

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Council Agenda
Wednesday, September 18, 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 - Jeanette Ruggiero

Council Education - Dave Harkins, Treasurer and Mike Marvin,
One Ascension Finance, a deep dive!

Treasurer's Report - Dave Harkins

New Business

- Credit Card Resolution, Delkeskamp, C - Kaylee Searway
- Review and Approval of Sabbatical Calendar - Carrie Leonard

Recurring Business

- Affirm New Members - **Caitlyn Milkovich**, Confirmands, and Baptisms

Old Business

- Congregational Meeting - Pastor Tim
- Land Sale - report on any new transaction activity - Dave Harkins/Kaylee Searway

Approval of Minutes - Carrie Leonard

- August Council Meeting
- Special Congregational Meeting - August (affirmed)

Consent Approval of Reports to Council - Carrie Leonard

- Pastor Tim Delkeskamp's Report
- Pastor Steve Herder's Report
- School Board Report
- Global Ministries Team Report
- Be the Blessing Report

Information Items

- October Joint Council and School Board Meeting - October 16th, 5pm - Founder's Hall
- October Council Meeting, 7pm in the Bethlehem Room
 - Devotions -

Closing Prayer**Adjournment**

Treasurer's Report for September 2024

The August results are not yet available. The accompanying spreadsheets account for Church and schools for July only.

Church Operating Results for July

Mike Marvin and I collaborated on distributing the annual budget in monthly components. We started with a four year average, but realized we needed to weight the last two years more heavily, and did some additional smoothing. In actuality, the monthly contributions are wide-ranging from year to year as well as month by month, so the crystal ball is very cloudy.

On the basis of the new distributions, offerings were down \$3,434 for July, or 3.3% from the budget. However, Mike advises that August tailed off substantially in the second half of the month, so that for the two months combined we look to be about \$13K, or 6% short.

Offsetting continued on the July expenses, where the vacant positions put us over 12% below budget. We showed a deficit for the month of -\$23,272, but this is solely due to the preliminary allocation of \$25,000 to our One Ascension Asset Preservation (long-term maintenance) Fund (see the Property Maintenance line).

Now that our key positions have been filled, we were able to do a rough projection of budgeted expense changes with the actual salaries and benefits factored in. It appears that, all else equal, we will wind up the fiscal year about \$46,000 below budget, with the lion's share of the savings coming in the first three months.

School Results

July summary is attached; no August available as yet. No particular comments pertain. Tuition is a little light, with full attendance not yet achieved in July for the new year, but expense savings offset. As with the church, the property maintenance line includes allocations to the One Ascension Asset Preservation Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Harkins

Ascension Lutheran Church

Budget Summary

FYE25 YTD through July 31, 2025

	Church '24 - '25 Budget	Church '24 - '25 Budget YTD	Church '24 - '25 Actual YTD	Church '24 - '25 Variance	%
Revenues:					
Offerings (Church)	1,515,371	105,420	101,986	(3,434)	-3.3%
Other Revenues	49,680	3,326	3,118	(208)	-6.3%
Total Revenues:	1,565,051	108,746	105,104	(3,642)	-3.3%
Expenditures:					
Salaries & Benefits	1,261,327	98,378	85,673	12,705	12.9%
Allocated Staff Expenses	(213,912)	(16,455)	(15,910)	(545)	3.3%
Benevolences	54,068	4,506	4,506	(0)	0.0%
Programs / Committees	61,319	4,256	2,542	1,714	40.3%
Administrative Expenses	101,700	5,324	5,646	(322)	-6.0%
Property Maintenance	100,770	31,087	28,269	2,819	9.1%
Utilities & Insurance	107,928	9,863	9,344	519	5.3%
Operating Expenditures	1,473,200	136,959	120,070	16,889	12.3%
Debt Service	99,675	8,306	8,306	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	1,572,875	145,265	128,376	16,889	11.6%
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(7,824)	(36,519)	(23,272)	13,247	
Prior Year Surplus Spend	-	-	-		
PPP spend	-	-	-		

Ascension Lutheran School & Early Childhood Center

FYE25 Actual vs Budget results

Through July 31, 2024

	Consolidated				ALS				ECC			
	FY 25 Budget	YTD Budget YTD	YTD Actual YTD	YTD Variance	FY 25 Budget	YTD Budget YTD	YTD Actual YTD	YTD Variance	FY 25 Budget	YTD Budget YTD	YTD Actual YTD	YTD Variance
Revenue:												
Tuition and Fees	\$4,338,177	\$366,335	\$350,944	(\$15,390)	\$2,081,079	\$326,965	\$313,094	(\$13,870)	\$2,257,098	\$39,370	\$37,850	(\$1,520)
Extended Care	\$99,100	\$0	(\$77)	(\$77)	\$23,500	\$0	(\$77)	(\$77)	\$75,600	\$0	\$0	\$0
Summer Staycation	\$412,300	\$200,750	\$193,337	(\$7,413)	\$80,000	\$40,000	\$34,443	(\$5,557)	\$332,300	\$160,750	\$158,894	(\$1,856)
Net Fundraising Receipts	\$153,390	\$0	(\$682)	(\$682)	\$153,390	\$0	(\$682)	(\$682)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Income	\$64,525	\$342	\$353	\$11	\$20,900	\$192	\$191	(\$0)	\$43,625	\$150	\$162	\$12
Total Revenue	\$5,067,492	\$567,426	\$543,876	(\$23,551)	\$2,358,869	\$367,156	\$346,970	(\$20,187)	\$2,708,623	\$200,270	\$196,906	(\$3,364)
Expenditures:												
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,729,794	\$282,767	\$246,665	(\$36,103)	\$1,756,492	\$125,140	\$107,614	(\$17,526)	\$1,973,302	\$157,628	\$139,051	(\$18,577)
Allocated Staff Expenses	\$213,702	\$16,439	\$15,910	(\$529)	\$117,386	\$9,030	\$8,243	(\$787)	\$96,316	\$7,409	\$7,667	\$258
School Expenses	\$188,591	\$22,328	\$16,869	(\$5,459)	\$106,241	\$14,845	\$11,796	(\$3,049)	\$82,350	\$7,483	\$5,073	(\$2,411)
Admin & Staff Dev Expenses	\$180,546	\$8,715	\$11,379	\$2,664	\$121,624	\$4,176	\$5,351	\$1,175	\$58,922	\$4,539	\$6,028	\$1,489
Campus Security	\$145,000	\$12,292	\$11,250	(\$1,042)	\$72,500	\$6,250	\$5,625	(\$625)	\$72,500	\$6,042	\$5,625	(\$417)
Property Service & Maintenance	\$274,302	\$72,531	\$62,720	(\$9,811)	\$140,026	\$36,152	\$32,075	(\$4,077)	\$134,276	\$36,379	\$30,645	(\$5,734)
Utilities & Insurance	\$201,208	\$17,412	\$19,365	\$1,952	\$91,940	\$8,178	\$9,239	\$1,061	\$109,268	\$9,234	\$10,126	\$892
Total Expenditures	\$4,933,143	\$432,484	\$384,157	(\$48,327)	\$2,406,209	\$203,771	\$179,944	(\$23,827)	\$2,526,934	\$228,713	\$204,213	(\$24,500)
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$134,350	\$134,942	\$159,719	\$24,776	(\$47,340)	\$163,386	\$167,026	\$3,641	\$181,689	(\$28,443)	(\$7,307)	\$21,136
Less: Debt Service	\$163,440	\$13,620	\$13,620	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$163,440	\$13,620	\$13,620	\$0
Plus: Prior Year Fin Aid Temp Restricted Gifts Offset	\$44,200	\$3,683	\$4,069	\$386	\$44,200	\$3,683	\$4,069	\$386	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Plus: Middle School Activation Fund	\$38,000	\$7,600	\$7,600	\$0	\$38,000	\$7,600	\$7,600	\$0				
Adjusted Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$53,110	\$132,606	\$157,768	\$25,162	\$34,860	\$174,669	\$178,695	\$4,026	\$18,249	(\$42,063)	(\$20,927)	\$21,136

Spend from Prior Year Surplus

\$ 4,332

\$ 4,332

\$ -

Spend from PPP Funds

\$ -

\$ -

\$ -

RESOLUTION NO. 2024/25.5 ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

TITLE: Credit Card, Associate Pastor

SUBMITTED BY: Director of Operations

DATE: September 18, 2024

WHEREAS, Ascension has called Chamie Delkeskamp as Associate Pastor as of October 1, 2024

WHEREAS, there is an established budget for ministry 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 \$15,000 credit limit for Chamie Delkeskamp.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Pacific Western Bank has requested Council Minutes and/or a resolution indicating that Council has authorized Chamie Delkeskamp to have a Pacific Western Bank credit card. We recommend \$15,000 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

Sabbatical Calendar

As of September 2024

Tim Delkeskamp

Hire year - 2003

Previous Sabbaticals

- Eligible in 2010 - Actual in 2010
- Eligible in 2017 - Actual in 2019, with Council's consent to reserve eligibility for next sabbatical to 2024.

Next Sabbatical

- Eligible in 2024 - postponed to 2025, with agreement at Associate Pastor 2024 hire that next Sabbatical would be in 2032

Chamie Delkeskamp

Hire year - 2024

Previous Sabbatical

- None

Next Sabbatical

- Eligible in 2031

Steve Herder

Part-time as of 2022 and no longer eligible for Sabbatical.

New Members & Baptisms Report

September 2024

Baptisms for August

Name	Date of Birth	Date Baptized
Ashley Nicole Ryan	11/2/87	8/24/24
Ezra Matthew Ryan	2/9/21	8/24/24
Willow James Ryan	9/2/22	8/24/24

New Members for August

No New Members

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
August 21, 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, Bonny Chick, Ethan East, Dave Harkins, Carrie Leonard, John Rarick, Jeannette Ruggiero, Anna Woodward

Others: Pastor Tim, Kaylee Searway, Pastor Steve

Guests: Call Committee members: Michael Feltner, Hannah Hurdle, Scott Searway
via Zoom: Crystal Bryant, Tom Lindros, Gwen Thompson

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 – Resolution of credit card authority for youth director Jen Avalos.
Thrivent Choice request.
Details for associate pastor Compensation and Benefit document.

Add to Consent Approval of Reports – Be the Blessing report.

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

Devotions - Rachael

Ascension has been called upon to wait patiently over these past several months for God to bring to us our new youth director and associate pastor. As written in Romans 8:25, we hoped for what we did not yet have and waited for it patiently. God's time has arrived as we joyfully welcomed a new youth director and now look forward to welcoming a new associate pastor.

Call Committee Presentation – Call Committee

The agenda and logistics for the special Call meeting were reviewed. The Call Committee will share their presentation after which Carrie will talk about managerial issues related to the call. Next, questions from the congregation will be fielded. This will be followed by the first vote to call the associate pastor which must be conducted with a written ballot. A voice vote is not allowed. If that vote is passed, there will be a second vote for the compensation package. Kaylee will present the details about the compensation package just prior to that vote. Voting for the compensation package is a Synod requirement. Council members will assist with sign-ins and hand out ballots to members for the first vote.

Call Committee members ran through their three-part presentation. At the special meeting, Carrie will follow up with comments about reporting structure, vacation and sabbatical protocol, and the expected start date for the candidate. The question and answer session will be next. Pastor Tim will excuse himself from the meeting at this time. The meeting will not be live-streamed and, if the votes pass, the results will not be made public until the following Wednesday. This provides time for the candidate's home congregation to be updated.

Call Committee members were thanked for their presentation and excused from the Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Dave

Financials for July and the first half of August indicate that revenues to date are approximately 2.3% below the budget. There is no need to adjust the budget prior to the September Annual meeting when the budget will be ratified.

The financials for the ECC and Ascension school are positive. An extra \$20,000 in income was realized from the Staycation. Current enrollment at the day school is 165 students. The budget is based on 170 students but historically, enrollment numbers often change in the first few months so this enrollment goal may still be met. The school is looking at ways to realize savings in other areas and is also making plans for various fundraisers. The school savings account was moved to Fidelity Bank, which is used by the church. It's estimated that this could result in upwards of \$30,000 in additional interest.

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

New Business

1. Resolutions - Kaylee

a. Electronic Voting

This resolution gives the Council the ability to make decisions via e-mail for any given year. Should this situation arise, there would be two votes. The first vote, which must be approved unanimously, is to accept voting by email for the proposed subject. The second vote is for the subject itself and requires just a majority vote to be approved.

A motion was made (Al) and seconded (John) to approve the Electronic Voting resolution.

Discussion: Although the Council has just approved the first part of the resolution it is still necessary to approve a vote by email throughout the year. Separate approval to vote via Zoom is not necessary as Zoom meetings are equivalent to in-person meetings in that guests can attend those meetings.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Credit Card for Youth Director

This resolution approves the issuance of a Pacific Western Bank credit card with a \$4,500 limit to Ascension's youth director, Jennifer Avalos, to be used for youth ministry related expenses.

A motion was made (Jeannette), seconded (Bonny), and passed unanimously to approve the Credit Card for Youth Director resolution.

2. Thrivent Choice - Kaylee

Kaylee submitted a request for \$900 in Thrivent Choice funds to be used to cover postage expenses for mailing the monthly calendars for Ascension's "24 in 24" prayer emphasis.

A motion was made (John), seconded (Ethan), and passed unanimously to approve the Thrivent Choice request as presented.

3. Agenda for Special Meeting – August 25

A vote to approve the associate pastor compensation package will be added to the agenda. Kaylee will present the compensation package and explain the process used to prepare the compensation package. It was prepared per Synod guidelines and the various amounts are included in the FY 24-25 budget. The salary does not need to be disclosed.

A motion was made (Al), seconded (Bonny) and passed unanimously to approve the agenda for the Special meeting on August 25, as amended.

Pastor Tim excused himself from the meeting for the next discussion.

4. Details in Associate Pastor Call Letter - Carrie

a. Vacation / Sabbatical Time

The associate pastor will receive 28 days of vacation time and the opportunity for a sabbatical every seven years. Vacation time is available effective immediately for pastors. Given the unique situation of this call, the call letter will stipulate that vacation and/or sabbatical time may not be simultaneous for more than two weeks with vacation / sabbatical time for Pastor Tim. Simultaneous time beyond that must be approved by the Council.

Sabbatical plans are submitted to, and must be approved by, the Council. Pastor Steve advised that it is an unwritten rule that pastors do not take a sabbatical at the same time or even in the same year. It was decided that language detailing this is not necessary in the call letter since the Council has to approve when a sabbatical is taken.

Ascension's employee handbook makes no reference to concurrent or overlapping sabbaticals. The call letter will state that sabbaticals will be granted according to the Sabbatical Leave policy in the Ascension handbook. It is recommended that the Council establishes a calendar plan for sabbaticals.

b. Retirement

A discussion took place regarding the necessity for including a statement in the call letter regarding the timing of retirement, specifically with the possibility of two pastors retiring at the same time. The statement could require that pastors 'Give ample time for notice of leaving.' However, any number of real-world situations could render this requirement irrelevant. If the relationship between pastor and congregation is good, then ample time will be given by the pastor. It was decided that the call letter will not include any reference to this issue.

c. Reporting Structure and Accountability

The congregation calls the pastors and the pastors are accountable to the congregation. As representatives of the congregation, the Council has oversight of the pastors. The senior pastor carries the vision for the congregation and has oversight of executing the ministries.

Ascension's executive team consists of Pastor Tim, Kaylee, Rich Gregory (school principal), and Jenni McCoy (ECC director). The expectation is that each member of the team is an exceptional communicator. Each understands what they are responsible for and what the others are responsible for and that they communicate with each other in good and in difficult situations. The key is to have the roles clearly defined.

Pastor Tim's annual review is prepared and conducted by the Council president. It is recommended that this also be done for the associate pastor as well as Pastor Steve. Pastor Tim currently conducts the annual review for Pastor Steve. A 360-review could be implemented. For this type of review, input is received from colleagues, providing a more well-rounded review. The Council must request and receive metrics to determine how things are going and whether goals are being met.

The Call Committee's report includes a recommendation to establish a Mutual Ministry team. This team would meet regularly with the pastors throughout the year to provide support for their work. The Council discussed whether another committee is needed. The pastors could meet with a life coach or spiritual director instead.

5. Agenda for Annual Congregational Meeting - Carrie

The time for the congregational meeting should be 11:15 rather than 11:00 to allow some time between the

end of the service and the start of the meeting.

A motion was made (Jeannette) and seconded (Bonny) to approve the agenda for the Annual Congregational meeting as amended.

Recurring Business

Affirm New Members, Confirmands and Baptisms

The following new members were affirmed: Eugene Coco, Susan and Steve Gramme, Rachel and Darren Humphrey, Jeanette and Brett McNulty, Sam and Ashley Ryan, Joanne Will.

The baptism of Vincent Rey Lopez Shidoosh was affirmed.

Old Business

1. Land Sale - Kaylee

No updates at this time.

2. Youth Director Introduction and Onboarding – Pastor Tim

The process of bringing Jen Avalos on board is going well.

Approval of Minutes – Carrie

1. July Church Council Meeting

Dave noted that on the bank resolution he is listed as President rather than Treasurer.

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

Consent Approval of Reports to Council - Carrie

1. Pastor Steve Herder's report

2. Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations report

3. School Board report

4. Foundation report

5. Communications report

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

Information Items

Next Council meeting - Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00.

Devotions – Jeannette

Reminder – The October Council meeting will be a joint meeting with the School Board.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Tim

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48

Respectfully submitted by Rachael Bowen

Ascension Lutheran Church
Special Meeting
August 25, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Pre-Meeting Comments – Carrie Leonard, Council President

The purpose of this meeting is to hear the Call Committee's recommendation for Ascension's new associate pastor. There will be a vote on the recommended candidate which must be carried out via written ballots and requires a 2/3 majority to pass. If that is passed, then there will be a vote on the proposed compensation package. This vote could be a voice vote if a motion is put forward to vote in that manner. Only Ascension members may vote. Since this is a special meeting with just one purpose, there is no need for approval of the agenda.

Synod representative Julia Morales was acknowledged as being in attendance.

Call To Order - Carrie

The special congregational meeting was called to order by Carrie Leonard at 12:17 p.m.

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

Acts 15 tells the story of the council of Jerusalem which was like a church meeting. The apostles and church elders discussed whether to allow Gentiles to be a part of the new Christian church. Pastor Tim noted that important things happen at church meetings.

Presentation of Candidate for Associate Pastor – Call Committee

The Call Committee members were acknowledged.

Tom Lindros – Co-chair
Gwen Thompson – Co-chair
Crystal Bryant
Michael Feltner
Hannah Hurdle
Scott Searway
Susie Lundeen Smuck

Gwen Thompson, via video, offered a prayer for the proceedings.

Tom Lindros shared the guiding principles for the committee which included being prayerful, listening for the Holy Spirit, understanding that the process would be in God's time (Kairos) not our time, and approaching the search actively, not passively. This was a 6-month process during which there were discussions with the retired pastors in Ascension's congregation, discussions with staff and the Ascension community, Synod engagement, and a search both within the Synod and outside the Synod. He noted that the candidate has been affirmed by Ascension's Council as well as Southwest California Synod bishop Brenda Bos.

Hannah Hurdle announced that the Call Committee's recommendation for Ascension's new associate pastor is Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp.

- RATIONALE

Pastor Chamie is uniquely prepared for this role based on her compelling qualifications and prior experiences. She has a successful history of work and service at Ascension. Significantly, she has a passion for Ascension church, ECC and school, and the One Ascension people. She will bring an incredible depth of presence.

- **CRITICAL POINTS**

Pastor Chamie is Pastor Tim's wife, yet she had to follow the same application process as the other candidates. She was reviewed in the same manner as the other candidates. Pastor Tim was not involved in the call process. She was never the default candidate. Her application was received several months into the search process.

- **EDUCATION and QUALIFICATIONS**

Pastor Chamie graduated from Concordia College (a Lutheran college) and received her Master in Ministry from Luther Seminary. She has pursued professional development throughout her career.

- **POSITION DESCRIPTION**

The associate pastor will be responsible for five areas: Worship and Music, Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, Pastoral Care, and Other Duties. The strengths and experience that Pastor Chamie would bring to these areas was presented.

- **UNIQUE ASPECTS**

The husband-wife relationship between the senior pastor and the associate pastor will require that the church Council develop a management/oversight body to support the ongoing church leadership. Plans for this are already underway. It was noted that this dynamic is not unique within the ELCA. There are many examples of spousal couples serving successfully as pastors at the same church. Her candidacy has been approved by the Synod given that the United Methodist Church is a 'full communion partner' with the ELCA. Approval has also been given by the UMC after Pastor Chamie initiated discussions with her immediate supervisor.

Michael Feltner summarized the reasons why Pastor Chamie is uniquely qualified for the position of associate pastor at Ascension.

- Her educational background and prior pastoral experiences, both at Ascension and elsewhere.
- She meets or exceeds 95% or more of the desired traits and qualifications in the position profile.
- Her record of outstanding leadership and service in the Ascension community.
- Her ability to be a role model.
- Her strong desire to advance the work of Ascension Church in our community and world.

Video from Pastor Chamie

Via video, Pastor Chamie shared the reasons leading her to apply for this position and her desire to return to the Ascension community.

Practical Matters – Carrie

Ascension's constitution, by-laws, and policies and procedures will guide the approach to the reporting structure for daily and long-term operations of One Ascension.

- **Reporting Structure and Accountability**

Currently the Council president prepares and administers the senior pastor's annual review. That will continue and, going forward, the Council president will also be responsible for the associate pastor's and for Pastor Steve's annual reviews.

- **Team Dynamics**
Council holds high expectations for the Executive Team. This team consists of Ascension's pastors, the Director of Operations, the ECC director, and the Day School principal. Team dynamics will be positive as long as each member has a clearly defined job description, each member understands the gifts, strengths and weaknesses of the other members, there is a culture of trust, and excellent communications are employed by all.
- **Time Off**
The call letters stipulates that time off for the associate pastor, either vacation time or sabbatical time, may not be simultaneous for more than two weeks. Also, sabbaticals must be staggered.

At this point, Pastor Tim left the meeting to assure that congregation members would feel free to ask any questions regarding Pastor Chamie's nomination.

Questions & Answers – Susie Lundeen Smuck

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Chuck Mork | What would be the start date for Pastor Chamie?
RESPONSE: October 1 st . |
| Helen Cox | What is the United Methodist Church's position on this? Could Pastor Chamie be reassigned to a UMC church in the future?
RESPONSE: Pastors in the UMC are not called but are assigned to their churches.
Pastor Chamie will retain the title of minister in the UMC but will change her status from Elder to Deacon. Elders are assigned to churches, deacons are not. |
| Ruth Rarick: | Will Pastor Chamie resume her role as the Chapel leader?
RESPONSE: She will have a strong relationship with the ECC and school. |

Vote to Call Associate Pastor

A motion was made (Dean Chandler) and seconded (Pete Swavely) to proceed with the vote to call Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp as Ascension's Associate Pastor.

The ballots were collected and counted by Council members. Voting results: 140 Yes, 5 No, 4 Not Completed.

Compensation Package - Kaylee

The Ministry Site Profile submitted to the Synod at the beginning of the search process included the compensation details that would be offered to the associate pastor candidate. The 2024 Synod guidelines regarding compensation as well as a review of the church's 2024-2025 budget factored into the various compensation elements. These include:

- A competitive salary
- \$5,700 auto allowance
- Health benefits completely covered
- 10% retirement contribution
- 28 vacation days
- 2 weeks of continuing education

- \$3,000 expense account
- 3 month sabbatical every 7 years

Pastor Chamie's experience warrants a competitive salary. A relocation package and housing loan is not needed. The compensation package is already built into the 2024-2025 budget.

Vote to Approve Compensation Package

A motion was made (Ed Klodt) and seconded (Dean Chandler) to approve the Associate Pastor compensation package as presented.

Discussion:

A motion was made (Pete Swavely) and seconded (Dean Chandler) to suspend a written ballot vote with a voice vote.

No discussion.

The motion for a voice vote passed unanimously.

The motion to approve the compensation package passed unanimously.

Final Comments - Carrie

The congregation was asked to refrain from announcing the results of this meeting on social media until Wednesday so that Pastor Chamie would have time to share the news with her congregation.

Heart-felt thanks were given to Pastor Steve for his additional time and effort over the past six months to help with the pastoral load.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Steve

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28

Respectfully submitted by Rachael Bowen

Pastor Tim's Annual Report September 2023 to September 2024

A lot has happened in a year. As I come to another annual report, I want to begin by saying that **I feel very blessed to be your senior pastor**. Even in the midst of challenges and long days, I am thankful to be serving such an incredible church. This has been a particularly poignant year for Chamie and me as we saw our last child graduate from high school. It is those milestone moments that make you reflect. One of the things that struck me is what a blessed community Ascension has been to our family all of these years. Thank you!

So let me begin with **Children, Youth, and Family Ministries**. In this past year, both our youth director, Dianne Beck, and associate pastor, Julie McCain, resigned from their positions. In the midst of the void left and the ensuing long process of finding a new youth director and associate pastor, so many - including me - were putting in extra hours. One of the blessings, though, of the longer hours was time to be smack dab in the middle of these ministries. For instance, I got to be with the confirmation kids more often than I had been and hear their thoughts. I sat on the Search Committee for the Youth Director. Interviewing so many candidates and going through the whole process - and praying all along the way - really helped us hone in on who we are and where we want to go as a church in terms of youth ministry. I am very excited about our new Youth Director, Jen Avalos, and what she brings to the table. Our youth program needs to be rebuilt one relationship at a time and she is ready to do that work. I also want to say a huge thanks to Dianne Beck, who, after resigning from her position, came back for the interim time to help keep the High School program going. And to Jenni Klemp who came on as our interim Children's Ministry Coordinator. She supported our Sunday School program and did an incredible job of making VBS happen.

Though I did not sit on the Call Committee, I was there to support them and pray for them in the process. And just 24 hours ago (as I write this), we have, after many months, voted on our new pastor - my wife, Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp! I still am trying to get my mind around it. This is not where either of us expected to land this August, but the Holy Spirit has led us here. Here is something that I can tell you about Chamie from many years of personal experience: she's got a lot of passion and her energy for children, youth, and family ministries is what Ascension needs right now. With our thriving ECC and day school, we also want a thriving children's ministry at church. We want to help grow life-long followers of Jesus who stay connected to church communities. This is so important. Take note of this research:

One of the most-quoted Bible verses by Christian parents and educators is "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). A new nationwide survey provides some statistical support for that notion, showing that adults who regularly attended church as children are much more likely than their unchurched peers to be involved in church-based and personal spiritual activities. The study, conducted by the Barna Research Group of Ventura, California, found that roughly seven out of ten Americans adults (71%) had a period of time during their childhood when they regularly attended a Christian church. Apparently, old habits die hard: a majority of those who attended church as a youngster still attend regularly today (61%), while a large majority of those who were not church-goers as children are still absent from churches today (78%).

So let me now reflect on **worship and fellowship** as a whole. Ascension is blessed with a beautiful sanctuary, great technology, and gifted musical staff. We were happy to add Melissa Berg as the leader of the 10:30 worship band. That being said, we want to continue to not only have strong worship services, but expand our creativity and reach. We have received several new members, but I believe we need to grow our outreach and hospitality and welcome even more visitors. Of course, one way for new people - and long-time members, too - to connect on Sundays is through FOOD. Our new and revamped fellowship time after our Sunday Services has been a success this past year.

To make all our ministries happen, we must have the **resources of time, talents, and treasures**. I continue to be amazed by all the faithful and gifted people who lead and serve in Ascension's many ministries. It really is incredible. I also know that we need to continue to equip and empower new leaders in every age group. We also need to teach on giving and generosity to new generations so we can continue to be financially stable and flourish as a community. Our offerings increased this past year not just by amount, but also by those who now give offerings. In addition, our "Blessed to Be a Blessing" initiative has been very exciting.

As we go forth into this next year, in a time when our culture seems very divided and divisive, I think it will be important to do some pondering and praying together about who we are called to be and what our identity is. First and foremost, our identity is rooted in Christ. I have also strived to be what I call a "big tent church" where we hold the tension with grace and make room for each other under the tent. I want us as a community to do more in clarifying our identity as a church and our values and vision of who we are called to be.

In conclusion, I want to say how grateful I am that we are in the midst of "24 in 24" because good things - and great revivals - come out of deep prayer. I believe we have an amazing year ahead of us. I am grateful for an excellent staff - which is feeling more complete with our new youth director and associate pastor, for excellent lay leadership, energetic volunteers, and a caring One Ascension community. May we go forth into this new year with joy and hold on to hope. I leave you with this verse from Hebrews 10:23: "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."



You Are Invited to:



**24 Weeks of
Prayer**

June 16 to
November 30

*Strengthened through
the Spirit,
Know the love of Christ,
Filled with the fullness of God*

(from the prayer in Ephesians
3:14-21)



Ascension Lutheran
Church
Thousand Oaks

Church Council Report

Pastor Steve Herder

September 7, 2024

Today is the very center of our [24 weeks of prayer in '24](#), twelve weeks in and twelve to go!

We have daily prayers, especially praying the powerful prayer of Ephesians 3:14-21, with a blessing from God for “all that we could ask or imagine” and a prayer with the three Trinitarian phrases that are on the photo to the left.

I have especially appreciated the monthly prayer gatherings, led by Carolyn Coleman-Grady in July and by Kaylee Searway in August. Upcoming ones will be led by Pastors Rich Gregory, Chamie Delkeskamp, and Paul Gravrock. Have you seen the [campus prayer walk video](#) that Pastors Tim and Chamie recorded? It is wonderful. It has been played 571 times so far!

Stacy Bosco has posted on social media our daily intercessory prayers with short Bible readings. Those have been very well received.

As we were planning these 24 weeks of prayer, we knew that we also wanted to include the month of November, as we pray for our country with the elections, as we celebrate again our Gifts of Hope with gifts given to ministries near and far, and then concluding with Thanksgiving weekend!

Our prayers for a new youth director and a new associate pastor have been answered. We thank God! Thanks too to the Search Committee and the Call Committee for their very hard work on this. Welcome Jen and Pastor Chamie!! (The Call Committee plus Gwen who was in Iowa at the time.)





This weekend (Sept. 7-8) we will join ELCA congregations across the country as we participate in [God's Work Our Hands Sunday](#). Thanks to our women's ministry for leading the quilt tying, the Community Concerns team organizing the food drive for our Friday food pantry, the Global Ministries Team for helping us put together 500 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief, and our Senior Adult Ministries Team for coordinating visits to those who want to receive Holy Communion in their homes!

Senior ministry and caring ministry updates:

+ We are leading Christian Life



Hours (worship services) at six senior living facilities, some once-a-month, some twice-a-month. Thanks to Norm Guetschoff and his team for leading most of them and I lead two of them. This one is at Atria Grand Oaks.

+ Bob Tokin is coordinating and scheduling our SAMs Tram drivers!

+ With Beverly David having moved, Chris Daleiden stepped up to coordinate our 3M: Minor Maintenance Ministries. We are updating the volunteer form and the request form. Stay tuned.

+ Thanks to Brenda Heinrich for leading our [GriefShare](#) Group each Thursday, Valerie Krum and her card ministry, Pastor Ron for coordinating the schedules of our Eucharistic Ministers (12 of them), and Norm for leading our [Stephen Ministry](#) (one-on-one Christian caregiving). Barbara Krum has her caring visits on hold, until she recovers from her back surgery. Ask us if you'd like more info on any of these ministries.

+ I led two memorial services, one for Shirley Meyer and one for Lester Johnson (father of Jeanne Hengst). May Jesus our Good Shepherd give peace and comfort to these families.

On August 11th six of us attended a fundraiser in Camarillo for [Friends of Fieldworkers](#) and Ascension was awarded the "Organization of the Year" for supporting them with our Gifts of Hope, which we will do again this year. The [Harbor House](#) fundraiser is Sept. 28 and I hope that many of you will attend at Emmanuel Presbyterian. We are a sponsor of it and will support through GOH again.

(See Friends of Fieldworkers fundraiser photos on the next page.)

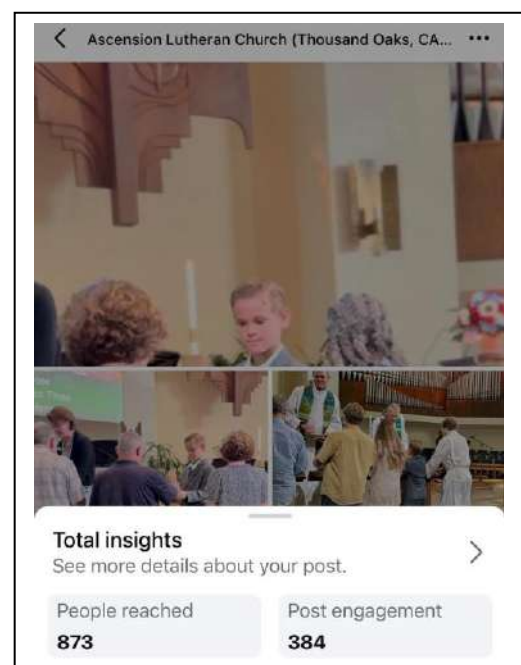


This summer we had Colleen McCarthy representing us on a dental mission trip to Kenya and Bruce Thomas on our annual synod trip to El Salvador. Watch for more info on the presentations on their experiences. See the Global Ministries Team, [LWR](#), and [Fair Trade](#) (thanks, Carol Bjelland) reporting in this council report. So proud of our team! Thank you, Louise, Evenson, for leading us! Two highlights were that Louise was interviewed by KCLU about our partnership with the solar light kits for Ukraine, and on Sept. 3, the [online magazine, "Living Lutheran"](#) published a great article about Ascension's partnership with ministries across the country, for the people of Ukraine!

In this interim time, before Pastor Chamie starts on October 1st, I am serving as the pastoral rep to our Monday morning Women's Bible studies (we start Sept. 16 with 70 women!), [our Ascension Foundation](#) (had an excellent meeting on Aug. 3; I'm impressed with our trustees commitment and Stefano's leadership, photo below) and our Sunday morning adult education classes which Dr. Carol Bartell coordinates (starts again on Sept. 15!). We thank the leaders of each of these ministries for the outstanding work that they are doing!



[Our Facebook page](#) now over 2,400 followers. Stacy and I do a few posts each day to encourage faith and ministry. This is a good way to share your faith values with friends and family. Look how many people were reached with this story about nine-year-old Luke helping with Holy Communion last Sunday!



Beginning on Oct. 1st (or thereabouts) I'll be moving offices, back to where I used to be, across from Kaylee' office. Pastor Chamie will take my current office. Stop by and visit! (Also, invite us to visit you at your home!) The books in my office are for you to use as well. I'm especially well stocked on commentaries on each book of the Bible, if you need to do more prep for one of your Bible studies. Welcome!

On Saturday, Oct. 5, from noon to 3:00 we'll have our annual Blessing of the Animals, but this year, under the team leadership of Bonny Chick, it will be a much much bigger event! Mark your calendars. It will be a lot of fun. Come even if you don't have a pet. It will be entertaining!

If you'd like to join our email prayer group, let Linda Morrow know. She sends out an email or two each week to keep us updated on prayer requests from individuals, ministries, and ELCA Prayer Ventures. The blessing of our pets is a prayer ministry!



Our Community Concerns Team, led so well by Chris Daleiden, has been very active with our food pantry ministries. Thank you for responding generously this weekend. Thanks to Tania and Barry Disselhorst and other families who help with the monthly hot meals program on the third Tuesday of the month. Our neighbors appreciate all your gifts for Caring Ones and the Agape Fund.

I'll close with a few quick family stories for you. Julie and I had a fun two-week road trip this summer visiting many friends as we traveled to northern CA and southern OR. I was blessed to lead the baptism of our great niece Emma at [First English Lutheran Church](#) in Appleton, WI. My parents are doing well, and they send their love to all of you. We were glad to have Natalie home from her [work in NYC](#) for a good part of August. Now Julie is back to work with her third-grade class at [EARTHs](#) in Newbury Park. Thanks for your prayers. You are in ours! (Bottom photos are blessing teachers!)



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
Anna Woodward

School Board

Scott Bean
Kyle Jones
Jeanette McNulty
Jocelyn Myers
Chris Poveromo
Kathy Saneinia
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
Micaela Bavaro
Jessica Bunting
McKyla Byrd
Brittani Childers
Tiffany Chivaroli
Esperanza Flores
Laurie D'Alonzo
Kayla Fromberg
Lauren Jajja
Liz Hoskinson
Stacy Kealty
Arelly Kendall
Jen Ledesma
Nicole Lewis
Karen Martinez
Tanya Mathews
Jenni McCoy
DeAnna Means
Amanda Munoz
Michele Paniz
Jessica Placas
Kelsi Ramirez
Vanessa Reyes
Karyn Ring
Lindsey Robinson
Marissa Saldivar
Mariela Sanchez
Nasha Sobieski
Elizabeth Van Mourik
Heather VanVorst
Greta Weinstein
Josie Zapata

CHURCH STAFF

Jen Avalos
Melissa Berg
Stacy Bosco
Matt Cahill
Anthony Carrillo
Jude Delkeskamp
Pastor Tim Delkeskamp
Camryn Force
Nathan Halvorson
Tyler Hassenbein
Ella Hengst
Jeff Hengst
Pastor Steve Herder
Charlie Hulse
Diane Kusnierek
Nancy Lee
Camden Lorentson
Mike Marvin
Lan Merrill
Wyant Morton
Margaret Ricci
Cameron Ruggiero
Aidyn Searway
Kaylee Searway
Jenelle Smith
Christian Teufel
Custodians:
Christian, Jessenia,
& Noe Gonzalez



TK- 7 ELEMENTARY STAFF

Connie Angress
Vanessa Arias
Ashley Babich
Michielle Beckley
Brian Bishop
Ethan Bishop
Elizabeth Bonilla
Caitlin Burditt
Mike Burditt
Cindy Cina
Anita Cohen
Aidan Delkeskamp
Jennifer Farrell
Spencer Gottmer
Pastor Rich Gregory
Camille Harrington
Heather Hartson
Natalie Heyman
Carolina Lopez
Karen Manion
Joy Marrs
Zach Martino
Devin Milligan
Charlotte Miranda
Tina Mohler
Kelsey Packman
Stephanie Pagano
Erika Quiroga
RJ Ray
Kendra Saunders
Robert Steere
Sara Wallace
Michael Woodward
Stephanie Yates

Ascension Lutheran School Board Meeting Minutes
August 14, 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:

Ashley Steere, Scott Bean, Rich Gregory, Jenni McCoy, Anna Woodward, Jocelyn Myers, Nelly Trumbo, Chris Poveromo, Kyle Jones, Kathy Roshanai, Jeanette McNulty

Call to Order:

Ashley called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

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

Devotion:

Ashley led the devotion on rest and contentment highlighting scriptures Matthew 11:28-39 and Philippians 4:11-13. God gives strength and peace to those to navigate responsibilities and not be crushed by them. Resting in God's presence rejuvenates us.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda initiated by Scott. Nelly seconded. Motion passes.

No church council report, but Anna will provide comments. Admissions report and financials pulled for discussion.

Approval of consent agenda items initiated by Jocelyn. Scott seconded. Motion passes.

Old Business:

Discount Standardization

- There is no final update on the discount standardization. It was recommended that we start looking at the motivations for the discounts (trying to encourage church members to have their children attend, families with multiple students, etc.)
- Jeanette will gather data on the contemporary schools and their discount policy.
- Chris made a recommendation to offer the church member discount to other Lutheran congregations.
- Scott commented that the discussion and decision should come during tuition and enrollment timing (October).
- Rich recommended establishing a subcommittee on the topic that will meet in September and October. Jeanette will chair the subcommittee. Scott, Nelly, and Rich will also participate.

Tech Policy Update

- Rich is working toward developing a new tech policy to avoid social/tech mishaps between students that happen off campus. He has spoken with principals in the area as well as the school's attorney about a new policy which might include voluntary and/or mandatory pledges that families make regarding tech use on and off campus. He still needs to speak with his teachers on the subject, so he is unsure a decision will be made before the start of school.
- Current Student Cell Phone/Smartwatch Policy is:
 - o Students are not permitted to use these devices on campus at any time for any purpose except for contacting parents with permission from a staff member.
 - o A smartwatch can be used for telling time only.
 - o Phones may not be used as a camera unless supervised by a staff member.
 - o Students may use the school office phone to contact parents at any time of the day.
 - o We encourage all students to inform a teacher or the school office when they need assistance for an emergency, illness or any other issue other than typical classroom activities.
 - o If the phone is being used during school hours, it will be confiscated and taken to the school office.
 - o The confiscated device will not be returned until a parent retrieves it from the school office.
 - o If the smartwatch is being used for anything other than telling time, it will be confiscated, and the student will lose the privilege of wearing it at school.
 - o The cell phone/smartwatch policy for field trips is the same as the policy on school campus unless otherwise given permission by the administration.
 - o Multiple infractions will lead to the loss of the privilege to bring devices on campus.
- It was recommended that a focus on educating the students themselves (versus solely the parents) on the dangers/implications of social media and technology would be important.

- Scott questioned how to approach this as a collaboration with the parents to establish new culture (with educational events, etc.), without relying solely on policy enforcement.

State of the Schools

- Jenni reported that this week is Professional Development week, which is very busy but very productive. She has also been working on the strategic pillar of a Christ centered community, and has been approved for a grant to purchase new religious literary materials for the ECC as well as bibles for all 4-year-old students.
- Rich reported that with Mrs. Bordokas leaving, the summer was filled with staffing/hiring issues. A great TK teacher has been hired for the school year. He also reported that his focus for the year is – “those that are faithful in little, are faithful in much.”

New Business:

Introduction of Members

- Ashley started the introductions, and all members gave a brief introduction on themselves in consideration of our new member Jeanette.

Meeting Norms & Document Storage

- Scott went over the meeting norms including what consent agenda items are, how motions are made/recorded, the process of adding items to the agenda, etc.

Admissions Report

- There was a question on the “Connie’s estimate” on the enrollment numbers. Rich clarified that admissions report with the enrollment numbers will be accurate for the start of school, even though Connie makes her own estimate, but also that the first weeks of school can bring/loose students.

Financials

- Anna reported that the \$700K that was approved for the high-interest account transfer did happen at the end of July. There is no interest accrual information just yet.

Church Council Report

- Anna reported that the Call Committee's candidate recommendation for Associate Pastor and voting to call the recommended candidate as Associate Pastor will happen on Sunday, August 25th at noon in the sanctuary. School board members are encouraged to attend.
- Anna also reported that Annual Congregation meeting is scheduled for September 22nd at noon in the sanctuary. Ashley will be present on behalf of the school board.

Bank of America Change of Signer Resolutions

Chris makes a motion to approve the change of the signers on all ALS Bank of America accounts, which include School Checking account ending in 5467, Payroll account ending in 1104, and ECC Checking account ending in 6572, to the following: Remove Steve Smuck, President; Remove Ron Rudrud, Treasurer; Add Ashley Steere, President; Add Anna Woodward, Treasurer; Leave unchanged Rich Gregory, Principal; Leave unchanged Connie Angress, School Administrator. Kathy seconds the motions. Motion passes.

Survey Results

- Rich presented the end of year parent survey results. Student retention discussed. Last year was at 81%, down from the low 90's last year. TK, K, 4th and 5th grade all had high turnover rates at 20% or above, with almost 50% of 5th grade choosing to opt out. A myriad of reasons for the turnover, but no one left mad/dissatisfied.
- Overall, results showed a highly satisfied parent group.

Calendar, Retreat and Devotion Scheduling

- Regular meeting dates for the 2024/2025 year are: 9/23, 10/16, 11/18, 12/16, 1/27, 2/24, March tbd, 4/28, 5/19, 6/18
- Fall retreat date: 10/3
- Devotion schedule:
 - o September: Chris
 - o October: Rich
 - o November: Kathy
 - o December: Jenni
 - o January: Scott
 - o February: Jeanette
 - o March: Kyle
 - o April: Nelly
 - o May: Anna
 - o June: Jocelyn

Board Member Pictures/Biographies

- No need for this per Ashley.

Executive Session:

No executive session this meeting.

Closing Prayer:

Rich closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment:

Jocelyn motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nelly seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm.

Next school board meeting is September 23rd at 6:30pm. Chris will lead devotion.

Respectfully submitted by Jocelyn Myers

**Ascension Lutheran School Board Agenda for 8/14/24 Mtg. at 6:30 p.m.
On Campus (Library) & on Zoom**

Call to Order

Mission Statements

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

1. **Opening Devotion/Prayer** – Ashley Steere
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda
 - Admissions Report
 - June Meeting Minutes
 - Financials Report
 - ECC Report
 - Principal's Report
 - Church Council Rep Report

Old Business:

1. Discussion on any reports pulled from Consent Agenda
2. Discount standardization
3. Tech Policy Update

New Business:

1. Introduction of Members - Ashley
2. Meeting Norms & Microsoft Storage of Documents – Scott
3. Brief ECC and ALS updates - Rich and Jenni
4. Survey Results - Rich
5. Draft Board Calendar - Ashley
 - Confirmation of Board Retreat Attendance
 - Devotions
6. Request for Board member pictures and biographies - Ashley

Closing Prayer - Rich

Adjournment



Wednesday, September 11
4-5:30 PM, Bethlehem Room

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

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

AGENDA

WELCOME

OPENING Prayer of St Francis of Assisi as we remember September 11th.

1. GIFTS OF HOPE, 2024

- a. **What projects** have been prioritized to support
- b. **When** is the GOH emphasis
- c. **Who is** involved in planning and how can I volunteer
- d. **How** will the congregation be informed and invited to participate
- e. **What's next?**

2. General Benevolence of ALC General Fund addition

- a. **What/how** much is designated currently
- b. **A recent** addition of Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) to general benevolence.

3. New Opportunity for Ascension to support Ukraine.

- a. **What?** Military grade tourniquets
- b. **Why?**

- c. **Who?**
- d. **How?**
- e. **When?**
- f. Asking for GMT's comments, approval to move forward in planning.

4. Review of GMT Monthly Reports

Gifts of Hope

Fair Trade

Ray of Life Solar Light kits

LWR Kits

- OTHER:**
- 1. CALENDAR** for September/October highlights.
 - 2. Congregational Annual Meeting, September 22**-See GMT/Fair Trade/GOH annual reports.

Next meeting, Oct 9, 2024, 4PM Bethlehem Room.

SEPTEMBER

- Sept 7-8 GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS- Assembly of LWR KITS
- Sept 10 God's Love Made Real, Zoom, noon. Bishops Eaton & Bos. Ask Louise for link.
- Sept 11 Global Ministries Team meeting, 4-5:30 PM, Bethlehem Room**
- Prayer Gathering, 7 pm, Sanctuary
- Sept 19 International Day of Peace, CLU, 11 AM at CGE, 11:25 Chapel
- Fair Trade Lane open, 2:30-4PM
- Sept 21 CITIZENSHIP FAIR, Founders Hall, 9-11 AM
- Sept 22 Fair Trade Lane open, 9-10 AM
- 10AM Worship Service, 11:15 AM Annual Congregation Meeting, 12 Picnic
- Sept 28 Fair Trade Global Wine Tasting Event, 3 PM. RSVP by 9/16, \$15
- Harbor House Fundraiser "Concert 4 the Conejo", Emmanuel Church, Thousand Oaks, 4-7PM. Ticketed event.

OCTOBER

- Oct 1 Conejo Interfaith Refugee Team WELCOME BASKET Sign up to Donate items (See flyer)
- Oct 5 Blessing of Animals, Ascension Parking Lot, noon-3PM
- Oct 9 Global Ministries Team meeting, 4-5:30 PM Bethlehem Room**
- Oct 10 VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE, zoom, 7 PM, with Regina Banks, LOPP. (See flyer)
- Oct 14 Drop off WELCOME BASKET Items, 7pm United Methodist Church, Westlake Village. Stay to assemble kits, 7-8 PM (See flyer)
- Oct 17 Fair Trade Lane open, 2:30-4PM
- Oct 20 Fair Trade Lane open, 10-11 AM

NOVEMBER

- Nov 6 Global Ministries Team Meeting, 4-5:30 PM, Bethlehem Room**
- Nov 10 Gifts of Hope Emphasis: Harbor House at 9AM Worship and Adult Class
- Nov 21 Fair Trade Lane open, 2:30-4PM
- Nov 24 Fair Trade Lane open, 10-11 AM

DECEMBER

Dec 4 **Global Ministries Team meeting, 4-5:30 PM, Bethlehem Room**

Dec 5 & 12 Fair Trade Lane open, 2:30-4PM

Dec 15 Fair Trade Lane open, 10-11 AM

September 6, 2024



MINISTRY OF Global Ministries Team-Ray of Life Solar Light Kits

DATE September, 2024

SUBMITTED BY Louise Evenson

SUMMARY REPORT

1. What was accomplished with this ministry project?

Through the One Ascension, New Hope Lutheran Church and other friends, we raised funds for 178 solar light kits and 100 water purification kits for Ukraine.

We received 107 individual donations (of \$5 to \$1,500) as well as a \$5,000 grant from the Ascension Lutheran Foundation.

The solar light kits we funded were assembled by Ascension LC (10 kits), Silver Bay, MN 3rd graders (20), Lutsen Lutheran Church (40), Ukrainian refugees in W VA (30), NW college Residence Assistants (40) and Edina Community LC (30).

We sent \$23,500 to New Vision Renewable Energy, W VA for 168 ROL solar light kits (\$21,000) and 100 water purification kits (\$2,500).

All expenses for this project have been paid through our designated account which will remain open for the time being.

From our successful efforts, two other ELCA congregations have built or will be building solar light kits. One congregation is in Edina, MN and the other in Eau Claire, MN.

2. What follow up communications have been sent?

A follow up report was sent to the Ray of Life planning team in July. The church council, the ALC Foundation and the congregation in a July27-28 edition of THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION received our thanks and an update also.

All donors to this project were sent a thank you using the Ukrainian cards we made.

An article about this project was sent to LIVING LUTHERAN, an online publication of the ELCA. It was published on September 3, 2024. Here is a link to the article. <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2024/09/light-and-hope/>

An interview was conducted with KCLU on 9/5/2024 about this project at Ascension and future potential projects for Ukraine. The interview will be broadcast on KCLU on Sept 9, 2024.

Follow up requests to publish an article about this project have been sent to the CLU Magazine (Olha and Dr. Christina Sanchez connection), the ACORN, SW CA Synod and NE MN Synod.

3. LOOKING AHEAD

Dave Nonnemacher will be returning to Ukraine November 5-23. Ascension will send a donation with AGAPE funds so Dave can purchase food and supplies in Ukraine to deliver to people who have or will receive ROL solar light kits. If you want to contribute to this fund, please do so before October 15th. Write your check to Ascension with AGAPE FUND noted or give on line at ALCTO.org and note it is for the AGAPE FUND.

Dave has also initiated a hands-on project of making military grade tourniquets to send to Ukraine. Currently, Dave is leading groups in MN to make 200 tourniquets. Lutsen LC, Lutsen, MN will be designating this project for their Mission Offering in October. Dave has invited us to make these tourniquets also. A plan is being discussed and developed.

4. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Louise Evenson at Lpevenson@gmail.com or 925-518-5795



MINISTRY OF Global Ministries Team-Lutheran World Relief Kits Ministry

DATE September 6, 2024

SUBMITTED BY Louise Evenson

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

Goal was set to make 500 personal care kits as part of God's Work Our Hands weekend, September 7-8 in Founders Hall before and after worship services.

Eight Thrivent Action Team grants were requested and received for the project. Accumulated funds saved from the previous year kits project will also be used to offset the expenses of the materials this year.

Materials for the kits were ordered and delivered in August.

Volunteers were invited to set up the materials and assist in the making of the kits.

Publicity about the project was in TWAA during the month of August as part of God's Work Our Hands activities. Worship slides were also shared during the month of August to alert people to this opportunity.

Sandwich boards were set up at each narthex to remind people to come to Founders Hall to make a kit before or after worship on 9/7-8.

We ordered enough materials at a quantity discount so New Hope Lutheran Church, Agoura Hills, will also be making 200 LWR Kits as part of their God's Work Our Hands service effort. They raised funds and received Thrivent Action Team grants to offset their costs, and reimburse us for their materials.

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

Dedication of Kits and Quilts weekend in mid-Oct. Set up of display. Writing of prayers/litany.

Thank you to ALC staff for their support of this ministry. What? When?

Ingathering at Mt Cross LC, Camarillo. Meet/go with Cam Lorentzen to drop off kits/quilts.

3. LOOKING AHEAD (Important calendar dates)

Dedication of the kits and quilts will be in mid-October.

The LWR Ingathering date in mid-October has not been set as of this time.

4. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Louise Evenson

Lpevenson@gmail.com or Vicki Weeks 3weeksboys@gmail.com



FAIR TRADE MINISTRY

DATE: September 2, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Carol Bjelland

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

Fair Trade Lane is open Thursday, September 19th (2:30-4 PM; there will be a special art project) and Sunday, September 22nd (9-10 AM).

Fair Trade Wine & Snack Tasting Event is Saturday, September 28th at 3 PM. Offsite location. We'll be tasting & learning about Organic, Fair Trade, Natural & Sustainably produced wines from Argentina as well as learning about & tasting Fair Trade snack items including cheese, nuts, dried mango, dates, chocolate and some new jams & chutneys. \$15/per person participation fee. No ministry or church funds will be used for this event – costs covered by the participation fee. Participants must be over 21 yrs old. RSVP sign-up by September 16th by email to fairtrade@alcto.org with contact information and number attending. We'll keep a waitlist when sign-up list is filled.

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

We already have a volunteer team for the 9/28 wine tasting event. We thank them. Volunteers invited to help with Fair Trade Lane Thursdays & Sundays.

3. LOOKING AHEAD (Important calendar dates)

Fair Trade Lane Open Dates/Times October to December 2024:

Oct 17th (2:30-4PM)

Oct 20th (10-11AM)

Nov 21st (2:30-4PM)

Nov 24th (10-11AM)

Dec 5th (2:30-4PM)

Dec 12th (2:30-4 PM)

Dec 15th (10-11AM)

Fair Trade has been invited to speak at Shepherd of the Valley's Adult Ed Class 9/29 along with Mary Wennes who will sharing about ELCA World Hunger.

Special Event: Sunday Nov 3rd (5-8 PM) – Details TBD

4. OTHER INFORMATION

We thank the Trumbo Family @ Signarama for the gift of the new permanent sandwich board signs announcing "Fair Trade Today". We thank Jeff & Jude for the permanent sign holders added to Fair Trade Lane's double doors -- we have signs for keeping doors closed because of heat & signs announcing Fair Trade Lane Is Open that we will swap in/out as applicable. We thank our wonderful Fair Trade host for the 9/28/24 event. There has been follow-up from participants in our Faith & Fair Trade conversations w/the CV Interfaith group this summer; we will continue to invite/encourage & facilitate the growth of Fair Trade in the CV.

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

[View Online](#)



September 2024

Welcoming Our New International Students!



For Fall 2024 the Center for Global Engagement welcomed 60 new international students from 17 countries to campus with a series of events designed to help them transition smoothly into their new environment. The welcoming program for graduate and undergraduate students includes various activities, from a shopping excursion for essential needs to navigating the Ullman dining hall and team development exercises. The program culminates with the full day OISS Seminar program to overview immigration regulatory matters and campus support resources.

Our international students bring a rich tapestry of cultural heritage and background to our campus, offering a unique opportunity for local students to learn about traditions from around the world. These interactions not only enhance the cultural vibrancy of our campus but also support CLU's mission to educate global leaders. A multicultural campus is a vital part of achieving this mission, as it fosters understanding, collaboration, and leadership in a global context. We're thrilled to see how these students will contribute to our community and how, together, we will continue to make CLU a place of global engagement and learning.

The International Peer Mentors Program



The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is grateful to have a team of 15 International Peer Mentors, a dedicated group of students who have volunteered to support and guide the incoming international students throughout their first year at CLU. The Peer Mentors play a vital role in helping new students navigate the challenges of adapting to a new environment, ensuring they feel welcomed and supported.

Each mentor participates in training and receives a mentee, providing personalized assistance that begins before the new students arrive in the USA. The mentors are committed to being a friendly face, a resource for questions, cultural informant, and a bridge to the campus community. Beyond offering support, our peer mentors will also gain valuable leadership skills and deepen their understanding of cultural differences, making this experience mutually enriching.

Their dedication not only fosters a sense of belonging among our international students but also strengthens the global connections within our campus community.

Transatlantic Connections: Academic, Cultural, and Business Exchange between the US and Austria



The Center for Global Engagement's Office of Education Abroad and the School of Management invite the university community to a panel discussion followed by a small reception to introduce and highlight the possibilities of participation in our CLU study program in Austria to CLU students. Distinguished guests join us to talk about academic, cultural and business exchange between the two countries during a discussion moderated by OEA Director Dr. Matthew Yates.

Our panelists:

Dr. Michael Postl | Consul General of the Republic of Austria in Los Angeles
Volker Ammann | Austrian Trade Commissioner
Dr. Alexa Sekyra | Head of the Scholars Program at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles.
Dr. Vlad Vaiman | Professor at the School of Management of California Lutheran University

Date: Tuesday, September 24
Time: 11:15 am - 12:00 pm including Q&A, followed by a networking reception until 12:30pm.
Location: Ullman 100/101
RSVP: global@callutheran.edu

CLU Exchange Featured

Partner:

Joanneum, University of Applied Sciences

FH



Did you know that one of our mobility partner programs is located in the heart of Europe, in the city of Graz, Austria? The location is ideal for its rich cultural heritage, vibrant community, and proximity to the neighboring Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary. FH Joanneum's Global Business Program is designed to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of international business, focusing on areas such as cross-cultural management, international marketing, and global economic policies. The program fosters a global perspective that is increasingly valuable in today's interconnected world, making it an ideal choice for students looking to enhance their academic and professional development. Students are encouraged to attend the Austria country spotlight panel discussion on September 24 to learn more about the program. For more information, please contact oea@callutheran.edu.

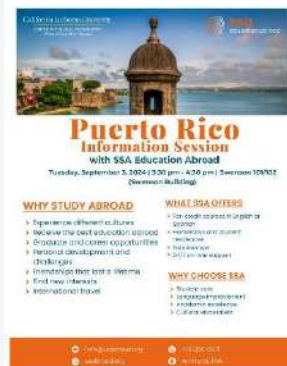
SEPTEMBER FEATURED GLOBAL HAPPENINGS



Education Abroad Fair

Tuesday, September 3 | Regal's Way / The Spine | 10:30am - 1:30pm
oea@callutheran.edu

Stop by the Spine today for the fall Education Abroad Fair. This event is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about the diverse array of study abroad and faculty-led programs available to them for immersive experiences around the world. The Office of Education Abroad (OEA) invites partner institutions and faculty to talk with students about the many programs CLU offers, including the CLU-Oxford program (applications due November 1).



Study Abroad in Puerto Rico-Information Session

Tuesday, September 3 | Swenson 101-102 | 3:30pm - 4:30pm
oea@callutheran.edu

OEA invites you to hear from one of our newest partners, Spanish Studies Abroad, regarding an opportunity to study in Puerto Rico. This session is an excellent opportunity to learn about the rich cultural and educational experiences available in Puerto Rico through SSA. Whether you are a student interested in studying abroad or a faculty member looking to expand your international collaborations, this session will provide valuable insights and resources.

Join us in welcoming SSA and learning more about a No Passport Required CLU US-away program offering. We look forward to seeing you there!



International Day of Peace

Thursday, September 19

CGE Patio-Flag Procession @11am | CLU Chapel @11:25am

global@callutheran.edu

The International Day of Peace 2024, observed on September 21, is a global occasion dedicated to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. Established by the United Nations in 1981, this day serves as a reminder of the need for ongoing efforts to promote peace in a world often marked by conflict and violence. The theme for 2024 focuses on fostering dialogue and cooperation across borders, highlighting the importance of collective action in addressing global challenges like inequality, climate change, and armed conflicts.

The CGE and the Campus ministry invite the CLU community and community friends to take part in a flag procession, followed by the rededication of our peace pole in the rose garden to honor this important date. RSVP to participate and/or carry a flag [via the online form](#). Contact global@callutheran.edu with any questions.



Free US Passport Application for Eligible Students

Applications Due: November 22

Contact oea@callutheran.edu

The Institute for International Education (IIE) hosts an annual American Passport Scholarship, a prestigious program aimed at supporting underrepresented students in obtaining their first U.S. passport, a crucial step toward broadening their global perspectives and opportunities. The Office of Education Abroad (OEA) is proud to announce that it has been awarded funds to award this scholarship, allowing CLU to provide financial assistance to 25 eligible CLU U.S. students who are eager to embark on international educational experiences. This scholarship not only helps students overcome financial barriers but also empowers them to explore the world, gain new insights, and enhance their academic and professional futures. Through this initiative, OEA reaffirms its commitment to promoting global education and inclusivity. General details are on the [OEA website](#).



Free Film Screening - A Day Without a Mexican: 20 Years Later

Thursday, September 12 | 4:00 pm | Richter Hall

A Day Without a Mexican is a serious comedy that addresses the difficult issue of migration of not only Mexicans but all Latin Americans to the United States. The script addresses what many Americans say they want: for all Mexicans (including all Latin Americans) to leave their country so the rightful occupants can enjoy a better reality. Immediately afterward, the entire Latin population of the U.S.A. disappears. Where they went does not matter to us, the film focuses on what the Americans do without them.

Through the various personal stories that the film presents, the viewers explore the labor, economic and social dependence that Americans do not accept or hypocritically deny having with the "Latino" population within their country, which is largely responsible for the economic growth and well-being of the country. contact tcd@callutheran.edu for more information.



The Mentality of Colombian Elites

Ricardo Gomez, PhD

Tuesday, September 17 | 12:30 pm

Swenson Center for Social and Behavioral Sciences

Ricardo Gomez, PhD, will discuss his recent book titled "If we are not an educated people," a work focused on the contemporary history of Colombian elites. The audience will learn the history and evolution of the elites in Colombia and their current mentality regarding education and science.

Gomez graduated as a lawyer and then obtained a master's degree in international studies from the University of Leeds, U.K., and a PhD in Social Studies from Universidad Externado de Colombia. His doctoral internship was at the Max Weber Institute of Sociology, part of the University of Heidelberg, Germany. He was a fellow of the Eisenhower Foundation, who also studied innovation and management. He has published three books about science and innovation. Information: tcd@callutheran.edu



EDUCAL Annual Symposium

Marcela G. Cuellar, PhD

Wednesday, September 18 | 10:00 am | Ullman Conference Center 100/101

Marcela G. Cuellar, PhD, will discuss how institutional leaders, faculty and staff can elevate serving to promote the educational advancement of students at HSIs.

Cuellar is an associate professor and Chancellor's fellow in the School of Education at the University of California, Davis. Her research examines Latine students' experiences and outcomes at HSIs and emerging HSIs, campus climate and community college baccalaureates. She currently is collaborating on projects examining Hispanic-Serving Research Institutions and community college bachelor's degree programs in California. Her scholarship has been published in the *Community College Review*, *Journal of Higher Education* and the *American Journal of Education*.

Latine Heritage Month Lecture Lunch



Latine Heritage Month Lecture Lunch: Dr. Nancy Rios-Contreras

Thursday, September 26 | 12:30 pm | Lundring Event Center

Join Campus Ministry and the first DEIJB lecture lunch of the academic year, as we celebrate Latine Heritage Month. Keynote speaker Nancy Rios-Contreras, PhD, will share stories and findings during her research and work on the US - Mexico border.

Dr. Rios is the proud daughter of immigrants from Jalisco and Zacatecas. Her research is located at the intersection of understanding the sociological study of migration, race and ethnicity, and disasters. During this presentation, she will share personal experiences and stories that have been crafting along her journey as a researcher and professor. She is a proud Cal Lutheran alumna from the B.S. Criminal Justice and B.A Sociology. She also earned a PhD in criminology from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware. Dr. Rios is a Bill Anderson Fund Fellowship alumna and a graduate affiliate for the Disaster Research Center.

Don't miss the opportunity to join us for this meaningful lecture. Contact tcd@callutheran.edu with any questions.

Global Trivia!

Which Austrian archduke became the emperor of Mexico as the result of a political intrigue in 1864?

- a) Franz Ferdinand
- b) Karl Ludwig
- c) Franz Joseph
- d) Maximillian

California Lutheran University

CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Contact Us:

global@callutheran.edu

+1 (805) 493-3750

Mail To:

60 West Olsen Road #6400
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

TRIVIA ANSWER: d) Archduke Maximillian

[Unsubscribe](#)

Blessing of the Animals



**Ascension Lutheran Church and School
Invites the Community to Join Us**

Petting Zoo!

**Saturday,
October 5th**

12:00 - 3:00 PM

1600 E. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks

Free Activities • Fun for All

- BLESSING OF YOUR PETS
- PET ADOPTIONS
- DOG EXHIBITS/ENTERTAINMENT
- FOOD TRUCKS • VENDOR BOOTHS

Accommodation for In-Car Drive Through Pet Blessings 3:00-3:30 PM



**ASCENSION
LUTHERAN**

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ALCTO.org

Blessing of the Animals & Family Fun Pet Fair

Saturday, October 5, 12-3 PM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: If it woofs, meows, tweets or brays, you just might find it at Ascension Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks Oct. 5. Our annual Blessing of the Animals outdoor event this year will be accompanied by a fair celebrating our beastie besties, and we're inviting the community to join us!

The fair will include:

- K-9 demonstrations by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department
- Pet adoptions
- A petting zoo
- Doggy agility demos
- Pet vendor booths
- Food trucks (for the humans)

"We know that God calls on us to take care of all of creation, including the animals," notes Ascension Associate Pastor Steve Herder. "Each year in October we remember this as a traditional time to bless pets and other animals, creatures Francis of Assisi called his brothers and sisters. Our pets are very important parts of our families. This outdoor event gives thanks to God for our pets and asks God's blessings on all of us, pets and people alike!"

Event chair Bonny Chick adds: "We want to create an opportunity for the entire community to come together and celebrate their pets on this special day. We also hope that the shelter/rescued pets will be blessed with new fur-ever homes."

In addition to the Noon – 3 PM Blessings by our Pastors of each individual animal in attendance, there will also be accommodation for In-Car Drive Through Pet Blessings available from 3-3:30 PM. This will allow for sick, disabled and socially challenged pets to also receive their personal blessing!

For more information about this doggone good time in the making, it would be purrrfect if you email us or give us a caw-caw-call!

WHERE: Ascension Lutheran Church campus, 1600 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362

WHEN: Saturday, October 5, 12-3 PM

CONTACT: Stacy Bosco (818) 621-3542; (805) 495-0406

Be the Blessing Report for September 2024

The Be the Blessing team had their monthly meeting September 9th. One very significant project was reviewed, extensively discussed, and in the end approved for the full amount. That amount is \$6,250, by far the largest approved project to date.

This project is the extensively expanded Blessing of the Pets, scheduled for October 5th. It promises to engage significant numbers of volunteers, and especially school resources, engages the outside community through a pet zoo, pet adoption vendors and other entities. The primary use of the funding is advertising, including signage, t-shirts, and targeted community advertising.

Since the funding is principally from the Be the Blessing activity, we felt we should include the Be the Blessing project in the signage, and that we should staff a booth at the event to promote our program.

Even with this grant, the total amount dispersed is less than \$20,000 of the \$60,000 “Be the Blessing” funding. We have been advised that the section of our website devoted to Be the Blessing has had 50 visits, and nine visits to the “Spiritual Gifts Assessment” section, where visitors can determine possible ministry opportunities based on their own interests and abilities.

To continue to stimulate interest and growth in the program, the team is moving forward with planning for an adult education class scheduled on October 13. We are also engaged in soliciting feedback information and pictures for completed projects, for future videos and TWAA articles.

Respectfully submitted for the committee,

Dave Harkins