



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, July 17, 2024 - 7:00pm
Bethlehem Room**

Welcome and Call to Order - Carrie Leonard, President

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

Motto: Invite - Grow - Serve

Approval of Agenda - Carrie Leonard

Devotion - Anna Woodward, School Board Representative

Introductions and Discussion - All

Share (1) What really excites you about Ascension? and (2) What you consider to be Ascension's biggest challenge?

Council Education - Alan Baker, Foundation Representative
Presentation on Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation

Treasurer's Report - Dave Harkins, Treasurer

New Business

- Resolutions - Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations
 - Electronic Voting
 - Signature Authorization
 - Bank Signatories
- Annual Meeting - Approve date and time (September xx, 2024, XX:XXam/pm)
- Bylaw change request - Carrie

Recurring Business

- Affirm New Members, Confirmations, and Baptisms

Old Business

- Land Sale - report on any new transaction activity - Dave Harkins
- Call Committee - update on progress - Pastor Tim/Carrie Leonard
- Youth Director Search Team - update on progress - Pastor Tim

Approval of Minutes - Carrie Leonard

- June Council Meeting
- June Congregational Meeting

Consent Approval of Reports to Council - Carrie Leonard

- Pastor Tim Delkeskamp's Report
- Pastor Steve Herder's Report
- Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations Report
- School Board Report
- Foundation Report
- Global Ministries Team Report
- Communications Report

Information Items

- August Council Meeting - August 21st, 7pm
 - Devotions

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Treasurer's Report for July 2024

The Treasurer's monthly report traditionally features a high-level comparison of actual to budgeted revenues and expenses based on the prior month's financial reports for church and school. The complexities of handling the detailed closing of the books for One Ascension by the two-person financial staff, and timing issues associated with the scheduling of the Council meeting vis-à-vis the ending of the calendar month, make this a frequently challenging schedule to meet.

This month, the ending of the fiscal year, with its more complex closing protocols, and vacation schedules, mean there is no potential to develop the financials in time for the Church Council meeting.

Church Operating Results for the expired Fiscal Year

Revenues were down for June against what was budgeted. Mike believes the annual shortfall to budget for offerings is in the \$50K range. This compares to the budget as presented last month showing a deficit of about \$40K in offerings. If the number holds, the revenue increase for the 23/24FY is an actual 3% compared with 22/23FY. This is still a positive, and in fact matches the "ask" to the congregation a year ago.

It also makes this year's "ask" of 5% a bigger stretch. In preparation for the effort, the Joy of Giving Committee has approved a special request to the congregation for "at least" a 5% increase in individual giving which will go out with the six-month giving statement to each member.

Expenses for June contained no surprises, and we continue to anticipate the overall budget to be met or exceeded (i.e. surplus). As before, this is because salaries/benefits or less than anticipated due to staffing shortages.

2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget and Cash Position

At the Congregational meeting June 23rd, the One Ascension budget was presented to voting members with positive feedback and affirmation. One question that came up during the presentation concerned the "secular" banking resources utilized in lieu of Thrivent banking. It did prompt a further look at the One Ascension use of interest-bearing accounts. Subsequently, the School Board approved transferring a substantial amount of cash to the church's Fidelity account, which carries a higher interest rate than the banking account from which transferred. Staff is awaiting response from Thrivent of information concerning their interest-bearing accounts.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Harkins

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: 2024/25.1
TITLE: Electronic Voting Resolution
SUBMITTED BY: Council
DATE: July 17, 2024

RESOLVED, that Ascension Lutheran Church Council agrees that the Council, Committees and organizations can make decisions via e-mail vote for the FY 2024-2025.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Former Council President Norm Nagel stated that it is important at the beginning of every council year to vote on the ability to make decisions via e-mail for any given year.
2. Legal counsel has advised that when voting by e-mail the first question is, "Do you accept voting by e-mail on this item?" This must be unanimously approved by all council members for the vote to move forward.
3. Voting on the issue itself does not require a unanimous outcome.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: No financial impact noted.

By: _____
Carrie Leonard, Congregational President

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: 2024/25.2

TITLE: SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

SUBMITTED BY: Director of Operations

DATE: July 17, 2024

RESOLVED, that Carrie Leonard, John Rarick, and Jeannette Ruggiero shall have signature authorization on all banking relationships of Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church unless removed by subsequent action of the Church Council of Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks, California.

RESOLVED, that Carrie Leonard and Rachael Bowen have signature authorization on all legal documents on behalf of Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church unless removed by subsequent action of the Church Council of Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks, California.

RESOLVED, that Kaylee Searway and Mike Marvin shall continue to be authorized to access to view all bank account balances and transactions, and to receive information by phone, email or online regarding all Ascension Lutheran Church bank accounts.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As Council members change, it becomes necessary to change signature authority on all Ascension Lutheran Church 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.

BANKING AUTHORIZATIONS:

Carrie Leonard, President
John Rarick, President Elect
Jeannette Ruggiero, Immediate Past President

LEGAL AUTHORIZATIONS:

Carrie Leonard, President
Rachael Bowen, Secretary

ACCESS AUTHORIZATION:

Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations
Mike Marvin, Senior Accountant

All signature or access authorizations other than those listed above should be removed.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: No financial impact noted.

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

Carrie Leonard, President

Date _____

John Rarick, President Elect

Date _____

Jeannette Ruggiero, Immediate Past President

Date _____

Rachael Bowen, Secretary

Date _____

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THOUSAND OAKS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: 2024/25.3
 TITLE: BANKING SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION -
PACIFIC WESTERN BANK
 SUBMITTED BY: Director of Operations
 DATE: July 17, 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 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 401002162, Checking	To be added to account 401002162, Checking
Ed Klodt	John Rarick, President Elect

To be removed from account 401007733, Payroll	To be added to account 401007733, Payroll
Ed Klodt	John Rarick, President Elect

To be removed from account 401800735, Money Market	To be added to account 401800735, Money Market
Ed Klodt	John Rarick, President Elect

Continuing as signers on the specific Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks bank accounts as described above unless noted as removed:
Jeannette Ruggiero, Immediate Past President
Carrie Leonard, President
David Harkins, Treasurer

Continuing on account 401007741, AGAPE
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:
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Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations
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Mike Marvin, Senior Accountant

David Harkins, Treasurer

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: No financial impact noted.

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

Carrie Leonard, President

Date _____

John Rarick, President Elect

Date _____

Rachael Bowen, Secretary

Date _____

The School Board is requesting the Council consider the following change to the bylaws and recommending this change for Congregational approval.

Bylaw 10.02.d

Current version:

The School Board may, at its own discretion, form special subcommittees from time to time to serve the ALC School's purpose and needs. Such special subcommittees may consist of members of the Congregation who are not members of the School Board. All special subcommittees, however, shall be chaired by a School Board member who has sole responsibility for the subcommittee's actions.

Version showing edits:

The School Board may, at its own discretion, form special subcommittees from time to time to serve the ALC School's purpose and needs. Such special subcommittees may consist of persons ~~are members of the Congregation~~ who are not members of the Congregation or School Board. All special subcommittees, however, shall be chaired by a School Board member who has sole responsibility for the subcommittee's actions.

Recommended final version:

The School Board may, at its own discretion, form special subcommittees from time to time to serve the ALC School's purpose and needs. Such special subcommittees may consist of persons who are not members of the Congregation or School Board. All special subcommittees, however, shall be chaired by a School Board member who has sole responsibility for the subcommittee's actions.

New Members & Baptisms Report

June 2024

Baptisms for May

Name	Date of Birth	Date Baptized
Charles Samuel Beck	2/10/23	5/26/24

New Members for May

No New Members

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

The council meeting was called to order by Jeannette Ruggiero at 7:02 p.m.

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

Others: Pastor Tim, Kaylee Searway

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 – Approval of Ascension School budget that will be presented at the Congregational meeting.

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

Devotions - Carrie

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Carrie led the group in reflecting on this passage three times: First while focusing on ourselves and our families, second while focusing on Ascension and our community, and finally while focusing on our nation and the world.

Informational Items

1. Call / Search Committee Updates – Pastor Tim

The Call Committee is in the interview phase.

After two rounds of interviews with applicants for the Youth Director position, no qualified candidate has emerged. The committee is investigating other search areas that could yield additional applicants. Each person on the committee has pledged to help out with Youth activities. Attendance at the Sunday evening Bible study ranges from 4 – 10 youth. One of the recent confirmands has started participating in the Bible study. The urgent need right now is for someone to coordinate and staff youth activities for the summer.

Treasurer's Report – Dave

Although revenues to date are 2.1% below budget, income and expense trends so far indicate that the fiscal year could end with a \$20,000 surplus. The church's cash position is strong.

The budget variance to date for the ECC and ALS is -\$5,304, in large part due to the expense for campus security. An initial gift from a school family for campus security has been used up so the expense since that point has been coming out of the budget although there is no line item for this expense.

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

Discussion of School Budget

The 2024/2025 budget includes \$145,000 expense for campus security. This amount will be split between the ECC and the school. Whereas the estimated FYE for 2024 is expected to end with a \$124,428 surplus, the

estimate for FYE 2025 is \$53,109. The budget amounts are based on an estimated enrollment of 170 students at the school, which includes the return of the 8th grade class. The additional security expense was part of the calculation for tuition for the 24/25 school year. There has been no adverse reaction from school families regarding the tuition increase. The security team are school parents and are part of the school community.

A motion was made (Bonny), seconded (Ed) and passed unanimously, to approve recommendation of the ALS and ECC budget, as presented, to the congregation at the Congregational meeting.

New Business

1. June Congregational Meeting - Jeannette

Information regarding the Congregational meeting along with the documents that will be presented have been shared with the congregation. If there are no nominations from the floor, it would be appropriate to put forth a motion to suspend the written ballot and have a voice vote instead. Carrie offered to make this motion if appropriate. Bonny and Dave will be on hand to count ballots if there is a written ballot vote.

Old Business

1. Get/Be the Blessing Update – Ed

The flow of grant requests has slowed down with only one request in the past 30 days. Of the grant requests approved so far, half came from the school/ECC and half were from Ascension members. The school and ECC publicized their projects by sending flyers home to parents, sharing what their children participated in and who benefitted from their Be the Blessing activities.

Ed has agreed to continue to lead the Get/Be the Blessing Committee through the end of the year. He will provide updates to Dave Harkins to bring to council meetings going forward.

Recurring Business

Affirm New Members, Confirmants and Baptisms

The baptism of Charles Samuel Beck was affirmed.

Action Items Action Tracker

- Jeannette will complete Pastor Tim's review in the next few days.
- Al is ready to give a presentation at July's Council meeting regarding the activities of the Foundation.
- The action item to send a letter to the congregation regarding Council's ask for a 5% increase in giving was not completed. A note could be added when the mid-year statements are sent out in July. Pastor Tim will bring this up with the Generosity team.

Approval of Minutes – Jeannette

1. May Church Council Meeting

A motion was made (Bonny), seconded (John), and passed unanimously to approve the minutes for the May Council meeting.

Consent Approval of Reports to Council

1. Administrator's Report
2. Pastor's reports – Pastor Tim, Pastor Steve Herder
3. School Board
4. Communications Report
5. GMT Report

A motion was made (Bonny), seconded (Anna), and passed unanimously to approve the Reports to Council.

Reminder

Next Council meeting - Wednesday, July 17th at 7:00.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Tim**Adjournment**

A motion was made (Ed), seconded (Anna) and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06

Respectfully submitted by Rachael Bowen

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.**

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Jeannette Ruggiero, Council President, at 12:02 pm.

Opening Prayer

Ed Klodt, Council Past President opened the meeting in prayer.

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*

Presentation and Approval of Agenda – Jeannette

Move Agenda Item – Due to a time constraint for Scott Squires, the Youth Director Search Update will be presented just after the approval of the agenda.

A motion was made (Karsten Lundring), seconded (Jim Overton), and passed unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

Youth Director Search Update – Scott Squires

The committee members bring a depth of experience with Ascension's youth activities to their search for a youth director. They met with the youth group to get their input regarding the future of the youth program. The number of participants in youth activities has been declining. The youth would like to have more activities. Dianne Beck has stepped in to lead the weekly Bible studies.

Contacts have been made with Lutheran college campuses and churches across the country, and the position has been posted on Indeed. There have been 46 applicants so far. The first round of interviews for 15 of the candidates were held via Zoom. Five moved forward to the second-round interviews which were conducted in person when possible. None of the applicants have stood out as a potential hire for this position.

The process is not being rushed so that the search will yield the dynamic, Christ-centered leader who will guide Ascension's youth into the future.

Approval of Minutes for the September 2023 Annual Meeting - Jeanette

A motion was made (Shelly Snyder), seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 2023 Annual meeting.

Election of Candidates – Pastor Tim

The candidates for the open positions on the Church Council, the School Board, and the Foundation are listed in the packet provided to the congregation prior to this meeting. There were no questions regarding the slate of candidates or additional nominations from those in attendance at this meeting.

A motion was made (Carrie Leonard), seconded, and passed unanimously to suspend voting by written ballots.

A motion was made (Ed Klodt), seconded, and passed unanimously via voice vote to approve and elect the slate of candidates as presented.

Plans for Ministry – Pastor Tim

The “24 in 24” prayer initiative is necessary at this time because God is up to something and we need to be ready for our new associate pastor and youth leader.

This is a challenging time for Ascension as we’re an aging congregation. There are younger people in worship but they’re not necessarily engaged in church life. The current culture is one where regular worship attendance and participation in church activities may not be a priority.

One challenge is to continue building a Christ-centered community for the youth in our congregation. Confirmation classes and Sr. Luther League activities will help them find their identity and purpose in Christ. There is also a focus on improving the worship experience and encouraging fellowship after the services and through small groups. The goal is to strengthen both community and our identity as good, grace-filled people.

The good news is:

- We have a clear vision of the qualifications our new associate pastor and youth leader must possess.
- Two incredible schools.
- A sound financial position.
- A generous congregation; a people of abundance.
- Good leadership.
- Great staff.
- New worshippers.

The great news is the God is on our side.

Presentation of One Ascension Budget – Dave Harkins, Council Treasurer

Church Budget

The Finance staff, Mike Marvin and Camryn Force, spent the past year reviewing and making sense of the annual budget, reviewing each line item.

The main elements that influence the FY24–25 budget include the following:

- A request to the congregation for a 5% increase in giving. Inflation has affected salary and other expenses, which necessitates increased giving. FY23-24 saw a 4% increase in giving as well as a 9.7% increase in the number of giving units. The latter is any person or household who gave an offering anytime during the year.
- The budgeted amount for Salaries & Benefits is larger than last year even though the actual expenditure this year is less than the budgeted amount. This was due to the vacancies for the associate pastor and the youth leader. The FY24-25 amount takes into account the annual salaries and benefits for the two vacant positions even though they’re not yet filled.
- The Property Maintenance line includes the church’s contribution of \$25,000 to the One Ascension long-term asset maintenance fund, contingent on ending the year with a surplus.
- Insurance costs and utility expenses have increased over the past year and the trend is expected to continue in the new fiscal year.

The percentage of benevolences as compared to total giving for the church, school, and Foundation for FY23-24 is 28%, confirming that One Ascension is a generous community.

The church’s cash position is very strong.

Questions:

Ron Cox Where are the cash funds held? Are they earning interest?
- The funds are held in short-term interest-earning accounts.

Jim Overton Is there a plan for covering potential future maintenance costs?
- Ascension is already working with a vendor to identify and plan for long-term capital maintenance needs.

ECC/School Budget

Tuition for the new school year was increased by 7%. Part of this is due to security personnel and infrastructure costs. The budgeted tuition amount is based on 170 students at the school and full enrollment of 185 students at the ECC. The student count at the school includes reinstating the 8th grade.

The budget shows a positive bottom line for FY24-25.

Foundation Budget

A \$228,000 gain was realized for FY23-24. Budgeted Ending Net Assets for FY24-25 is lower than the amount budgeted for the previous year based on the Foundation's intent to enhance grants and scholarships in the new fiscal year.

A motion was made (Ron Cox) and seconded to approve budgets for the church ECC/School, and Foundation as presented.

Discussion:

Why are cash funds for the church being held with a secular entity?
- Commitments with Pacific Western have been reduced over the years.
- The school holds funds with Thrivent for longer-term accounts. Thrivent's short-term rates are not as favorable as the Fidelity rate.

The motion to approve the budgets passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Land Sale – Bob Woodward

The land sale is still in process with the city. The buyer, Robert Younkin, is submitting his plans now. Ascension's to-do's include:

- Updating the parking study / parking spaces.
- Developing a garden study.

Both of these have been completed and will be submitted to the city.

There will be more information to share at the September Congregational meeting.

2. Call Committee Update – Scott Searway and Susie Smuck

The committee is meeting weekly and reviewing the background of candidates received from the Synod. Candidates are also being sought via Instagram and LinkedIn. Questions for the committee can be submitted via email to acc.org.

3. Update on Be the Blessing – Ed Klodt

Over \$10,000 in grants have been awarded so far. The projects included one-time ministries, new ministries, and adjunct ministries. Five grant requests came from the ECC and school. Five grant requests were from Ascension members. The goal of this initiative is to engage those people not currently active in ministries.

New Business

Paul Gravrock offered thanks to Pastor Tim and Pastor Steve for taking on additional pastoral duties during this time without an associate pastor.

Closing Prayer – Carrie Leonard, Council President Elect

Adjournment

A motion was made (Ed), seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rachael Bowen



Tim's Council Report- July 24

Grace and peace to you my family in Christ,

I am just returning from a lovely mini vacation to Salt Lake City where I got to support my daughter at her national rock-climbing championships. It was a wonderful trip; I very much enjoyed the time with Hannah and it was good to have a break from the work of One Ascension. I am grateful for Pastor Rick Ertel who preached in my place over the weekend. Now that I am back, I am reflecting on the work that we have been doing and lining up the work for the rest of the summer with a mind on transitioning from Summer into the Fall.

In terms of reflection, we had a great congregational meeting. The reports on the work of the Call Committee, Youth Search Team and land sale, the vote on the budget and the elections our new slate of officers were very helpful and informative. We are doing a very good job handling our business and that bodes well for this ministry year. I was pleased that though we had to move the time to after the 10:30 service, we still had good (if not as good as if it were to be between services) attendance. Special thanks to two specific people who went off the church council and the school board. Ed Klodt was an excellent Church Council President and did so much to help our church transition out the covid period. His leadership will have an impact on this place for years to come. The same goes for Steve Smuck and his service on the School Board. His last name means "jewel" in German. Steve was a jewel on the school board as he helped it through a critical leadership transition and got the school's future back on solid ground.

The work of the Call Committee and the Youth Director search team continues to be high priority. Finding the right person in the quickest time continues to be the urgent tension that we live in. Though I haven't been in the inside work of the Call Committee, I understand they are doing what they can to network and generate interviews. I am grateful for their determination to keep the process going even in a time where additional travel makes it harder for the team to meet. The Youth Director search has its highs and lows. Per Scott Squires' report at the congregational meeting, we have looked at many resumes and interviewed several candidates, we haven't found the right one. As I write this, we will have 3 interviews coming up this evening. Please continue to pray for the work of both teams.

Jenni Klemp did an outstanding job of putting together the VBS program. There was much work and many details to cover but it went wonderfully well.

Diane Beck's time as Interim Youth Director is now officially over. She gave more time than she planned but now must attend some very important obligations in her life. This makes finding a Youth director even more urgent. I am also grateful to the people that are stepping up to the plate and helping to keep the youth group going at this time, that includes our Youth director search team, Joel Halvorson, Scott Squires and Jenifer Marvin.

Our first monthly prayer event went incredibly well. Carolyn Coleman-Brady was our speaker and by all reports (including my own) she did an excellent job. We will have to figure out how to get even more people to attend the next few events because they will continue to be excellent. I am grateful to Pastor Steve in his leadership of this team, and I am a glad participant.

Finally, as we head toward the end of summer and into the new year, if we don't have a Youth Director and an Associate Pastor in place, things will look a bit different in the Fall. We will certainly work to have Sunday School and confirmation, but Rally Day may be more subdued this year. It is hard to admit but our "bandwidth" is not as big as it needs to be to go about our normal Fall programming. It will be different.

God is good!

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

Church Council Report – Pastor Steve Herder – July 3, 2024



As of today, we are two and half weeks into our 24 weeks of prayer! Our prayer team has worked hard at making this ministry have a big impact both on the faith and life of individual members of our congregation, but also for our congregation, school, and foundation.

In our daily, weekly, and soon monthly prayers, we are lifting up to God our Call Committee and Search Committee, as they interview possible candidates for our next full-time associate pastor and youth director.

We encourage each person to participate in the variety of opportunities for prayer that we are offering these months. I'm especially looking forward to our first Wednesday Prayer Gathering on July 10th, with Carolyn Coleman-Grady teaching on prayer and her sister singing "His Eye Is on the Sparrow. I hope that you'll join us in person on our livestream! Thank you for your prayers as we proceed, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us!

With this report I'm attaching the July prayer calendar and an updated One Ascension Leaders page, including new leaders for church council, school board and foundation trustees, as well as the names of our three custodians, Christian, Jessenia and Noe Gonzalez, a wonderful Christian family who are here each evening M-F cleaning our campus.

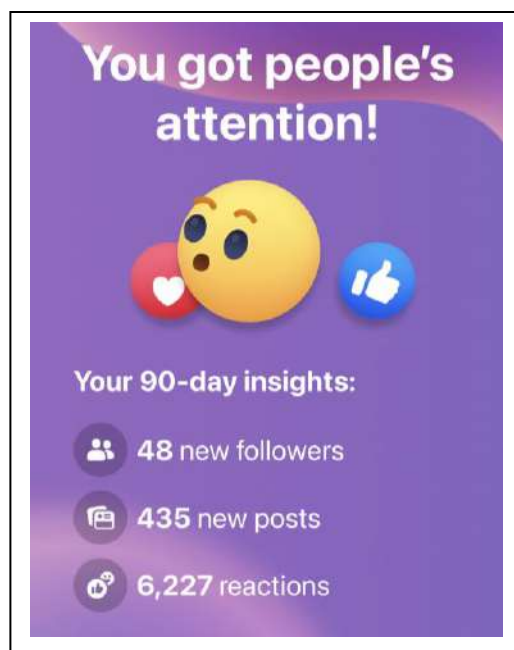
We greatly appreciate our leaders in ministries that continue including, GriefShare, Eucharistic Ministers, Food Pantry, Senior Adult Ministries, SAMs Tram, Christian Life Hours, Community Concerns, Global Ministries (175 light kits for Ukraine!), Fair Trade Ministries, planning for Adult Education and Women's Ministries in the fall.

One brand new ministry for us was hosting a Juneteenth event that turned out to be super evening in Pederson Hall, on June 14th (a little earlier than June 19th). It began and finished in prayer and in the middle of it, we had fun entertainment with music, dance, and comedy. I hope that we can host this again next year!



- ✚ **Pray Ephesians 3:14-21** each day (see front), and pray the Psalms.
- ✚ **Worship each week** and invite others.
- ✚ **Pray** for our Call Committee, the next Associate Pastor the Spirit is leading here, and the Search Committee for a Youth Director.
- ✚ **Pray** for our church, school, and foundation.
- ✚ **Come to our prayer chapel** for a quiet prayer time. (Open every Sunday, 8am-9am, 10am-10:30am. Every Wednesday, 12pm.)
- ✚ **Join every Saturday** for a **Prayer Walk** from 4:45-5:15pm.
- ✚ **Pray** for each heart to be filled with the fullness of God; know the love of Christ and be strengthened through the Spirit.

Each day I enjoy doing two to six ministry posts on our [Ascension Facebook page](#). Susanne Hopkins does a beloved devotion each Monday morning. Stacy Bosco has been posting our daily 24 in 24 posts. They are excellent! Here are some fun facts that Facebook recently told us about our Ascension page. We are now connected to over 2,400 people! Also, below is a photo, taken by Kathie Ferkin, of four organists! This was a very popular post this past month.



I wasn't directly involved with Vacation Bible School, but we were happy that this week highlighted the good work of our ELCA World Hunger ministries. Thank you, Jenni Klemp and team!

On July 1st I participated in an ELCA focus group with 14 other pastors from across the country. We were the only one from CA. We were chosen to participate because of our generosity through each fall's Gifts of Hope as well as other Mission Support!



Blessings on your summer months everyone! Julie and I enjoyed having Natalie home from her work in NYC for some time this past month. The last two weeks Julie and I had a very enjoyable road trip to Northern CA and southern Oregon, especially Bend, visiting eight friends along the way. I also look forward to time in Wisconsin with family there. They all send their love and greetings to you. Thank you for [your prayers](#). You are in ours.

You Are Invited to:

- Pray Ephesians 3:14-21 each day (see below), and pray the Psalms, Jesus' Prayerbook.
 - Worship faithfully each week and invite others.
 - Pray for our Call Committee, the next Associate Pastor the Spirit is leading here, and the Search Committee for a Youth Director.
- Pray for our church, school, and Foundation to be transformed by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 12)
- Come to our prayer chapel every Sunday, 8am-9am, 10am-10:30am. Every Wednesday at Noon for a quiet prayer time. Every Saturday for a Prayer Walk from 4:45-5:15pm.
 - Pray for each heart to be filled with the fullness of God;
to know the love of Christ and share it;
be strengthened through the Spirit,
to join what God is doing in our
church, community, and world!



June 2024, pray for...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 Fathers and families <i>Luke 11: 1-13</i>	17 Pastor Paul Gravrock on his 80th birthday <i>Psalm 46</i>	18 Feeding those unhoused today, Harbor House <i>Prov. 22: 9</i>	19 <i>Juneteenth</i> Church Council leaders <i>Prov. 3: 5-6</i>	20 <i>World Refugee Day</i> GlobalRefuge.org <i>Deut. 15: 7-11</i>	21 Search committee for a new Youth Director <i>Jer. 1: 4-8</i>	22 Pastor Larry Wagner, 49th ordination anniversary <i>1st Tim. 4: 11-16</i>
23 Congregational meeting, vision elections, budgets <i>Mark 4: 35-41</i>	24 Vacation Bible School Week <i>First Sam. 2: 1-10</i>	25 The Call Committee and a new Associate Pastor <i>Eph. 4: 11-13</i>	26 Our Early Childhood Center staff & families <i>Mark 10: 13-16</i>	27 Our TK-8 School staff & families <i>Col. 2: 6-7</i>	28 Christian Life Hour at Sage Mountain Senior Living, NP <i>Lam. 3: 22-33</i>	29 All who worship this weekend in person and online <i>Psalm 30</i>
30 Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Haiti <i>Mark 5: 21-43</i>	Praying this prayer each day, from Ephesians 3:14-21 "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."					

July 2024

Community Prayer Gathering
 Monthly Series
 2nd Wednesday of the month | 7pm | Sanctuary
 Why We Pray
 How to Pray
 Ways to Pray
 Different topic/speaker each month



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton <i>Psalm 19</i>	2 Thousand Oaks City Council and each local government leader <i>Jer. 29: 7</i>	3 Lan Merill and our whole tech team (his birthday) <i>Jer. 29: 10-14</i>	4 <i>AIC founded on 7/4/1948</i> Our country, Blessed to be a blessing <i>Psalm 67</i>	5 Food Pantry, open every Friday 10am-12pm <i>Psalm 146: 5-9</i>	6 Those who are hospitalized and hospital staff <i>Jer. 30: 17a</i>
7 Our children and youth this summer <i>Mark 6: 1-13</i>	8 The ministry of the Gideons in sharing God's Word <i>1st Chron. 4: 10</i>	9 Stacy Bosco, our Communications Coordinator <i>Col. 1: 3-8</i>	10 Our Community Prayer Gathering 7pm, Sanctuary <i>Psalm 95: 1-7</i>	11 GriefShare group every Thursday at 1:00pm <i>Rev. 21: 1-8</i>	12 The Wennes family as we remember Pastor Howie today (died 2022) <i>Psalm 85</i>	13 Other houses of faith in our community <i>Eph. 1: 3-14</i>
14 Our oldest members of our congregation and community <i>Mark 6: 14-29</i>	15 Our Foundation (Grant requests due today) <i>Psalm 27</i>	16 Linda Morrow and our prayer team (her birthday) <i>Col. 4: 2-6</i>	17 Church leaders, incl. Ed Klodt and Carol Bjelland <i>Philippians 1: 3-11</i>	18 Our ELCA missionary, Rev. Kristin Engstrom in Madagascar <i>Matt. 28: 16-20</i>	19 Summer maintenance and property projects <i>Ex. 36: 1-7</i>	20 Kaylee Searway, Director of Administrative Ministries <i>Eph. 2: 11-22</i>
21 Gifts to our Caring Ones and Agape Fund <i>Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56</i>	22 California Lutheran University <i>2nd Chron. 6</i>	23 Our donations of Solar Light Kits to Ukraine <i>Matt. 5: 14-16</i>	24 Our preparations for blessing the pets, October 5th, Noon - 4:00pm <i>Job 12: 7-10</i>	25 Guests and visitors who are coming to our worship services <i>Rom. 12: 9-13</i>	26 ECC Director Jenni McCoy's birthday <i>1st Thess. 5: 16-28</i>	27 Cam Lorentson's birthday <i>Psalm 145</i>
28 Lutheran World Federation Bishop Henrik Stubkjaer <i>John 6: 1-21</i>	29 Our School Board <i>Psalm 33</i>	30 That each of us be filled with the fullness of God <i>Col. 1: 9-14</i>	31 Our preparations for Gifts of Hope in the fall <i>Matt. 25: 31-40</i>			

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
Ethan East
Dave Harkins
Carrie Leonard
John Rarick
Jeannette Ruggiero
Steve Smuck

School Board

Scott Bean
Kyle Jones
Jeanette McNulty
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
Greg Korshavn
Doug Morrow
Roy Sanchez
Jim Thompson
Don Weeks

ECC STAFF

Christina Alfaro
Stacy Andrews
Jessica Bunting
McKyla Byrd
Brittani Childers
Tiffany Chivaroli
Esperanza Flores
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
Jesica Peters
Jessica Placas
Kelsi Ramirez
Vanessa Reyes
Karyn Ring
Marissa Saldivar
Mariela Sanchez
Nasha Sobieski
Elizabeth Van Mourik
Heather VanVorst
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

Search Committee for Youth Director:

Scott Squires
Jennifer Marvin
Joel Halvorson

Custodians:

Christian, Jessenia,
& Noe Gonzalez

Call Committee: Tom Lindros, Hannah Hurdle, Crystal Bryant, Michael Feltner, Susie Smuck, Gwen Thompson, Scott Searway

TK- 7 ELEMENTARY STAFF

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

Welcome to the 2024-2025 year of ministry for Ascension Lutheran Church! Thank you for serving on the Council; you are appreciated, and your guidance and encouragement is a gift.

Many documents that may be helpful to you in your leadership are included on the church's website. Our website is www.alcto.org, and there is a search glass icon on the top right of the screen. If you type Member docs and click on the "Read More" box that comes up you will find the latest Annual Report, our Policy and Procedure Manual, Constitution, Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, and recent council packets.

Attendance

Summer attendance is slightly down from the 335 I reported in June as a six week average to now 320 for a six week average. Our online viewership has declined from 138 to 121.

Maintenance

Our summer projects are moving along. You have likely noticed the tile patios progressively peeling back from the west patio and around the front. Our business office to classroom and closet to office conversions are also moving forward. Jeff was able to take 3 days off for some family activities, and in his absence Jude and Nate were able to sail through a long list of classroom tasks that Jeff left for them. Camden is now back from time off for Conejo Valley Days, and we are all hands-on deck toward a ready campus for the new academic year.

As a recap, or in case you are new to the Council, here is a brief list of what we seek to accomplish this summer:

Covert Business Office and SS Room	Meetings and standard setups
Replace Business Office Door	Move sand from ECC to TK-8
Paint resource room same as classrooms	backflow testing
Tiles on West Church Patio	paint curbs
TK-8 Classrooms	HVAC annual inspection
ECC Classrooms	Drain line repair
ECC Pavers	(oversee repave lots 1-2)
	(Exterior Bath Reno - paint upper
ECC touch up main hallways	tiles/ceiling)
ECC counter top repairs	Assemble Overton Shade Structures
(Clean ECC Carpets)	Scrub Inside/Outside of all entry doors
(Clean TK-8 Carpets)	Scrub lunch tables
(ECC Windows)	ECC filters
Concrete Pad for New Greenhouse	upper campus filters
Assemble New Greenhouse	Exterior Power Washing
Garden Prep for Fall	Concrete Pad for New Greenhouse
Make 8 hoop cages for the top of planters	Assemble New Greenhouse
Outdoor Classroom Prep	

Human Resources

In case you haven't heard, I passed my SHRM exam! I now have an HR Department of One specialty credential with the Society for Human Resources Management. I am excited to integrate some of what I have learned into my goals for the coming year.

I have been continuing with performance reviews for my team, and looking to coordinate reviews with Jenelle and myself with Pastor Tim. As I always remind my team, there should be no surprises at review time, just a recap of conversations we have already been having throughout the year. It's a good opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished and what goals we have for the coming year.

One of my goals is usually to offer strong and consistent training during Professional Development Week in August. We get five days on campus with no students. There's always a great deal of information to cover, even as teachers focus on preparing their classrooms and lesson plans. This year we must add a training for Workplace Violence Prevention. A new law went into effect July 1, 2024 requiring that we have a Written Workplace Violence Prevention Plan and train all employees about it. As I started writing the plan I realized how blessed we are at Ascension with tools that help us prevent workplace violence; our gates, controlled door access, cameras, and security guard are all advantages that help us protect our team and students. It's been an odd program and training to create as there are strict rules about its existence and documentation, but very little guidance on the actual content.

Our executive team spends a great deal of time in the spring thoughtfully curating this first week of the school year. It's important for new team members to properly onboard and feel settled, for the team to feel united and bonded, to complete the mandatory training, and to give teachers sufficient time to prepare their classrooms. One of the sessions we chose to postpone due to time is a refresher or introduction to interviewing for supervisors. I hope to find or develop some training for those conducting interviews on helpful techniques and questions as well as topics to be avoided. I hope to squeeze this training into a pupil free day during the year.

12	Monday August	13	Tuesday August	14	Wednesday August	15	Thursday August	16	Friday August
	Breakfast				7:30 ECC Picture				
	Worship		ECC Staff Meeting						
	Site Tours				Disaster Drill		ECC Pesticide Training		Workplace Violence Prev.
	Paylocity Refresher (15 min)								
			Lucky Strike		CPR for 10 ECC teacher		ECC Parent Orientation		ECC Parent Orientation
19	Monday August								
	10:00 Cyber hygiene with Scott Bean**								

Finance

It's actually a quiet, but deceptively busy time for our finance department. We breathed a collective sigh of accomplishment and gratitude to have the 2024-2025 budgets approved by the congregation and ready to implement. Two of the three of us celebrated with vacation time. That said, I currently don't know if you will have your typical financial reports at the time your council packet is distributed. Year end holds some extra journal entries and processes, as I am sure you understand. We are excited to reflect 2023-2024 accurately and send documents to our auditors even as we upload our new budget for 2024-2025 and seek to communicate budgets and plans to ministry leaders for the coming year.

24 in 24

When you read this packet in preparation for our meeting we will have already held our first monthly event for 24 in 24: an evening event the second Wednesday of each month. It's been fun to plan with Carolyn Coleman-Grady speaking and her sister Carmen Carter singing "His Eye is on the Sparrow." Pastor Steve, Pastor Tim, and I will meet early next week to reflect on the event and where the Holy Spirit is leading for the August event.

Mesa Farms

The first residents will be moving in during the last week of July! Please join me in praying for them and the staff as they launch into this new ministry. I have communicated a handful of days and times that some Ascension folks might be available to go to the site and cover the homes with prayer before the residents move in. We will likely be going Monday July 15th through Wednesday July 17th or Monday, July 22nd during the day. You are welcome to join us. I'll communicate the date, time, and address as soon as it is confirmed.

Thank you,

Kaylee Searway



Ascension Lutheran School Board Agenda for 6/24/24 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. Strategic Pillars Update
2. Maintenance Request
3. Year End Financials
4. Principal Evaluation

New Business:

5. Tech Policy
6. Election of officers

Adjournment

Executive Session

1. One Topic

Closing Prayer - Rich
Adjournment

**Ascension Lutheran School Board Meeting Minutes
June 24, 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, Rich Gregory, Jenni McCoy, Jocelyn Myers, Nelly Trumbo, Chris Poveromo, Anna Woodward, Kyle Jones, Mike Marvin, Connie Angress, Steve Smuck, Ashley Steere

Absent: Kathy Roshanai

Call to Order:

Scott called the meeting to order at 6:47pm.

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

Devotion:

Scott led the devotion from John 6:1-14, and spoke on the connection it has to the work we do on the school board. First, with the message that Jesus's kingdom is advanced by faith and obedience. Second, faithful stewardship will be needed during this growth phase of school, and third, the message of multiplying blessings. Something small can turn into something big, as with time spent volunteering on the school board.

Rich then shared gratitude for Steve and Scott for their respective roles as Past President and President of the school board, and also presented them with handcrafted pens as thank you gifts.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda:

Church council report and financials pulled for discussion.

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

Old Business:

Financials

- Anna spoke on the current cash review report. The church currently has cash invested in a high-interest account which would also benefit the cash on hand for the school/ECC. Anna recommends moving \$700K of cash to the church's high interest account, or open a new, similar one for the school/ECC.
- Mike mentioned this cash review report will become a monthly report for the board to review.
- Scott suggested that the cash review report should come with more non-numerical explanation, so that there is more clarity on the information presented.

Kyle makes a motion to move \$700K of available cash into the church's high-interest Fidelity account, with a reporting requirement that provides the board a monthly account statement with percentage allocations. Ashley seconds. One opposes. Motion passes.

State of the Schools

- Rich reported that second grade teacher Ashley Babich just welcomed her second child. He said VBS has gotten off to a great start. He asks for prayers for the new youth director search. He said the sentiment at the end of the year was tremendous, and that families who intended to leave might be having second thoughts.
- Jenni reported that there are a couple, unexpected teacher openings at the ECC.

Strategic Pillars Update – Life-long Learners

- Rich reported that an integral element of becoming a life-long learner is using a robust curriculum. He tasked all his teachers, including specialty teachers, right at the end of the year, to develop a worksheet on each subject to show where they would start at the beginning of the year and the goal for where they would be at the end, including any big questions they would have along the way.
- Jenni worked with her teachers about classrooms transitions. She also is working on a literacy workshop for her teachers which she will present in August. Monies raised at the gala will also go towards the purchase of literary supplies.
- Scott and Rich are also working on framework which will be used when reporting to the board on the strategic pillars in the future.

Maintenance Request

- Rich said there is nothing new at this point, but a request may come at a later time.

Principal Evaluation

- Scott and Rich, as well as Scott, Rich and Ashley, will be meeting during July to create an individual development plan (IDP) for Rich. Kaylee and Tim will receive the final document, then a report out will go the board during executive session in August.

New Business:

Discounts

- Mike spoke on discounts. There are different discounts at the ECC as compared to the elementary school, and this may need to be reevaluated so that the transition is more transparent for families (currently different discount amounts and types of discounts).
- Scott suggested the executives find all the language about discounts as a start, then develop the policy they would like surrounding discounts. Discussion can continue at the August meeting.

Tech Policy

- There is currently a no phone on campus policy, but Rich is looking at a better way to educate families on the danger of smart phones even when used at home, perhaps even making parents sign a technology agreement.

Election of Officers

- Anna volunteers to continue her role as Treasurer and Church Council representative for the next year. Jocelyn volunteers to continue her role as Secretary.

Bank Signers

- Mike requests a resolution that includes the new officers that will be current signers on the financial accounts.
- Scott requests Mike draft the resolution which then can be circulated to the board for approval via email.

Church Council

- Ashley questioned whether the bylaw change in the school board handbook (regarding subcommittee membership) which required church council approval, was ever approved. Anna was unsure. Ashley will email and find out.

Executive Session:

The school board meeting moved into executive session at 8:49pm. Rich and Jenni were invited to stay. All other guests were excused.

Closing Prayer:

Rich closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment:

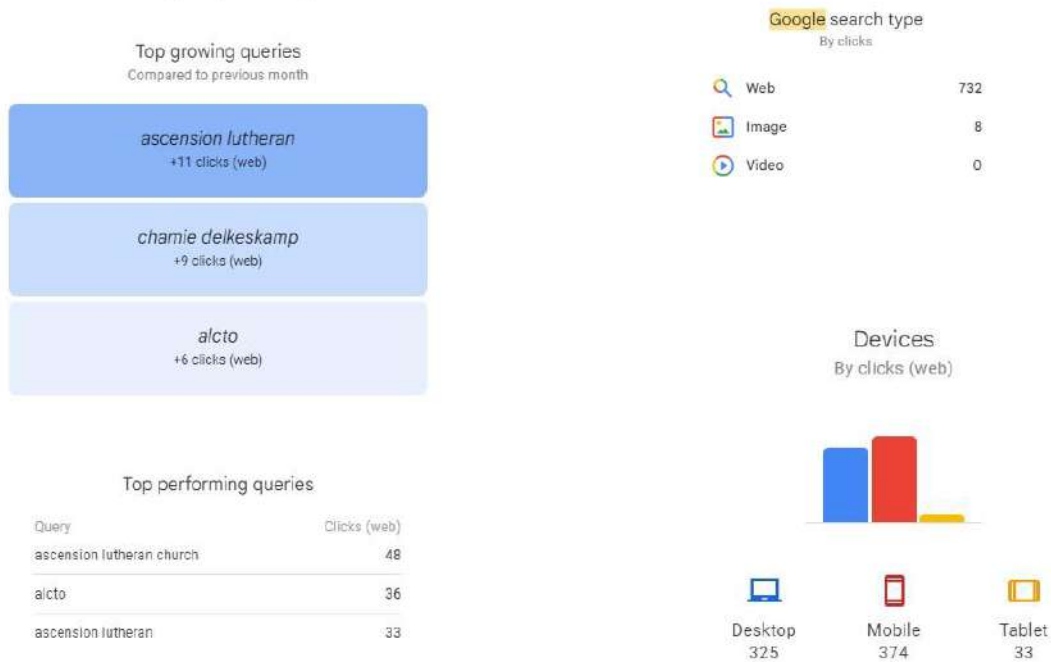
Jocelyn motioned to adjourn the meeting and reconvene for executive session. Nelly seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.

Next school board meeting is August 14th at 6:30pm. Ashley will lead devotion.

Respectfully submitted by Jocelyn Myers

From the Google Business desk, here is a rundown of some data on this past month's performance of our website on Google Search. We will get a better picture of what the significance of It is with more tracking. It will be interesting to go back to this and compare during a higher traffic/holiday period. Also, it's a great reminder to employ search-boosting methods as we work on the website.

How do people find you?



Clicks means how many times someone clicked a link to our site from Google Search results. Impressions means how many times someone saw our site in Google Search, Discover, or Google News. Pages with first impressions means pages that are shown for the first time in Google results.



As you can see, we attained a gold trophy, so that must be good, right? But better understanding is called for. Not surprisingly, VBS clocked in as the page with the biggest increase for searches in June. Also, Meet the Pastors and Prayer Shawls were high performing search pages. As for the searches for Pastor Chamie, I don't know. it's a Google mystery.

With gratitude,

Stacy Smith Bosco