

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Council Agenda
Wednesday, August 21, 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 - Rachael Bowen, Council Secretary

Call Committee Presentation - Call Committee

Treasurer's Report - Dave Harkins

New Business

- Resolutions - Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations
 - Electronic Voting
- Agenda for Special Meeting - August 25
- Agenda for Annual Meeting - September 22

Recurring Business

- Affirm New Members, Confirmands, and Baptisms

Old Business

- Land Sale - report on any new transaction activity - Dave Harkins/Kaylee Searway
- Youth Director Introduction and Onboarding -- *Pastor Tim*

Approval of Minutes - Carrie Leonard

- July Council Meeting

Consent Approval of Reports to Council - Carrie Leonard

- Pastor Steve Herder's Report
- Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations Report
- School Board Report
- Foundation Report
- Communications Report

Information Items

- September Council Meeting - September 18th, 7pm in the Bethlehem Room
 - Devotions -

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Treasurer's Report for August 2024

Church Operating Results for the expired Fiscal Year

A preliminary financial summary is attached to this report. No changes are anticipated to these numbers, but they are "preliminary" until trued up by the annual independent audit, which we expect will occur much timelier this year thanks to the better organization our current staff has achieved.

Final offerings are down \$60K, or 4.2% from the budget. The last two columns of the summary compare actual revenue in the 22/23 fiscal year. They show an increase in offerings of 2.4% year over year, down slightly from our prior expectation of 3%.

June expenses came in as expected, and last year concludes with a surplus to budget of \$13,645. This is after allowing for the full allocation of \$25,000 to our One Ascension Asset Preservation (long-term maintenance) Fund.

2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget Results to date

July results have not been finalized at this writing, so no financial summary is available, but key components have been analyzed:

- Offerings – down 3.3% based on 4-year trend distribution (-\$3.4K). Minor variance. Better yet, including August to date against weekly distribution, variance reduces to 2.3% (possibly favorable response to "ask" letter). Too soon to know.
- Payroll expenses – down \$13,000 for July. As expected, and August will be similar.
- Budget surplus for July = about \$10,000. No real surprise here, but provides some assurance we will not need to revise the budget for the September congregational meeting.

School Results

A summary for the prior fiscal year is attached; no July summary available as yet. Prior year produced a bottom-line surplus of \$107,000 for the combined school/ECC operation, after allowing for both entities funding the Asset Preservation Fund and covering the debt obligation for the ECC; very positive results.

For July, Mike Marvin advises that the summer programs for both School and ECC exceeded expectations by about \$20,000 in total, and school enrollment is coming in as anticipated. Consequently, surpluses are expected for both components as compared to the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Harkins

Ascension Lutheran Church

Budget Summary

YTD through June 30, 2024

	Church '23 - '24 Budget	Church '23 - '24 Actual	Church '23 - '24 Variance	Budget %	'22-'23 Actual	Chg. Actual %
Revenues:						
Offerings (Church)	1,443,210	1,383,203	(60,007)	-4.2%	1,350,760	2.4%
Other Revenues	37,700	42,686	4,986	13.2%	36,869	15.8%
Total Revenues:	<u>1,480,910</u>	<u>1,425,889</u>	<u>(55,021)</u>	-3.7%	<u>1,387,629</u>	2.8%
Expenditures:						
Salaries & Benefits	1,153,170	1,079,811	73,359	6.4%		
Allocated Staff Expenses	(183,202)	(180,999)	(2,203)	1.2%		
Benevolences	62,780	53,048	9,732	15.5%		
Programs / Committees	66,832	64,968	1,864	2.8%		
Administrative Expenses	102,950	90,937	12,013	11.7%		
Property Maintenance *	93,750	111,685	(17,935)	-19.1%		
Utilities & Insurance	94,774	93,117	1,657	1.7%		
Operating Expenditures	<u>1,391,054</u>	<u>1,312,568</u>	<u>78,486</u>	5.6%		
Debt Service	99,675	99,675	-	0.0%		
Total Expenditures	<u>1,490,730</u>	<u>1,412,243</u>	<u>78,486</u>	5.3%		
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>(9,820)</u>	<u>13,645</u>	<u>23,465</u>			
PPP spend	-	96,844				

* large variance due to unbudgeted \$12.6k roof repairs plus \$25K to long-term maintenance fund

Ascension Lutheran School & Early Childhood Center

FYE24 Actual vs Budget results

Through June 30, 2024

	Consolidated				ALS				ECC			
	FY 24 Budget	YTD Budget YTD	YTD Actual YTD	YTD Variance	FY 24 Budget	YTD Budget YTD	YTD Actual YTD	YTD Variance	FY 24 Budget	YTD Budget YTD	YTD Actual YTD	YTD Variance
Revenue:												
Tuition and Fees	\$4,004,480	\$4,004,480	\$3,913,834	(\$90,646)	\$1,862,670	\$1,862,670	\$1,844,550	(\$18,120)	\$2,141,810	\$2,141,810	\$2,069,285	(\$72,526)
Extended Care	\$109,650	\$109,650	\$96,935	(\$12,715)	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$24,065	(\$3,935)	\$81,650	\$81,650	\$72,870	(\$8,781)
Summer Staycation	\$355,100	\$355,100	\$430,930	\$75,830	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$76,440	\$36,440	\$315,100	\$315,100	\$354,491	\$39,391
Net Fundraising Receipts	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$153,620	\$18,620	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$153,620	\$18,620	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Income	\$24,750	\$24,750	\$40,505	\$15,755	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$8,325	\$3,325	\$19,750	\$19,750	\$32,179	\$12,429
Total Revenue	\$4,628,980	\$4,628,980	\$4,635,824	\$6,844	\$2,070,670	\$2,070,670	\$2,107,000	\$36,330	\$2,558,310	\$2,558,310	\$2,528,824	(\$29,486)
Expenditures:												
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,395,334	\$3,395,334	\$3,267,526	(\$127,808)	\$1,562,351	\$1,562,351	\$1,498,475	(\$63,876)	\$1,832,983	\$1,832,983	\$1,769,050	(\$63,933)
Allocated Staff Expenses	\$183,202	\$183,202	\$177,919	(\$5,283)	\$102,386	\$102,386	\$91,886	(\$10,500)	\$80,816	\$80,816	\$86,033	\$5,217
School Expenses	\$166,964	\$166,964	\$241,839	\$74,875	\$92,064	\$92,064	\$139,683	\$47,619	\$74,900	\$74,900	\$102,156	\$27,256
Admin & Staff Dev Expenses	\$168,592	\$168,592	\$205,745	\$37,153	\$104,157	\$104,157	\$141,480	\$37,323	\$64,435	\$64,435	\$64,265	(\$170)
Campus Security	\$0	\$0	\$25,188	\$25,188	\$0	\$0	\$12,594	\$12,594	\$0	\$0	\$12,594	\$12,594
Property Service & Maintenance	\$258,828	\$258,828	\$286,555	\$27,727	\$138,834	\$138,834	\$142,603	\$3,769	\$119,994	\$119,994	\$143,952	\$23,958
Utilities & Insurance	\$180,605	\$180,605	\$181,505	\$900	\$87,469	\$87,469	\$84,354	(\$3,115)	\$93,136	\$93,136	\$97,150	\$4,014
Total Expenditures	\$4,353,525	\$4,353,525	\$4,386,275	\$32,750	\$2,087,261	\$2,087,261	\$2,111,074	\$23,813	\$2,266,264	\$2,266,264	\$2,275,201	\$8,937
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$275,455	\$275,455	\$249,549	(\$25,906)	(\$16,591)	(\$16,591)	(\$4,075)	\$12,516	\$292,046	\$292,046	\$253,623	(\$38,423)
Less: Debt Service	\$163,440	\$163,440	\$163,440	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$163,440	\$163,440	\$163,440	\$0
Plus: Prior Year Fin Aid Temp Restricted Gifts Offset	\$30,600	\$30,600	\$20,900	(\$9,700)	\$30,600	\$30,600	\$20,900	(\$9,700)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Adjusted Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$142,615	\$142,615	\$107,009	(\$35,606)	\$14,009	\$14,009	\$16,825	\$2,816	\$128,606	\$128,606	\$90,183	(\$38,423)

Spend from Prior Year Surplus	\$	50,289	\$	52,170	\$	(1,880)
Spend from PPP Funds	\$	43,679	\$	43,679	\$	-

Be the Blessing Report for August 2024

The Be the Blessing team had their monthly meeting August 8th. Two new projects were reviewed but neither were approved. Although the activities seemed worthwhile, they were a little outside the parameters of our criteria in terms of engaging our congregation and providing a growth stimulus.

Subsequently, a request from Food Pantry was reviewed and accepted for a Thanksgiving special ministry.

Including the latest, we now have 14 approved projects, totalling \$11,537. This still leaves a balance from the original set-aside of \$48,463.

One of the key concerns of our team is to maintain congregational focus on the program, and to encourage members not currently involved in ministries to participate. To that end, we planned to produce informational items highlighting the successes of the Be the Blessing activities after they occurred. We have a follow-up form for our project leaders to complete to document their activity. Unfortunately, we have only received two forms/pictures to date. This is an area we will be following up on. Our hope is to develop material for future videos and/or TWAA articles.

We are also planning on holding an adult education class (tentatively October 13).

Respectfully submitted for the committee,

Dave Harkins

RESOLUTION NO. 2024/25.4 ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

TITLE: Credit Card, Youth Director

SUBMITTED BY: Director of Operations

DATE: August 21, 2024

WHEREAS, Ascension has hired a new Youth Director and

WHEREAS, there is an established budget for youth ministry related expenses requiring routine expenditures,

RESOLVED, that Ascension Lutheran Church Council approve the issuance of a Card Member Service credit card through Banc of California with a \$4,500 credit limit for Jennifer Avalos.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Pacific Western Bank has requested Council Minutes and/or a resolution indicating that Council has authorized Jennifer Avalos to have a Pacific Western Bank credit card. We recommend \$4,500 as the credit limit on the card which will fall under our \$50,000 total limit.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: None

By: _____
Carrie Leonard, Council President

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Special Meeting
Sunday, August 25, 2024 - Noon
Sanctuary**

Call to Order - Carrie Leonard, Council President

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

Opening Prayer - Pastor Tim Delkeskamp

Presentation of Candidate for Associate Pastor - Call Committee

Vote for Call of Associate Pastor

Closing Prayer - Pastor Steve Herder

Adjournment

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
Sunday, September 22, 2024 - 11:15 AM
Sanctuary**

Call to Order - Carrie Leonard, Council President

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

Opening Prayer - Ashley Steere, School Board President

Agenda Approval - Carrie Leonard

Approval of Minutes - Carrie Leonard

- Congregational Meeting - June 23, 2024

Presentation of the Annual Report

Ratification of Budget - Dave Harkins, Council Treasurer

Old Business

- Land Sale Update - Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations

New Business

- Bylaw Amendment

2024/2025 Vision - Pastor Tim Delkeskamp

Closing Prayer - Stefano Borzone, Foundation President

Adjournment

New Members & Baptisms Report

July 2024

Baptisms for July

Name	Date of Birth	Date Baptized
Vincent Rey Lopez Shidoosh	11/16/2007	07/13/2024

New Members for July

Eugene Coco
Susan Gramme
Steve Gramme
Rachel Humphrey
Darren Humphrey
Jeanette McNulty
Brett McNulty
Sam Ryan
Ashley Ryan
Joanne Will

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

The council meeting was called to order by Carrie Leonard at 7:02 p.m.

Council Members In Attendance: Al Baker, Rachael Bowen, Ethan East, Carrie Leonard, John Rarick, Jeannette Ruggiero, Anna Woodward

Others: Pastor Tim, Kaylee Searway

Absent: Bonny Chick, 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*

Approval of Agenda – Carrie

Add to New Business – Extension of Thrivent loan.

Postpone to August meeting – New Business Item: Resolutions – Electronic Filing until all Council members are in attendance.

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

Devotions - Anna

New Beginnings – The Israelites experienced new beginnings over and over. Isaiah called God’s people to a new beginning. Sometimes those new beginnings are messy, yet God tells us to “Look ahead with joy.” In this spirit, Ascension looks forward to new beginnings with a new associate pastor and youth director.

Introductions and Discussion

1. Council members gave brief introductions. Newest Council member, Ethan East, was warmly welcomed.

2. Discussion

a. What really excites you about Ascension?

- Hope
- New worshippers
- Prayer ministry
- Love and commitment of members
- Unity in mission
- Reaching outside our walls
- The ECC and School being embraced by the church
- Quality of leadership

b. What do you consider to be Ascension’s biggest challenge?

- Need associate pastor and youth director
- Sell the former ECC land
- On-boarding the new associate pastor and youth director
- Re-building the youth program
- Attracting young adults

Council Education – Al Baker, Foundation Representative
Presentation on Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation

Al shared with Council the Foundation mission “To provide support for One Ascension congregational, school, community, and global/synodical needs in a manner that is separate and apart from those expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budgets on One Ascension entities.” which is accomplished by a variety of means. The Foundation was established in 1980 with a generous gift from Pete Pederson. There are 13 trustees, 12 elected by the congregation, in addition to the Council president.

Maintaining the endowments and administering the grants are accomplished by the three Foundation committees: Grants and Scholarships, Investments, and Marketing and Education. Since 1980, over 75 organizations have received grants exceeding \$900,000. There are 11 scholarship funds from which approximately \$160,000 has been awarded over the past eight years.

Discussion:

- Is there a minimum amount that must be given to establish an endowment fund?
Establishment of a new endowment fund would need to be \$5,000 - \$10,000; enough to generate sufficient interest.
- Is it possible to contribute to an existing endowment?
Yes, a contribution can be applied to an existing endowment fund.

Treasurer’s Report – Kaylee (in Dave’s absence)

Due to the complexities of year-end closing protocols, vacation schedules, and the timing of the Council meeting, it was not possible to provide year-end financials. The Treasurer’s report indicates the expectation that the FY 23-24 budget will be met or exceeded (i.e, end with a surplus) with lower-than-budgeted expenses due to staffing shortages.

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

New Business

1. New Title for Kaylee

Kaylee’s title is now Director of Operations. She has been overseeing property management, human resources, finance, and administration. Her new title more accurately reflects the duties for which she is responsible.

2. Resolutions - Kaylee

a. Electronic Voting – postponed until the August Council meeting.

b. Signature Authorizations

Gives signature authorization on all banking relationships to Carrie Leonard, William John Rarick, Jr., and Dave Harkins.

Gives signature authorization on all legal relationships to Carrie Leonard and Rachael Bowen.

Gives authorization to view all bank account balances and transactions to Kaylee Searway and Mike Marvin.

A motion was made (Jeannette), seconded (Anna), and passed unanimously to approve the Signature Authorizations as presented.

c. Bank Signatures

To be removed from Checking, Payroll, and Money Market accounts:

Ed Klodt

Jeannette Ruggiero, Immediate Past President

To be added to the Checking, Payroll, and Money Market accounts:

William John Rarick, Jr., President Elect

To continue as signers on Checking, Payroll, and Money Market accounts:

Carrie Leonard, President

David Harkins, President

To continue on AGAPE account:

Timothy C. Delkeskamp, Pastor

Steve R. Herder, Pastor

A motion was made (Jeannette), seconded (Anna), and passed unanimously to approve the Bank Signatories as presented.

3. Annual Congregational Meeting - Carrie

Church staff recommends September 22nd as the date for the annual meeting. There would be one service that day at 10:00, followed by the meeting at 11:00. The congregation will be invited to stay for a picnic at 12:00.

A motion was made (Jeannette, seconded (Anna) to hold the Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 11:00 following one service at 10:00

Discussion: Should this be called Rally Day? Church staff will make a decision about that.

The motion and passed unanimously.

4. By-Law Change Request - Anna

The School Board submitted a request for a change to the bylaws. Bylaw 10.2d states that subcommittees must consist of members of the congregation, although they do not have to be members of the School Board. The proposed change would allow for subcommittee members who are not members of the congregation. This would make it possible for school parents to serve on subcommittees which could be in cases where a parent has expertise in the area the subcommittee is addressing. It would also engage school parents in the workings of the ECC and school.

Should there be a concern about non-church members making decisions that could affect the church, particularly subcommittees who are dealing with financial matters? Subcommittees report to the School Board but do not have decision-making authority. Their role is to make recommendations. The School Board, all congregational members, makes the final decision.

A motion was made (Al), seconded (Anna), and passed unanimously to recommend to the congregation at the September Congregational meeting, approval at the of the School Board's proposed change to the bylaws.

5. Extension of Thrivent Loan (Allonge) - Kaylee

Due to the delays in the sale of the former ECC property, it is necessary to extend Ascension's loan with Thrivent (an allonge). The extension is for one year, is effective 08/01/24, and is at the same rate (6.25%) as the current loan. There is no pre-payment penalty but there is a \$500 fee. This is the 6th allonge on this loan.

A motion was made (John), seconded (Jeannette), and passed unanimously to approve the signing of the allonge on the Thrivent loan.

Recurring Business

Affirm New Members, Confirmants and Baptisms – None for June.

Old Business

1. Land Sale - Kaylee

The Parking Lot report required by the city is completed. We are waiting to hear from the city what is needed for the Special Use permit.

2. Call Committee – Pastor Tim

The committee is in the interview phase. The Synod has not been forthcoming with names. It has been slow to answer questions from the committee.

3. Youth Director Search Team – Pastor Tim

A candidate was brought on campus and an offer has been extended, with a start date of 7/29/24. She has already met with the youth. She lives locally and has a Master's in Counseling. She has worked with all ages of youth. Activities for high school youth have already been planned out for the summer so this candidate can simply step in and start being a part of these activities.

Approval of Minutes – Carrie

1. June Church Council Meeting

A motion was made (Jeannette), seconded (Anna), and passed unanimously to approve the minutes for the June Council meeting.

2. June Congregational Meeting

A motion was made (Al), seconded (John), and passed unanimously to approve recommending to the congregation at the September Congregational meeting approval of the June Congregational meeting minutes.

Consent Approval of Reports to Council - Carrie

1. Pastor Tim Delkeskamp's report
2. Pastor Steve Herder's report
3. Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations report
4. School Board report
5. Foundation report
6. Global Ministries Team report
7. Communications report

A motion was made (John), seconded (Jeannette), and passed unanimously to approve the Reports to Council with the exception of the Foundation report which was not submitted.

Information Items

Next Council meeting - Wednesday, August 21st at 7:00.

Devotions – Rachael

Emilee Crites has resigned and a replacement is being sought.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Tim

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55

Respectfully submitted by Rachael Bowen

Annual Report – July 2023 to June 2024 – Pastor Steve Herder

Thank you, Ascension, for giving me this blessed opportunity to lead and serve with you in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the first half of this fiscal year, I was able to continue my half-time work with you. Then with Pastor Julie's finishing her ministry among us last December, I went to 3/4ths time the second half (Jan-June 2024).



My focus areas are Senior Adult Ministries, pastoral care, Global Ministries Team, and Community Concerns Committee. I work with Linda Morrow and the email prayer group, lead our daily Facebook outreach, and sing with the ECC children and staff on Fridays. In the second half of the year, these responsibilities were added: more leading of liturgy in worship; being the pastoral rep to our Foundation; working with Carol Bartell on our Sunday morning adult education classes; and being with our Women's Monday Morning Bible studies. Each of you who are leaders in those ministries, I thank God for you, and your faithfulness to Christ's mission near and far.

In this annual report booklet you'll read the excellent reports from ministries leaders that I get to work with, Prayer Ministries, Senior Adult Ministries, Eucharistic Ministries (Pastor Ron Cox and team), Community Concerns (Chris Daleiden and team), and the Global Ministries Team (led by Louise Evenson) including reports from our Fair Trade Ministries (Carol Bjelland), Lutheran World Relief (Louise Evenson), Gifts of Hope (Mary Wennes, Dave Harkins, Stacy Smith, Tamara Nowlin, and Carol Bjelland), Foundation (president Stefano Borzone), Sunday adult education (Carol Bartell), and Women's Monday Morning Bible Study (many leaders).

Along with almost 100 people participating in our email prayer team, other prayer ministry sponsored times were: Blessing of the Pets, early October; [Compassionate Friends](#) Service, the second Sunday of December (Ascension's 10th anniversary with this); every year the week of January 18-25, the [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#); and the National Day of Prayer, the first Thursday in May (at Cal Lutheran). Often, I update our leadership prayer page. Let me know if you'd like the latest copy of that. For updates on any prayer requests, please email Linda Morrow or me. Beginning on June 16, 2024, we began ["24 in 24" prayer emphasis](#) ", 24 weeks of prayer in 2024, with opportunities for daily prayer, weekly prayer, and monthly large group teaching events on prayer. It's off to a great start, as we pray Ephesians 3:14-21 each day, and Carolyn Coleman-Grady's leadership and the whole team.

Each month my work priority is leading our Senior Adult Ministries, collaborating with an effective team of ministers, and making home visits, hospital visits, and phone calls with our oldest members. I have visited our seniors in the Conejo Valley, Camarillo, Simi Valley, Fillmore, Chatsworth, Encino, Culver City, and Pasadena.



If you would like a visit from one of our Eucharistic Ministers or me, let me know by either calling the church office (805-495-0406) or emailing me at pastorsteve@alcto.org. Did you know that you can request Communion to be brought to your home? Your pastors would ask you to let us know when you are in the hospital and when you return home. We want to be visiting you and praying for you!

Norm Guetschoff, Barbara Krum, Jeff and Jan Specks, Dennis Gray, Gene and Kathy Cocco, Thea Bukont, and Marilyn Reeve lead the Christian Life Hours (simple worship services) at Royal Oaks Inn, Atria Grand Oaks, Sunrise in Westlake and Sage Mountain. I lead a Christian Life Hour (CLH) service at University Village Oak View one Sunday each month and at Hillcrest Royale one Friday a month. If you would like to learn more about these outreach ministries, talk with anyone of us. I thank Barbara Krum for her many visitation ministries, and each of our Eucharistic Ministers and our Stephen Ministers, as well as Valerie Krum for her card ministry, and all the birthday callers! To learn more about: Eucharistic Ministry, visit with Pastor Ron Cox; or [Stephen Ministry](#), Norm Guetschoff; or the Tuesday food ministry for the needy, led by Tanya and Barry Disselhorst; or SAM's Tram, Bob Tokin; or 3M, minor maintenance ministry, which is need of a new leader. Our [GriefShare](#) group meets every Thursday at 1:00pm in the prayer chapel, led by Brenda Heinrich. We appreciate this great team of leaders!

This past year you and I have experienced grief from the death of family, friends, and mentors. We thank Jim and Kim Overton who have been so faithful in serving as caring ushers at our funerals and memorial services, and for Debbie Kirsch serving as hostess for the receptions. We thank Margaret Ricci, Nancy Lee, Cathi Peterson, Edith Ott and others who have blessed us with their music ministries at these services.

Both our Community Concerns Team and our Global Ministries Team do so many outstanding ministries throughout the year. The Friday Food Pantry. Serving food with [Harbor House](#). Your donations of food! Caring Ones and the Agape Fund to help those in need. Fair Trade Ministries (Thanks to Carol Bjelland we are number 1 among all Lutheran congregations in the country in FT sales!). [Lutheran World Relief Kits](#). Gifts of Hope. 177 Solar Lights Kits for Ukraine!! (Thank you Louise and team!) Global connections with Cal Lutheran University. (Thank you, Christina Sanchez!) We are one of three congregations in the country that lead "Hope for the Holidays" with our Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, now called Global Refuge! These teams' amazing reports are included in this booklet. Read them, pray for the teams and the ministries, and ask God if you are

being called to serve on either our local team or our global team, or both! You'll be working with some wonderful mentors and friends.

We thank Kristine Werner for leading our Green Faith Team, a team that relates both to our local Community Concerns and our Global Ministries, as well as to our school. When you come to Ascension, bring a reusable water bottle; we have three places with filtered water! Part of my green faith practice is to occasionally ride my electric bicycle to work! Each year we observe the [Season of Creation](#) (Sept. 1 to Oct. 4), World Water Day on March 22, and on April 22 we observe Earth Day and seek to practice good care for this planet each day of the year. You notice that our second petition in the prayers of intercession are for the care of God's creation.

We thank Di Starzak for coordinating our CPR and AED training, twice a year, for the staff and for our ushers. Did you know that we have three AED machines on campus? They are in the west narthex, in the Bethlehem Room behind the church offices, and in our Early Childhood Center lobby.

Most Thursday mornings I attend the [Cal Lutheran chapel service](#) at 11:25. I highly recommend it if you can come. Rev. Scott Hamilton Adams is an inspiring worship leader and preacher. Now we welcome the new leadership of President Rev. Dr. John Nunes.

Each day I do two to six posts on our [Ascension Facebook page](#) that now has over 2,400 people connected to it. Each Monday Susanne Hopkins shares a wonderful devotion. Both our Early Childhood Center and our Elementary School have great posts that we share as well. Other favorite posts come from our [ELCA](#), the Deaconess Community, the [Lutheran World Federation](#), Olive Tree Bible, and local community groups. Our weekend worship services are always available to view on our Facebook page as well. Thanks to Stacy for her daily posts for our 24 in 24 prayer emphasis.

Some unique things to this past year's ministries included: Ascension Partners (local and global) prayer page; an expanded ministry for God's Work Our Hands Sunday in September with three ministries; in October I represented the Jubilee USA Network at the National Council of Churches; the Sunday class on ["Civic Life and Faith"](#) was an outstanding series; five of us went to Houston in February for the ELCA World Hunger Leaders' Gathering; the welcome baskets for refugees; Amanda Berg's ordination on March 16; the great updates to our Fair Trade Lane; our hosting the first Juneteenth event here; our prayers for our Call Committee and our Search Committee; and preparations for a very big event for Blessing of the Pets on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, noon to 3pm (led by Bonny Chick and team).

Thanks to Jeannette Ruggiero for her excellent work as our past president and now we welcome Carrie Leonard's leadership. Thanks too to our Church Council, [Foundation](#) trustees, and [School Board](#)! Outstanding leadership by each team! We are so blessed at our school with Pastor Rich Gregory, Jenni McCoy, and the whole staff!

Ascension is blessed with a wonderful staff, led by Pastor Tim and Kaylee. I enjoy working with our front office staff Diane, Jenelle, and Mike and Camryn upstairs in the finance office. Jeff and Cam work so hard for all of us. Stacy does so many excellent communication pieces for us. We appreciate all our congregational leaders, and co-workers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, including our excellent music staff (and groups) and tech team. Thanks be to God! We are blessed to be a blessing to those around us, our community, and God's beloved world!

"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" (Ephesians 3:20-21).



Maintenance

I am so proud of my maintenance team! They have been working so hard to make sure that the campus is ready and looks great when students return August 19th and 21st. They have accomplished a long list of projects, and continue to plug away at some key tasks this week. Additionally, I have been pulling their attention away from the campus this week to attend various training that we need to complete while we can have our entire One Ascension staff together. Here's our status list with items coming for fall:

Key Project	Status
Locking top for pump creek	done
ECC Sheds - build concrete pads	done
ECC Sheds - construct	done
(Oversee church roof repairs)	done
Required Brush Clearance	done
Covert Business Office and SS Room	done
Replace Business Office Door	done
Paint resource room same as classrooms	done
TK-8 Classrooms	done
ECC Classrooms	done
ECC touch up main hallways	done
ECC counter top repairs	done
Clean ECC Carpets	done
Clean TK-8 Carpets	done
install WAP	done
Broken windows	done
Garden Prep for Fall	done
Weed entire garden	done
Meetings and standard setups	done
Move sand from ECC to TK-8	done
backflow testing	done
HVAC annual inspection	done
(oversee repave lots 1-2)	done
Scrub lunch tables	done
TK-8 Stairs - repaint	done
ECC filters	done
upper campus filters	done
Exterior Power Washing	done
bulletin board and new stuff in K	done
ECC Windows	done, but not uppers; doing some on roofline this week
Sprinkler heads around umbrella & tables	in progress

Tiles on West Church Patio	in progress
Make 8 hoop cages for the top of planters	confirm that Charlotte is doing
Outdoor Classroom Prep	need to weed this week
paint curbs	maybe Ella this week?
new blinds 1-4 grade	expense approved, measured, order and install in fall
pull electric for greenhouse	Priority 1 for Fall
Concrete Pad for New Greenhouse	Priority 1 for Fall
Assemble New Greenhouse	Priority 1 for Fall
TK-8 walkway bottom to top	Priority 2 for fall
Assemble Overton Shade Structures	Priority 3 for Fall
Connie requesting power source moved for lunches	Possibly Priority 4, not approved yet
Drain line repair	Thanksgiving Break Priority
ECC Pavers	Power-washed, but not set
New blinds for 1st through 4th?	Priority 5 for Fall
(Church floors)	fall
(Church office interior paint)	fall
(Exterior Bath Reno - paint upper tiles/ceiling)	brighter lights and deep cleaned only

An additional focus in fall will be completing our reserve study, which will take a considerable amount of research and compiling proposals and reports for Jeff and for me.

Human Resources

We began Professional Development Week by breaking bread and worshipping, important practices in a community of faith such as ours. Rich and Jenni gave us a refresher on the five strategic goals of the school and how they flesh out into objectives, strategies, and tactics. The main five goals of the school are:

1. To create wise stewards on God's Creation
2. Develop hearts of service in every student
3. To inspire life long learners
4. To foster a welcoming Christ centered community
5. To nurture the Whole Child

On Tuesday we took a break from classroom prep to "play" and fellowship together, having some food and bowling time at Lucky Strike in Moorpark. On Wednesday we did an earthquake drill with two real children with pretend injuries to rescue. We then downloaded how the drill went and spent some time with Rob and Brian training on active shooter scenarios. On Friday afternoon I will present on Workplace Violence, and Camryn will give a brief refresher on accessing pay information in Paylocity. Next Monday our ECC friends will have students again, but the church and day school team will gather with Scott Bean to learn about cyber security and good practices for keeping our data and systems safe.

Another human resource task that consumes a great deal of time at this time of year is onboarding and offboarding. New school years are natural points where staff comes and goes; that always comes with questions about offer letters, background checks, getting system access, health benefit enrollment, payroll information, etc.

Administration

Carrie Leonard and Pastor Tim have been wise and patient as we have refined the job description for a new person at the front desk. We have debated many titles, and landed on Church Relations Assistant. It's a full time role that we will be posted shortly. We have been blessed to have Grace Martin covering the desk as Staycation has ended and she has a couple more weeks before returning to university.

Jenelle has taken point on the annual report, and she is doing an amazing job. I'll likely be the main point person for the two congregation meetings coming up, the Specially Called meeting on August 24th and the Annual Meeting on September 22nd.

Finance

Dave Harkins will provide a more comprehensive review, but initial results for July show us to be holding relatively close to budget in terms of offering and expenses. We are not aware of any major outliers that would cause us to revise the church, TK-8, ECC, or Foundation budgets approved by the congregation in June. The likely course of action is to recommend ratification of those budgets at the Annual meeting next month.

The finance team will be working toward more communication with ministry leaders about their available funds for the coming year, as well as sending documents to the auditor to begin the 2023-2024 audit.

I have included a resolution to issue a credit card to our new youth director, Jenifer Avalos. The team and I will guide her through the budget and designated account areas appropriate to her and guide her to stay within budget.

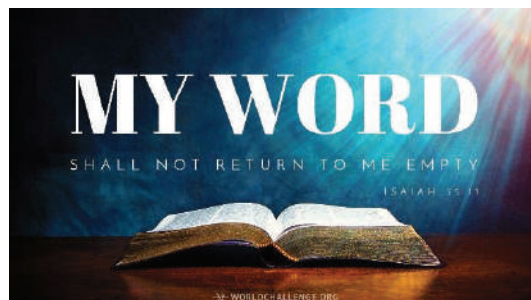
24 in 24

When we gather for council the second monthly gathering on prayer will have occurred. I selfishly hope it goes very well, as I am scheduled to teach on prayer... I am very thankful to Pastor Paul and Margaret Ricci for providing music, and to Pastor Steve for content guidance and Caroyln Coleman Grady for spiritual support.

The 24 in 24 team is asking for \$900 of Thrivent Choice Dollars to be allocated to postage for the bimonthly calendars emailed to the congregation. It's been an amazing ministry and unifying venture that has lead to greater conversation and deeper prayer lives for our members. A team member donated the funds to print the bookmarks and banner, and we are printing the calendars in house. Please approve \$900 for the postage?

Thank you,

Kaylee Searway



**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDATION REPORT TO THE COUNCIL
AUGUST 21, 2024**

The Foundation investment portfolio increased significantly in fiscal 2023-24 due to very strong financial markets and some additional contributions during the year. The total value of the investments as of June 30 was \$1,777,677, up from \$1,529,732 on June 30, 2023. The equity portion of the investment portfolio remains near the upper end of the allowable range of 75% of the total, reflecting our belief that equities currently are more attractive than fixed income investments.

At its August meeting the Foundation approved four grants:

- \$1,000 to the ECC to Develop and improve their religious curriculum
- \$800 to the ECC to purchase Bibles for each of the four year olds
- \$2,552.56 to Pastor Steve to replace the AED machine in the west narthex
- \$250 to Dawn De Kruffy, CEO Lilly's Legacy, to assist their program of feeding the homeless and supplying them with 10 backpacks filled with hygiene items

The Foundation has scheduled presentations on legacy planning and stewardship for September 15 and November 3.

Alan Baker
Foundation Representative to the Council

In 2020, with the Covid pandemic lockdown underway, Ascension's online viewership of worship services went from a cumulative total of around 32,000 minutes – to an amazing 673,000 minutes viewed for the year.

By 2022, the cumulative annual minutes viewed figure (compiled from Facebook data) was roughly 285,000.

Comparing this year's Ascension livestream minutes viewed so far – January to mid-August – we have 107,754. Again, this does not include the higher traffic autumn months. And I'll remind that when the numbers were highest, we were also live streaming chapel services.

All that is to say, as anyone would expect and desire, our livestream viewership skyrocketed and then shrank as the pandemic raged and then subsided and people could go back to enjoying worship and fellowship together in the sanctuary again.

Still, it is still a significant element. I typically see 20-30 people online for the 9 AM service I usually watch. As I find myself communicating with some of the folks who can't make it to worship in person, these often include people who have come down with the flu or some other transitory ailment, or they are simply no longer in shape to be in church – at least not regularly. Or they're out of town. There are frequently expressions of gratitude for the online worship.

Over the past year, Lan Merrill, my husband Dominick and I have periodically found ourselves chasing down glitches in the Facebook-Ascension Livestream operation. Lan put a lot of time recently into fixing a connection problem in which a previously automatic function ceased to be automatic. Facebook enacts changes without warning or explanation. What is worrisome here is that there is no longer any form of support from Facebook. We have been at this juncture before, wondering whether to change to a different livestreaming platform or at least be ready with a backup plan. (I am also mindful of protecting this important outlet Pastor Steve has built to 2,400 followers.) We are again looking at other possibilities and welcome input.

Thanking you for all you do,

Stacy Bosco

P.S. Here is data on a recent FB post. As you can see, it inspired a lot of interaction within this online community. Lovely and typical.

