim, Kaylee Searway

Absent: Ed Klodt

Mission Statement of Ascension Lutheran Church

We are called to create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ.

Motto: *Invite, Grow, Serve*

Approval of Agenda – Jeannette

Add: New Business - Request for Thrivent Choice funds (Pastor Tim)

Move: from Informational Items to New Business - Transition Plan and Next Steps (Pastor Tim)

Add: Executive Session

A motion was made (Al), seconded (Carrie), and passed unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

Devotions – Jeanette

Change is hard. A new year has begun and there will be new changes. But God never changes; His word never changes. Psalm 33:11 tells us, ‘But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.’ God comforts us and is a refuge during the changes in our lives.

Old Business

1. Get/Be the Blessing Update – Pastor Tim

- The launch date to the congregation is the weekend of February 3rd/4th. A video will be shown at each service and there will be materials for the congregation. Ed will be preaching that weekend.
- The launch weekend is a week later than originally planned to allow time for changes being made to the ALC website. Pages will be added to highlight Ascension ministries, allowing Ascension members to discern their spiritual gifts and see where they might fit in with Ascension’s ministries.
- Ed is taking leadership of the Be the Blessing team.
- Ed is looking for a new ALS representative for the team to replace teacher Kendra Saunders.

2. Reserve Study – Kaylee

All references for the two reserve study companies under consideration have responded with glowing statements for both.

To recap:

- Association Reserves provided a quote of \$12,000. Their customers include churches and schools. In addition to a report, they provide a video presentation as well as software to assist with projecting future expenses. None of their references have yet used the software since it’s a new product. They would be on campus for 2-3 days and provide the study in approximately two months.
- Reserve Study Specialists provided a quote of \$2,000. Their customers include HOAs. They would be on campus for 1-2 days and provide the study in approximately one month.

- With either company, there will be quite a bit of up-front work on Ascension's part to gather information that will be used in the resulting report.

It's possible that, for the lower estimate, Reserve Studies might provide more of a high-level view. Then if Ascension needs more detail, it would likely be billed at an hourly rate.

A motion was made (Bonny) and seconded (Al) to recommend to the School Board engaging Reserve Study Specialists.

Discussion:

If the School Board is in agreement with this recommendation then we would move forward, sharing the cost between the church and the school.

The motion passed with 7 ayes and 1 abstention.

3. Land Sale - Dave

As noted in this month's Treasurer's report, recent actions required by the city will likely push out the date that the sale can be finalized. These are new developments from the city that have not previously been brought up.

New Business

1. Transition Plan and Next Steps – Pastor Tim

The congregation will be kept current on the progress of the transition plan. Short-term steps include:

- Operationalize transition of duties for interim period – Completed
- Complete job description for Associate Pastor and Youth Director positions – Completed
- Establish cadence to communicate progress to the congregation – Completed
- Open Call process with the Synod – In progress
- Council to consider Call Committee candidates – In progress
- Invite the Holy Spirit into this process! - Completed

Next steps in the process are:

- Complete Ministry Profile – Not yet started
- Congregational meeting to elect Call Committee – In progress
- Post opening for Youth Director position – In progress
- Establish search team for Youth Director position – In progress
- Call Committee efforts to begin – Not yet started

Timing is important to keep the call process moving forward which means assembly of the slate for the Call Committee must happen soon so that the congregational vote can take place. For the Youth Director position, the emphasis is on building relationships with church youth and school youth as well as youth in the greater community. The Associate Pastor will not specifically be a Children/Youth/Family pastor; the position has broader responsibilities.

Appreciation is given to Pastor Steve for increasing his hours during this transition time, to Pastor Paul for taking on special projects, and to Jenelle for taking on extra tasks.

A recommendation was made to add text to the Associate Pastor Position Description that indicates duties may be added or changed.

Pastor Scott Maxwell-Doherty is connecting us with contacts who can get the word out about the Youth Director position.

Church Council responsibilities are:

- Recommending a membership slate for the Call Committee to the congregation.
- Praying Jeremiah 29:11 over the process and the work of the Call Committee.
- Ensuring the Call Committee has the resources and tools needed for their work.
- Holding the Call Committee accountable for its work.

The Call Committee is a minimum of six persons who are elected by the congregation to seek an individual for the open Associate Pastor position. They are responsible for the search and recruitment of candidates, the discernment of candidates, and ultimately introducing the candidate to the congregation. Once the candidate has been installed, this committee's work is complete.

The responsibilities of the congregation are:

- Elect the Call Committee.
- Bring potential candidates to the attention of the Call Committee.
- Pray Jeremiah 29:11 over the process and the work of the Call Committee.
- Participate in the introduction of and election of the selected candidate.

Candidates are encouraged to inquire about the open position with any member, but must submit Mobility Papers to the synod in order to be considered for the position. Candidates are also encouraged to pray Jeremiah 29:11 for themselves, the process, and Ascension.

Proposed transition timeline:

- ❖ February Organize and begin process
- ❖ March/April Candidate recruitment, interviews, and discernment
- ❖ May/June Call an Associate Pastor

The search for the Youth Director will be taking place simultaneously. The need for this position is also great to ensure that our youth have the attention and focus of a full-time person.

A motion was made (Al) and seconded (Dave) to propose February 4th as the date for the Congregational Meeting to elect a Call Committee.

Discussion:

It was decided that the meeting will take place at 12:00 pm.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Executive Session – 8:39 pm

A motion was made (Carrie), seconded (John), and passed unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session.

Return from Executive Session – 9:06

3. Request for Thrivent Choice Funds – Pastor Tim

The Thrivent Choice fund balance is currently over \$9,000. Pastor Tim submitted a request of up to \$600 to purchase movie tickets for a showing of the first three episodes of the new season of “The Chosen”. These tickets will be offered to the congregation on a first-come basis. Ruth Rarick is leading a Lenten Bible study focused on this series which depicts Jesus’ life.

A motion was made (Carrie), seconded (Bonny) and passed unanimously to approve allocating up to \$600 of Thrivent Choice funds for the purchase of movie tickets to “The Chosen” as part of a Lenten study.

Treasurer's Report – Dave Harkins

The revenue shortfall, budgeted to actual, continues to hover around 3%. On the whole, church, ECC, and school finances are healthy.

Ascension had engaged the services of an outside company for assistance with applying for the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC). The fee for this company was a flat rate. This credit is offered to certain eligible businesses and tax-exempt organizations that had employees during the pandemic and were affected by the pandemic. The refund is a percentage of payroll taxes that have already been paid. Ascension was responsible for accounting for each employee during that time and in what capacity they were employed at the church and school. The calculated credit due to Ascension is a considerable sum, most of which will go to the ECC and school who make up the majority of payroll taxes paid. It will take some time to receive this credit since the IRS is about 12 – 14 months behind on approving these applications.

A motion was made (Carrie), seconded (Anna), and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report.

Recurring Business

Affirm New Members, Confirmations and Baptisms – The baptism of Paul Farrell was affirmed.

Action Items Action Tracker – Pastor Julie's name will be removed from the Be the Blessing action item.

Approval of Minutes – Jeannette

1. December Church Council Meeting

A motion was made (Dave) and seconded (John) to approve the minutes for the December Council meeting.

Discussion:

Per Kaylee, minutes from the December Executive Session will be stored on a secure hard drive.

The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Approval of Reports to Council

1. Administrator's Report

2. Pastor's reports - Pastor Tim Delkeskamp
Pastor Steve Herder

3. School Board

4. Communications Report

5. GMT Report

A motion was made (Al), seconded (John) to approve the Reports to Council.

Reminder

Next Council meeting - Wednesday, February 21st at 7:45.

Devotions - Al

Closing Prayer – Pastor Tim

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26.

Respectfully submitted by Rachael Bowen

Ascension Lutheran Church
Specially Called Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Council President Jeannette Ruggiero at 12:00 pm.

Opening Prayer – Dave Harkins

Mission Statement of Ascension Lutheran Church

We are called to create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ.

Motto: *Invite, Grow, Serve*

Process of Creating the Call Committee – Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim is committed to helping guide an effective and efficient process to find the right person for the Associate Pastor position.

Church Council responsibilities are:

- Recommending a membership slate for the Call Committee to the congregation.
- Praying Jeremiah 29:11 over the process and the work of the Call Committee.
- Ensuring the Call Committee has the resources and tools needed for their work.
- Holding the Call Committee accountable for its work.

The Call Committee is a minimum of six persons who are elected by the congregation to seek an individual for the open Associate Pastor position. They are responsible for the search and recruitment of candidates, the discernment of candidates, and ultimately introducing the candidate to the congregation. Once the candidate has been installed, this committee's work is complete.

The responsibilities of the congregation are:

- Elect the Call Committee.
- Bring potential candidates to the attention of the Call Committee.
- Pray Jeremiah 29:11 over the process and the work of the Call Committee.
- Participate in the introduction of and election of the selected candidate.

Candidates are encouraged to inquire about the open position with any member, but must submit Mobility Papers to the synod in order to be considered for the position. Candidates are also encouraged to pray Jeremiah 29:11 for themselves, the process, and Ascension.

The Synod and the Call Process:

- Ascension creates and submits a Ministry Profile to the synod. This officially opens the position to the pastoral community.
- Interested candidates review the Ministry Profile and job description. If feeling called to the position, they submit their name for consideration.
- The Synod compiles a list of candidates for consideration. Ascension members may also submit candidates for consideration.
- The candidates submit their profiles which become available for the Call Committee's consideration.

Presentation of the Candidates – Pastor Tim

Our goal is to have 7 members of this committee, that represent a cross section of the congregation, to keep it nimble and effective. We had many members step forward with interest in being part of this committee. We are grateful for this level of engagement by the congregation although not all who showed interest are able to be a part of the committee. A list of 21 names was submitted to the Council and, from that list, Pastor Tim began making the calls. The Holy Spirit moved the first seven called to respond “yes”. What a blessing!

The candidates:

Crystal Bryant	Has two young children and is involved in Children’s Ministries.
Michael Feltner	Dean of Academic Initiatives at Pepperdine; brings leadership experience.
Hannah Hurdle	Has two daughters at the ECC and Ascension School; a marketing professional.
Tom Lindros	Long-time member with a gift for wisdom and perspective.
Scott Searway	Interview and hiring experience.
Susie Smuck	Extensive HR experience.
Gwen Thompson	Long-time member with experience in worship planning and leading.

Election of the Candidates - Jeannette

We are thankful for the abundance of those willing to serve in this capacity. This is a good “problem” to have.

Jeannette opened the call for any nominations from the floor.

Don Halvorson asked whether any of the candidates served on the call committee for Pastor Julie. It was confirmed that none of these candidates were on the previous call committee.

Natalie Halvorson nominated Joel Halvorson to the Call Committee.

Joel provided a bit his of background as an Ascension member. He has been a member since 1976, attended Sunday School, was confirmed here, was part of the Sr. Luther League, and was married here. He welcomes the opportunity to be a part of fostering the future of Ascension.

Jeannette clarified that 51% of votes are required for each person to be elected. There is space on the ballot to write in Joel’s name, if desired.

The ballots were distributed and then collected, to be counted by Dave Harkins and Carrie Leonard.

Update on the Transition Process – Pastor Tim

Through this process, we are guided by Jeremiah 29:11.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

The Associate Pastor will focus on worship, faith formation for youth, and participate in regular pastoral duties.

Short-Term Checklist

- Operationalize transition of duties for interim period – Completed
- Complete job description for Associate Pastor and Youth Director positions – Completed
- Establish cadence to communicate progress to the congregation – Completed
- Open Call process with the Synod – Completed
- Council to consider Call Committee candidates – Completed
- Invite the Holy Spirit into this process! - Completed

Next steps in the process

- Complete Ministry Profile – In progress (This document, prepared by Ascension, helps candidates understand who and what Ascension is all about.)
- Congregational meeting to elect Call Committee – In progress
- Post opening for Youth Director position – In progress
- Establish search team for Youth Director position – In progress
- Call Committee efforts to begin – Not yet started

The Youth Director will focus on high school and middle school ministries.

Steps in the Search for Youth Director

- Establish search team – In progress
- Complete job description – Completed
- Initiate search – Completed
- Recruit and interview – In progress
- Discernment – Not yet started
- Hire – Not yet completed

Proposed transition timeline:

- ❖ February Organize and begin process
- ❖ March/April Candidate recruitment, interviews, and discernment
- ❖ May/June Call an Associate Pastor

Election Results

The seven candidates presented on the slate are elected to the Call Committee.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Tim

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44.

Respectfully submitted by Rachael Bowen

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 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

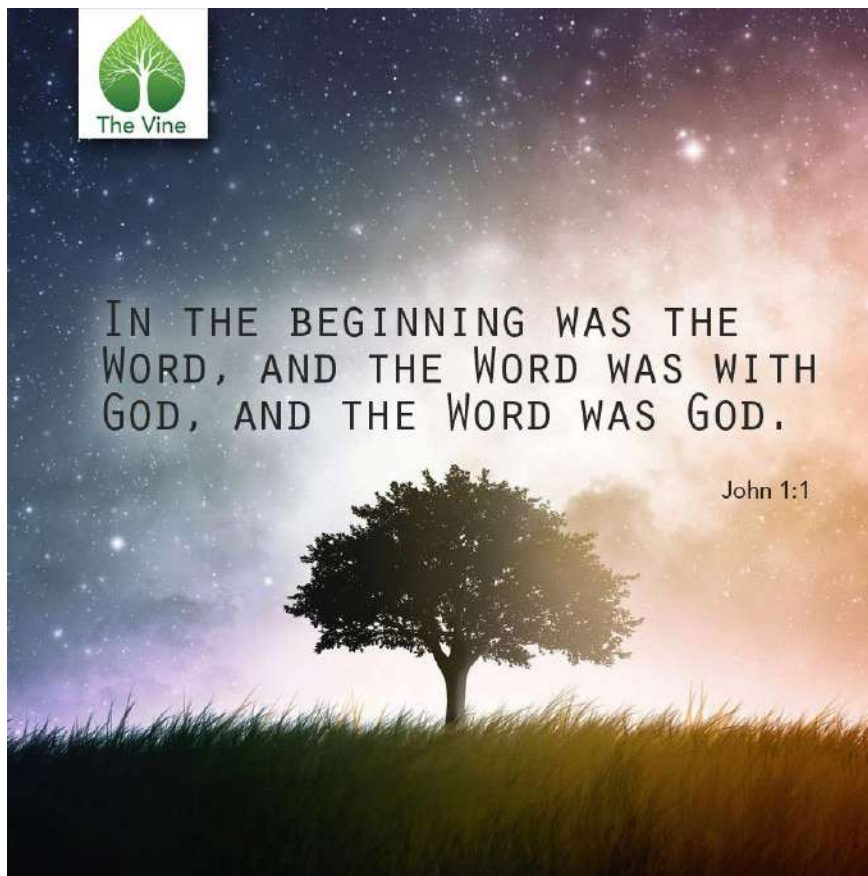
Pastor Tim , Carrie and I worked hard to complete the Ministry Site Profile. Thank you for approving it! I spoke to Julia Morales at the Synod office; our profile is "live." The call committee met Monday, February 12th for an initial meeting, and scheduled their next meeting as well.

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!

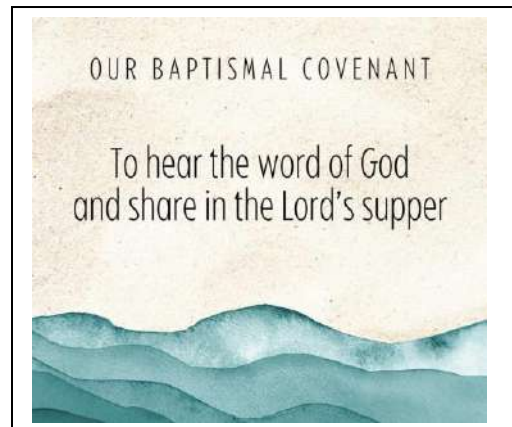
Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Tim".

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!

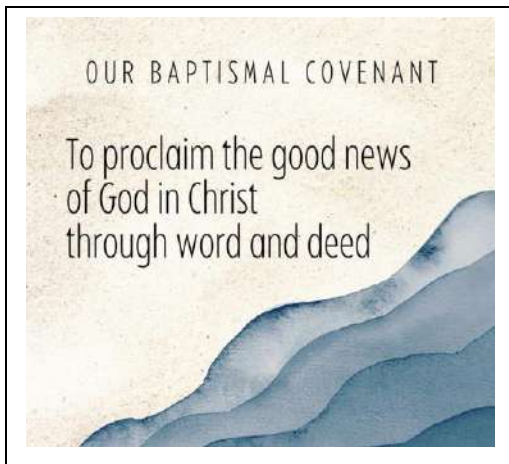


Prayer Ministries

- + 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.

ECC Friday Songs

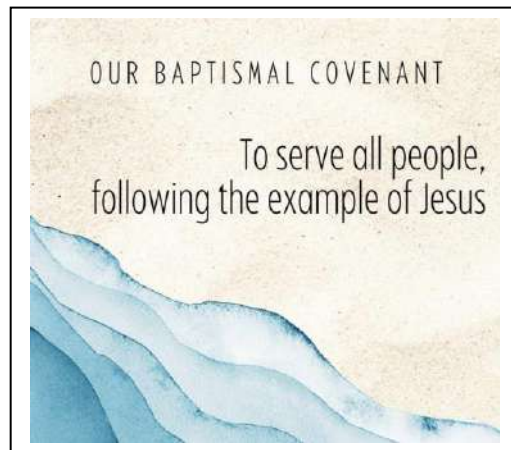
+ One of my favorite times of the week is singing with all the children and staff outside in the playground areas of our Early Childhood Center. A new mic and speaker have really helped that little time of worship together!

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.



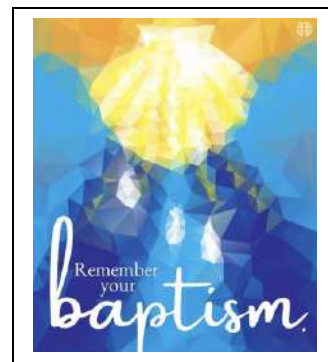
+ Our Fair Trade Ministries continues to thrive with Carol Bjelland's leadership. Let us know if you'd like to be on our email list for monthly updates.

+ 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 Immigration
& 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

**Ascension Lutheran School Board Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2024**

Remembering Our Mission:

Church: We are called to create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ.

ECC: In a loving Christian community that is rooted in nature, our young learners have large amounts of time to investigate, explore, and have hands-on learning experiences. Our teachers facilitate problem solving, encourage collaboration, and foster independent thinkers through play-based opportunities.

Elementary School: Ascension Lutheran School is dedicated to nurturing each student, providing academic excellence and creating bold, compassionate leaders who inspire and serve others in their walk with Jesus Christ.

ONE ASCENSION Motto: COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY

Attendees:

Scott Bean, Connie Angress, Jenni McCoy, Jocelyn Myers, Nelly Trumbo, Rich Gregory, Chris Poveromo, Kathy Roshanai, Anna Woodward, Kyle Jones

Absent: Ashley Steere, Steve Smuck

Call to Order:

Scott called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

The board recited together the mission statements of the church, ECC and elementary school.

Devotion:

Jocelyn lead the devotion from John 16:32-33. "Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda:

One motion via email added to the minutes:

Rich brought forth a proposal to record a \$4000 overage in the maintenance budget for tree trimming. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance reports pulled for discussion.

Motion to approve agenda and consent agenda items initiated by Jocelyn. Scott seconded. Motion passes.

Old Business:

State of Schools

- Jenni reported they received 150 registrations for the coming school year. February 24th is the ECC family work day with an invitation extended to school board members. She also extended an invitation to the school board to visit the ECC whenever they'd like. They are looking to add a couple weeks to the summer program. It would be limited in its opening, but there is a need to be met.
- Rich reported that things are good at the elementary/middle school. Several La Reina families have already toured, and Connie has received many applications. He also noted the Iskander trail restarted last week and asked to keep the family in everyone's prayers. The gym has hosted a lot of athletic events, with new road signage to help facilitate parking. A new 7th grade teacher is also being reviewed as Spencer Gottmer will move up to 8th grade the coming year. He also mentioned he did not receive much negative feedback from the tuition increase announcement.

Financial Aid Subcommittee

- Kyle, Kathy, and Anna will form the subcommittee with Kyle chairing.

Board Document Storage

- Scott previewed the Microsoft Teams interface and document storage. Access to meeting documents/consent agenda materials will be done via this interface versus email attachments.

Financial Statements

- Chris asked questions about the different Tuition income categories. Anna explained there are donations made specifically for financial aid, teacher discounts, etc, which is why they are broken down into different categories. Anna also commented there are legacy line items on the Balance Sheet which make the picture of assets inaccurate, but Mike Marvin is deliberately going through the process of trying to correct or remove them.

New Business:

La Reina Closure

- Rich reported that Jenni's daughter Ashley and Nicole Cook are working together to redesign the school's website which will debut in February. They also created a special link and message for La Reina families, which has generated calls of interest into ALS. Rich also commented there is an internal document circulating among the La Reina community

which now lists Ascension as a potential alternate school, thanks to a former ALS family which left for La Reina, but now plans to return to ALS. Connie has already toured 4 La Reina families with more tours scheduled in the coming week. These potential students are predominately 7th graders, with 6th graders as well (no potential 8th grade applicants yet). Rich mentioned he has fears that Oaks might see this as an opportunity to purchase La Reina's property (which is ~30 acres) as a facility for their middle school. He also mentioned an administrator/teacher from La Reina called ALS and asked for a flyer which they could place and circulate at their school. He asked for prayers for the La Reina families and community.

Appoint a Nominations Committee Rep from School Board

- Steve Smuck's last meeting will be in June, which opens a position on the school board. Nelly volunteered to be the Nomination's Committee rep from the school board. Rich commented on the requirements for a potential board member, which include Ascension Lutheran church membership, and non-reactive team player qualities.

Reserve Study

- Church council has recommended the less expensive reserve study vendor, Reserve Study Specialists (\$2K option). Scott makes a motion to approve this vendor and the school board's portion of the expense. Chris seconds. Motion passes.

Spring Retreat February 20th - Logistics

- Jocelyn will host the retreat at her house. Scott is unlikely to attend, but will work with Rich on material beforehand.

Executive Session:

The school board meeting moved into executive session at 8:06pm. Rich and Jenni were invited to stay. All other guests were excused.

Closing Prayer:

Rich closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment:

Jocelyn motioned to adjourn the meeting and reconvene for executive session. Nelly seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

School Board Spring Retreat is February 20th, followed by a monthly meeting on February 26th. Kathy volunteered to lead the devotion at the February 26th meeting.

The devotion schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:

February – Kathy

March – Nelly

April – Steve

May – Anna
June – Scott

Respectfully submitted by Jocelyn Myers

It is exciting and pleasing to be helping on the Be the Blessing campaign, and I'm grateful Ed Klodt stepped up into leadership of this initiative. Now that I am sure everyone has focused on the primary impacts and dreams-come-true-in-the-making of BtB, I'll mention secondary impacts – or, you might call these a couple of the first blessings of BtB.

1. We have done a timely and important full inventory of our current ministries, an updating and organizing effort that began with Dave Harkins' research and listing of ministries that are up and running and elimination of some that are no longer operative, a major accomplishment. Several people including Pastor Tim, Jenelle Smith and I worked on it, trimming, writing, updating. And it was Kaylee Searway who did the final giant overhaul including putting everything in alphabetical order and manipulating the Excel spreadsheet into a form that could be printed on two sides of a single sheet for the BtB launch. Of course, there will have been changes by the time you read this, as it is a living document; keeping up with it is, as Pastor Tim notes, like trying to nail Jello to the wall. But it's so valuable, nonetheless.
2. The inventory list has already served functions beyond its original purpose. I've used it to check and update, add and remove pages on ALCTO.org. It was also key in sorting of spiritual gifts undergirding our ministries, matching those in the Bible-based Spiritual Gifts Assessment from the ELCA. Once that was completed, my husband Dominick used it to create the online tool now in ALCTO.org/blessing to match one's spiritual gifts to Ascension ministries.

Turning to a different topic, I was recently asked how our email open rate for This Week at Ascension is doing of late. There are active church members who rarely look at TWAA, I am told. This bears some consideration, for sure. To start, I checked our latest numbers. As of last May, we were averaging in the high 50 %-low 60 %. A 10-week average taken March to May gave us 553 opens weekly (this does not count those who read directly from the website or Instagram). The latest 10 weeks of regular TWAA emails averaged 63.5% and 579 opens...I also checked if I removed the highest-read TWAA of this past 10 weeks in case that threw off the average and got 63.0%. (Currently, the Mail Chimp average open rate for religious organization is 46.9%.)

Feb 8 64.3% 585; Feb 2 64.5% 588

Jan 25 62.4% 588; Jan 18 64.3% 583; Jan 11 62.1% 564; Jan 4 63.2% 573

Dec 22 (Christmas schedule) 62.0% 562; Dec 21 63.0% 571; Dec 14 62.9 572; Dec 7 61% 556

Nov 30 67.3% 608; News from Pastor Julie Nov 29 66.3% 600; Giving Tuesday 2 Nov 28 58.6% 530;

Nov 22 (Pastor Julie) 59.3 536; Giving Tuesday 1 Nov 22 58.5% 529; Nov 16 63.1 % 571;

Nov 9 61% 552; Nov 2 60% 544

Other benchmarking from last May to now: Pastor Steve's FB now has more than 2.2K followers (2.1K in May), the church Instagram is now at 445 (399 previously); ECC 239 (198 previously); AL School 679 (600); Gifts that Give 191 (195); Life Groups 73 (71); Senior Luther League 210 (216).

Thank you.

You are amazing people and I appreciate you!

Stacy Smith Bosco



Wednesday, February 7, 2024

4-5:30 PM, Bethlehem Room

Mission Statement: With our congregation, we are "called to create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ." Together we "invite, grow, serve."

The Global Ministries Team will do this as we pray, work, partner and participate in God's mission around the world, using our ELCA global mission model of accompaniment. ("God's work. Our hands.") The scope of current ministries as well as those ministries we would like to better serve and support is reflected in our name. Inspired by the Biblical mandates to preach the Gospel and remember the poor, the Global Ministries Team will respond to God's love by sharing the good news of God's saving grace in Christ; preserving and restoring creation; and serving others through care, advocacy, education, reconciliation, solidarity with those in need, and interfaith work.

AGENDA

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER Kim Overton

1. Ray of Life Solar Light Kit Project

(Due to members of the team needing to leave before 5 PM, we will discuss this item first.)

2. FOCUS: ELCA GLOBAL MISSIONARIES, YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION AND WOMEN LEADERS

- a. Introduce ELCA partners, Tess Tait and Ben Hogue via zoom**
- b. Video of Pr Kristin Engstrom in Zambia**
- c. Summary of Pr Engstrom's ministry-Marcia Koenig**
- d. Update from S Sudan, Tess Tait**
- e. Video of YAGM**
- f. Christina Sanchez will share about Women Leaders at CLU and what this means for them and CLU.**

3. Review of GMT Monthly Reports and Volunteer Needs (5:00-5:45 PM)

WELCOME BASKETS for Refugees

SUMUD for justice in Palestine and Israel, Lenten series

Friends of Fieldworkers, Laundry Love and Children's event

Great Music at Ascension

Center for Global Engagement, CLU

Fair Trade

4. Next meeting, March 4, 2024, 4PM Bethlehem Room.

We will hear from the attendees of the ELCA World Hunger Leaders Gathering. "Embracing HOPE. Taking ACTION. Moving Forward."

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. - Albert Schweitzer

PEOPLE OF GOD, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world, so speak tenderly. Do good that is yours to do. Choose connection. Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved. So go rejoicing. The world needs it. Amen.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

UPCOMING in FEBRUARY: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Feb 1	CLU Chapel 11:20 AM Rev Scott Hamilton Adams preaching
Feb 1-4	ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering, Houston, TX.
Feb 8	CLU Chapel, 11:20 AM Rev Chaplain Kevin Nickerson preaching
Feb 8	Global Café, 12:15-2:00 PM, CLU Student Union, Teas of the World Fair Trade Lane Open, 2:30-4:00 PM
Feb 11	Fair Trade Lane Open, 8:00-9:00 AM and 10:00-10:30 AM
Feb 12	“Following the Way of Jesus: A Lenten Holy Land Journey”, SUMUD weekly videos through the Holy Land. www.ELCA.org . (See Monthly Report for details of the weekly series through Lent.)
Feb 13	Friends of Fieldworkers GOH follow-up, CHILDREN’S BOOKS and LAUNDRY LOVE, 4-6:30 PM at Laundaria, 451 W Hueneme Rd, Oxnard
Feb 14	ASH WEDNESDAY service, 7 PM
Feb 15	CLU Chapel, 11:20 AM, Rev Sharon Elliott, preaching
Feb 18	Great Music at Ascension, Christoph Bull, Organist, 4 PM
Feb 29	CLU Chapel, 11:20 AM, Rev Donald R Cook II, preaching

MARCH

March 3	Conejo Interfaith Refugee Team REFUGEE AWARENESS event and Potluck Dessert Reception, Founders Hall, 6:30 PM.
March 12	International Women’s Day Community Celebration Dinner, 5:30-7 PM, CLU, Lundring Center. Reservations preferred at global@Callutheran.edu by 3/1.
March 13	Women’s Interfaith Network, Welcome Basket assembly, 6-7 PM AND
March 14	WIN, Welcome Basket assembly, 6-8 PM. Both at Jesus Christ of Latter Day Sanits, 1600 Erbes, Thousand Oaks, CA
March 24	Fair Trade Lane open, 10-11 AM (No Adult Education)

APRIL

April 4	Global Café, Jack’s Corner, CLU, 12-2PM Earth/Sustainability
April 9	Earth Day/Fair Trade Event, Kingsmen Park, CLU, 12-2 PM TENTATIVE
April 18	Fair Trade Lane open, 2:30-4:00 PM

April 21	Fair Trade Lane open, 10:00-11:00 AM with Adult Education Class.
May 9	Fair Trade Lane open, 2:30-4:00 PM
May 18-19	50 th Anniversary of Scandinavian Festival, Kingsmen Park, CLU noon-7PM
May 19	Fair Trade Lane open, 10:00-11:00 AM
	Fair Trade Wine Tasting Event, afternoon, Details TBD
June 9, July 14 and August 18	Fair Trade Lane open, 10:00-11:00 AM

GMT MEETINGS with Proposed focus presentations, 4 pm BETHLEHEM ROOM

February 7	FOCUS: ELCA Missionaries, ELCA YAGM, ELCA Women Leaders
March 6	FOCUS: ELCA WORLD HUNGER, Speakers from Leadership Gathering (Led by attendees to the Gathering, Mary Wennes and Pr Steve)
April 10	FOCUS: CREATION CARE (Include Christine Werner. Invite Chamie Delkeskamp)
May 8	FOCUS: ADVOCACY including FAIR TRADE, LIRS, BREAD FOR THE WORLD

February 5, 2024



Wednesday, January 10, 2024

4-5:30 PM, Bethlehem Room

Attendees: Bonny Chick; Mary Wennes; Dave Harkins; Beverly Selle; Carol Bjelland; Anita Cohen; Marcia Koenig; Christina Sanchez; Carol Bartell; Paul Evenson; Edith Ott; Jill Binsley; Andy Binsley; Ed Klodt; Pastor Steve Herder; Barb Spear; and Louise Evenson (Chairperson)

GMT Prayer

- Opening prayer led by Carol Bjelland

Year in Review

Louise provided a video montage showcasing the various programs of GMT during 2023. The group engaged in a moment of appreciation for our ministry through Ascension & time for reflection on our work. Highlights included:

- Gifts of Hope (for over 20 years); brought to ALC by Howie & Mary Wennes
 - Past focus areas: Stand w/ Africa; Malaria Campaign; Disaster Response; and ELCA Good Gifts. In 2023, raised funds to build 7 homes for widows and purchase 52 goats in Tanzania
 - Added local emphasis to GOH. This year features Friends of Field Workers & Harbor House.
 - GOH is not a budget line item at Ascension; over a million dollars has been contributed to the ELCA from Ascension in 20 years; approx. \$86k so far for this year's projects
- Immigrants/Refugees
 - Walk With Amal: Refugee awareness international program
 - Support for asylum seeker, Maria and Isaac
 - Aqa Family from Afghanistan
 - Conejo Interfaith Refugee Team (welcome baskets)
- CLU Center for Global Engagement connections
 - ELCA Women Leaders
 - Earth Day/Fair Trade Programs
 - International Peace Procession
 - International Women's Day
- Creation Care (need a champion---seeking someone to help offer leadership)
 - World Water Day
 - Planning a program for April, 2024 GMT meeting
- Hope for the Holidays-LIRS program. ALC was a hub for receiving/sorting greeting cards of welcome for refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers.
- LIRS name change to Global Refuge, based on Psalm 46
- ELCA's annual "God's work. Our Hands" in September (food pantry collection + assembled personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief)
- Lutheran World Relief
 - Ascension assembled 513 personal care kits, 27 school kits and 49 quilts for LWR.
 - 551,700 quilts & kits sent to 14 countries from all contributors in 2023

- Anita Cohen is now leading our quilt making at Ascension; about 20 participants
- Jan 26th Pr Lisa Kipp from LWR is coming to Ascension
- ELCA Missionaries support: Zambia & South Sudan
 - YAGM: Young Adults in Global Mission (21-35yrs)
- Advocacy Efforts of GMT
 - Jubilee USA---forgiving debt in developing countries
 - Bread for the World—offering of letters to reps in congress to pass the farm bill and advocate to alleviate hunger worldwide
- Fair Trade (Marcia, Carol, & other leaders through the years)
 - Red Barn Farms/Wisconsin cheese; Mt. Meru Coffee (from Tanzania); Equal Exchange Chocolate and Coffee
 - Fair Trade Lane
- Great Music (Edith)

Ideas for 2024

GMT attendees brainstormed ideas for 2024:

- Conejo Interfaith Refugee Team (March 3), dessert potluck hosted by Ascension.
 - Possibly do some welcome baskets?
- Minnesota congregation created “Ray of Life” solar light kits for Ukraine
 - Louise wants to create a group to explore doing this as well through Ascension
 - Beverly, Andy, Edith, Paul, Mary, Christina, Pr Steve and Louise volunteered to meet separately to explore further
- What else can we do to ignite our passion and ministries?
 - Beverly mentioned an initiative for home building following disasters (w/ God’s Work Our Hands in MI) We have 3M (minor maintenance ministry led by Beverly David)
 - Be the Blessing Grant---submit grant request for Welcome Baskets for Refugees (Carol Bjelland, Carol Bartell and Louise will meet to discuss Welcome Basket project during Lent at Ascension)
 - Welcome Baskets are distributed throughout the county, LA and CA.

GMT Monthly Reports/News:

Any areas to uplift/share or questions from the GMT ministry updates/reports?

Friends of Fieldworkers

- Tuesday of each month (Feb 13) Laundry Love at Oxnard, bring a craft for Valentine’s Day
- Laundry is done in the evenings (when families are done in the fields)

International Women’s Day at CLU (Celebration Dinner) March 12

World Hunger Gathering- Feb 1-4, 2024, Houston

- Wennes family established an endowment to support the training of leaders from each synod; 50th anniversary for ELCA World Hunger program.
- Hunger Leaders gather from 65 synods with 2 representatives per synod.
 - CLU sending 2 students: Angela from Kenya + Freya, student with the Community Cupboard + Dulce Gallardo from CLU, campus ministry. Pr Steve will represent the SOCA Synod
- Participants who attend the leadership gathering have been invited to do a presentation about the conference at our March 6th GMT meeting.
-

Gifts of Hope (Pr Steve)

- Over \$86k has been raised so far! This is the largest amount raised for GOH since 2016. 104 individual and family contributions (one more than last year)
- see report update for more details

LIRS

- Pastor Steve received a response letter written in Spanish from a recipient who received a card through Hope for the Holidays cards. Christina will work on providing a translation.

Next meeting

February 7, 2024, 4PM Bethlehem Room.

We will learn about the ELCA Missionaries we support, ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), and ELCA Women Leaders.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Christina Sanchez



The Conejo Interfaith Refugee Team invites you to

A POTLUCK DESSERT RECEPTION TO LEARN ABOUT HELPING LOCAL REFUGEE FAMILIES.

Sunday, March 3, 2024

6:30 - 8:30 PM

at Ascension Lutheran Church

1600 E. Hillcrest Dr., Founders Hall, Thousand Oaks



HEAR firsthand from local refugee families and those involved in helping them settle in their new homes. Speakers will include:

- Two refugee families sharing their stories
- A representative from the International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- An immigration attorney
- Our local refugee team



LEARN how you can help new families.

RSVP required to: cirefugeeteam@gmail.com

Please bring a dessert to share



FAIR TRADE MINISTRY

DATE: February 1, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Carol Bjelland

1. WHAT'S COMING UP? (What? When? Where?)

Fair Trade Orders due Wed Feb 7th (3 PM).

Fair Trade Lane – Thursday, Feb 8th (2:30-4 PM) & Sunday, February 11th (8-9 AM & 10-10:30 AM)
Special Valentine Fun with stickers & Valentine cut-outs; Everyone is invited to make a Valentine to display on Fair Trade Lane. Thank you Tamara for making our Fair Trade Lane Valentine to get things off to a great start.

Red Barn Family Farms Fair Trade Cheddar (Heritage & Weiss) is available; new ordering process. The Homan's send their greetings & thanks.

Follow-up Zoom Meeting with Mt Meru Coffee Project/Marty Manley Tuesday 2/7 @ 11AM

Global Café @ CLU (Student Union), Thursday 2/8, Noon -2 PM. Tea is the topic. Jill & Andy are Ascension Fair Trade Ambassadors of Welcome for this opportunity to meet/greet & share Fair Trade tea samples.

2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (What? When? Where?)

Volunteers invited to help Thursday Feb 8th. Set-up around 1 PM. Valentine stickers/cut-outs, markers etc will be set up on a table for the kids to use. Doors open at 2:30 PM.

Volunteers invited for all Fair Trade Lane dates and events

3. LOOKING AHEAD (Important calendar dates)

Fair Trade Lane Open Dates/Times:

Sunday, March 24 (10-11 AM)

Thursday, April 18 (2:30-4 PM)

Sunday, April 21 (10-11 AM) – This is also a special Adult Ed Class: Sunday Sampler. FH; Details TBD

Thursday, May 9 (2:30-4 PM)

Sunday, May 19 (10-11AM) – Fair Trade Wine Tasting Event/Sunday Afternoon at Beverly's house. Details TBD.

Sunday, June 9 (10-11AM)

Sunday, July 14 (10-11AM)

Sunday, August 18 (10-11AM)

4. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. Contact: Carol Bjelland (carolb@netscape.com; fairtrade@alcto.org);
805-657-3731



MINISTRY OF Our ELCA and one that replaces "Peace Not Walls"

DATE Jan. 30, 2024 SUBMITTED BY Pastor Steve

1. WHAT'S COMING UP? (What? When? Where?)



Sumud for justice in Palestine and Israel

The ELCA's new initiative, Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel, presents "Following the Way of Jesus: A Lenten Holy Land Journey." This Lenten video series for individuals and congregations consists of six short videos that introduce people to the land, the theology of sumud and its significance through Scripture as the "way of Jesus." Each video will be available in both English and Arabic. Sumud (Arabic for "steadfast perseverance") is the ELCA's new name for our church's engagement in accompaniment, awareness-building and advocacy for justice in Palestine and Israel. Sign up for updates about Sumud and upcoming events at: <https://www.bit.ly/SumudSubscribe>.

Thank you for your interest in *Following the Way of Jesus: A Lenten Holy Land Journey*! Here is the promo [video](#)! We encourage you to share with your synods, congregations, organizations, and personally with anyone you know who may be interested in traveling through the Holy Land (virtually) and learning more about what God is doing now. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YssbcGD1cU4&authuser=0>

Our Sumud team has planned, organized, and developed, with a local Palestinian production company, this free weekly resource and study guide for Lent. This resource includes weekly videos featuring reflections from Palestinian pastors and leaders on the theology of sumud and its connections to the way of Jesus as a way of justice for all of the people of the Holy Land. The series is being produced in English and in Arabic and will be made available on the ELCA website and shared on social media. It can be used by individuals and/or small groups throughout Lent and will be a featured option for

Lenten small groups through ELCA Young Adult Ministries. We are finalizing this resource now. All of the videos will be finished and emailed to you with discussion questions and social media images to share by the first week of February so you can debut them in a rhythm that makes sense for you and your people.

Through the voices of our Palestinian leaders here is a short glimpse at each week in the series:

Introduction to the Series **Feb 12** (Week of Ash Wed.)

Location: Sea of Galilee & Separation Wall
with Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac

Week 1: Sumud the Way of Jesus **Feb. 19**

Location: Annunciation Basilica
Scripture: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55
with Ranan Issa Abu Shanab

Week 2: Good News of Great Joy For All People **Feb. 26**

Location: Shepherds Field
Scripture: Luke 2:8-14, 15-20
with Rev. Imad Haddad

Week 3: Belovedness in the Wilderness **March 4**

Location: Jordan River
Scripture: 3:21-22, 4:1-13
with Rev. Fursan Zu'mot

Week 4: A Counter Cultural Message **March 11**

Location: Synagogue Church in Old City Nazareth
Scripture: 4:14, 16-30
with Rev. Ashruf Tannous

Week 5: Things That Make Peace **March 12**

Location: Jerusalem, Mt. Olives
Scripture: Luke 19:28-42
with Rev. Sally Azar

Week 6: Journey to the Cross **March 25** (Holy Week)

Location: Holy Sepulchre, Via Delrosa
Scripture: Luke 23:1-12, 26-56
with Rev. Rodney Said

It is our great joy to share this resource with you. Please email me with any questions or wonderings. We are looking forward to journeying with you all this Lenten Season.

In Sumud,

Rev. Jenny Sung (she/her/hers)

Launch Coordinator for Sumud

Direct **(651)-361-0448**



GOH MINISTRY – “Post” GOH Follow-Up with Friends of Fieldworkers

DATE: February 1, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Carol Bjelland

1. WHAT'S COMING UP? (What? When? Where?)

Friends of Fieldworkers – February 13, 2024. Laundry Love Event at Laundaria, 451 W. Hueneme Rd/Oxnard (by the Family Dollar store/intersection of Perkins & Hueneme Rd.)

We will read books to the children while adults do laundry. We anticipate 20-30 children. We'll have some crafts for the kids along with snacks. Crafts include bookmarks, paper sack keepsake books, a stained glass-like heart with a special message. Jenni McCoy/ECC started the idea of collecting & sharing gently used books. Others have donated books too. We will have enough books so that each child can take home 2-3 books.

Set-up at 4 PM. Families start arriving at 4:30 PM. We'll read with the children, let them have fun with some crafts, let them select books to take home.

This is an opportunity to meet/be with the fieldworker families and the Friends of Fieldworker leaders.

2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (What? When? Where?)

Mary & Carol sorted donated books & selected a few that would be good to read with the kids. Shannon, Jenni & Kim have the craft ideas underway; they are putting together the pieces the kids can complete/decorate.

Carol will purchase snacks (individually wrapped) for the kids. Each child will have a take-home gift bag for snacks & books. They can decorate their take-home gift bags.

We need volunteers at the event. 2-3 to set-up at 4 PM; others to come at 4:30 PM or a bit later to help with crafts/reading. Spanish language skills would be great. Anticipate wrap-up by 6:30 PM

ECC staff/families invited to join us

3. LOOKING AHEAD (Important calendar dates)

FOF Laundry Love events are generally the 2nd Tuesday of the month. There may be opportunity to do this again.

4. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact: Carol Bjelland (carolb@netscape.com) 805-657-3731



MINISTRY OF GMT-Ray of Life Solar Light Kits

DATE Feb. 2024

SUBMITTED BY Louise Evenson

1. WHAT'S COMING UP? (What? When? Where?)

The Ray of Life solar light kit team met January 22. The team is Andy Binsley, Mary Wennes, Edith Ott, Paul Evenson, Christina Sanchez, Beverly Selle, Pastor Steve Herder and Louise Evenson. A sample solar light kit was demonstrated to the team. Background videos were shown. There was a discussion of a focus of raising funds for Ray of Life solar light kits for second quarter at Ascension LC as a GMT service project.

A flow chart of the process from deciding to raise funds for this project to delivery of solar light kits in Ukraine is attached. This is a rough estimate depending on the acquisition of the parts for the kits, shipping dates, delivery dates in Ukraine. Parts come from China and from within the US.

The first financial contribution (\$1,000) has been received for this project. A designated account has been set up at ALC to receive financial gifts for ROL solar light kits.

Once approved by the GMT, a fundraising request form will be submitted to the church council for their approval to proceed. (March)

A calendar will be developed that includes target dates for the introduction of the Ray of Life solar light kit service project for second quarter, 2024, at Ascension.

Special speakers, videos and appeal will be planned for an Adult Education session in 2nd quarter. (April)

2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (What? When? Where?)

Anyone is welcome to join the Ray of Life solar light team at any time.

Potential for receipt of 8-10 Ray of Life solar light kits for our team to assemble this spring.

Any Ukrainian contacts you may have would be contacted to determine how they could bring reality and perspective to this service project. (for example, CLU international student, Beverly's son.)

3. LOOKING AHEAD (Important calendar dates)

Watch for date/time of next Ray of Life team meeting.

4. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Louise Evenson or any ROL team member at lpevenson@aol.com, or 925-518-5795



MINISTRY OF THE GMT-WELCOME KITS/BASKETS FOR REFUGEES

DATE Feb, 2024

SUBMITTED BY Louise Evenson

1. WHAT'S COMING UP? (What? When? Where?)

During Lent, the GMT will invite Ministry Leaders at Ascension to purchase items for WELCOME KITS to be distributed to refugee families in CA. An invitation letter with the Welcome Basket item list for each basket (Bathroom Basket, Cleaning Basket or Kitchen Basket) has been prepared. Each ministry leader will receive a follow up phone call to answer any questions and confirm their participation in this service project during Lent. We are inviting each ministry team to do at least two welcome baskets. A \$1,000 BE THE BLESSING grant proposal has been submitted to purchase the containers each group will need for their baskets as well as a bit extra for gift cards to be added to the baskets. Members of the GMT are invited to sign up to buy items for welcome baskets that we will assemble together at our March 6th GMT meeting. We are targeting completion of this project by March 23, 2024.

2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (What? When? Where?)

Sign up and purchase Welcome Kit items prior to our March 6th meeting. Come to our March 6th meeting to assemble our Welcome Kits.

3. LOOKING AHEAD (Important calendar dates)

March 6th GMT meeting.

**4. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Carol Bartell,
bartell@callutheran.edu, Carol Bjelland carolb@netscape.com or Louise
Evenson lpevenson@aol.com**