

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Church Council and School Board Joint Meeting
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 – 5:30pm
Founder's Hall**

Dinner and Fellowship - Pastor Tim Delkeskamp to lead devotion and prayer

Call to Order and Welcome – John Rarick, Council 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 – John Rarick

New Business:

None

Old Business:

Update on the development of a campus alcohol policy – Kaylee Searway, Director of Operations

Reserve study funds and update on Employee Retention Credit (ERC) funds.

State of the School

Ascension School – Rich Gregory, Principal

Early Childhood Center – Jenni McCoy, Director

Closing Prayer - Rich Gregory

Adjournment – John Rarick

Information Item - Next joint meeting hosted by the School Board is scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2026.

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Council Agenda
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 - 7:00pm
Founders Hall**

Welcome and Call to Order -John Rarick, 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 – John Rarick

Opening Prayer – Ethan East

Treasurer's Report – Steve Smuck

New Business

No new business

Recurring Business

- Affirm New Members, Confirmands, and Baptisms

Old Business

- Update on land sale – Creighton Van Horn

Approval of Minutes -John Rarick

- September 17, 2025 Church Council Minutes

Consent Approval of Reports to Council – John Rarick

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

Information Items

- Reflections on empowering and equipping, affirming and celebrating as we lead the
- culture of abundance at Ascension.

Closing Prayer – Steve Smuck

Adjournment

New Members & Baptisms Report

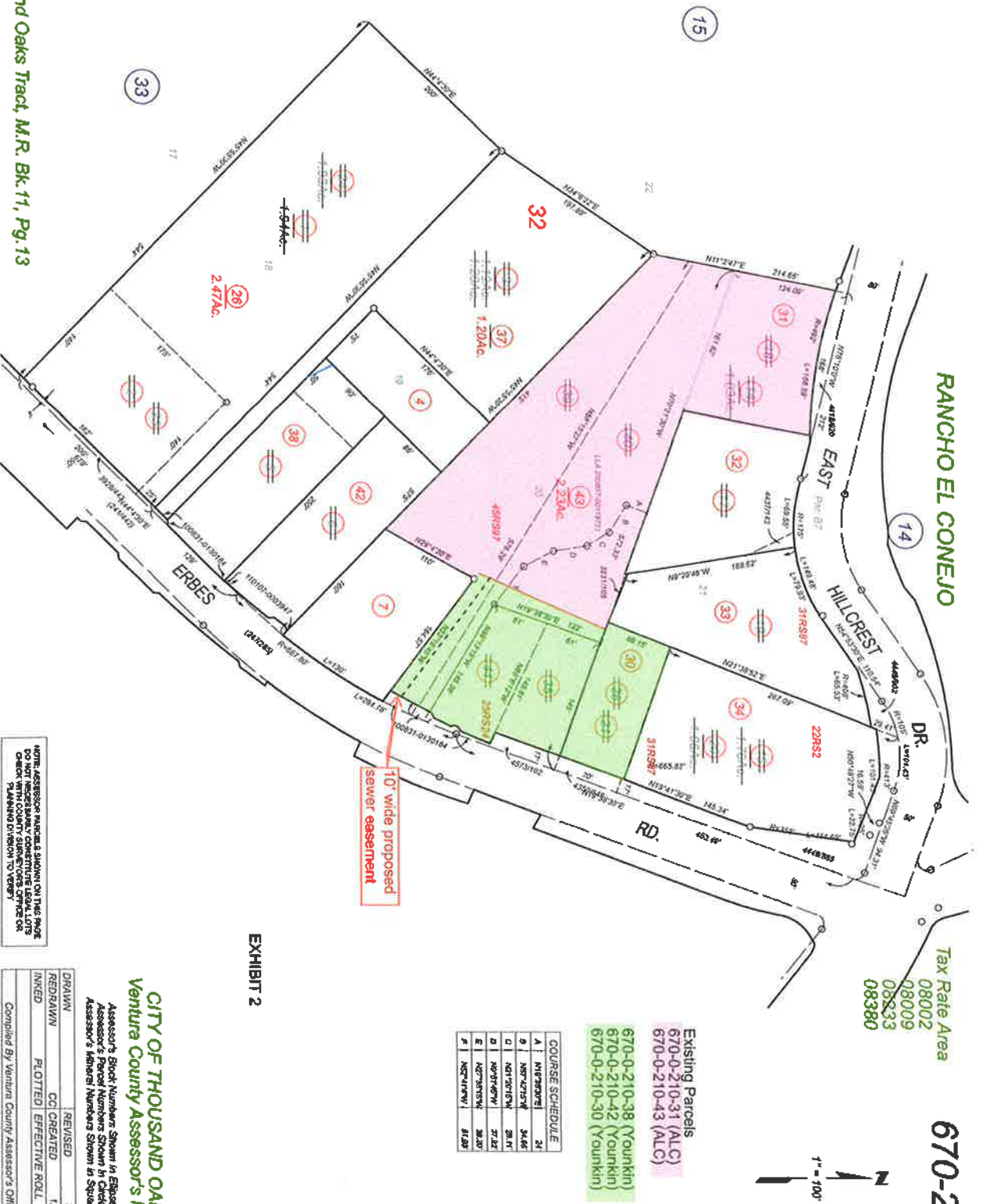
October 2025

Baptisms for September

Name	Date Baptized
Elizabeth Du Toit	09/14/2025
Noah Richard Poveromo	09/27/2025

New Members for September

No New Members



**Ascension Lutheran Church
Council Agenda
Wednesday, September 17, 2025 - 7:00pm
Bethlehem Room**

Welcome and Call to Order -John Rarick, President

Meeting called to order at 7:02

Members in attendance: John Rarick, Carrie Leonard, Creighton Van Horn (CVH), Michael Feltner, Steve Smuck, Anna Woodward, Ethan East, Al Baker, Crystal Bryant

Also present: Pastor Tim Delkeskamp, Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp, Kaylee Searway

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

Motto: Invite - Grow - Serve

Approval of Agenda – John Rarick

It was moved (Michael) and seconded (Steve) to approve the agenda as presented.

Devotion – Carrie Leonard

Carrie shared a journal from her Grandmother and reminded us about the importance of generational faith. The longevity and richness of faith that is passed through family lines, is similar to the faithfulness and those prior to us at Ascension. Now we are in the position to share faithful stories and create the richness and longevity for our Ascension youth.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Smuck

All is tracking to be where we expect for this time of year - please see the financial report for additional information.

We are expecting on more ERTC check - Executive team is working on a proposal for Council and school board on how to proceed with ERTC funds.

It was moved (Carrie) then seconded Michael, then passed unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report.

New Business

- **Update on the land sale** – Creighton Van Horn

The land sale has a gone on longer than expected. For this reason, Ascension needed get an interest only loan, to cover costs until escrow. The buyer has generously made monthly gifts to cover the costs of the loan.

ALC's relationship with the developer has remained positive. This relationship has helped with easements for the Oak Tree and parking lot where the bus is parked. This relationship carries the potential for members to occupy the new apartments, and can help to grow the ALC community with the development's new residents.

Once the land sale is final, we anticipate additional administrative procedures will occur.

- **Update on the development of a campus alcohol policy** – Kaylee Searway
Kaylee has provided a draft of the potentially proposed on-campus alcohol policy. Previous councils have discussed if we should pursue a policy for, or against permitting alcohol on-campus, so Kaylee has created an extremely thorough document to consider. The proposed policy is similar to the one that exists for California Lutheran University.

It has been suggested that if we move forward with a policy permitting alcohol consumption, that we do so under a probationary period (maybe 12-18 months). It is requested to have the insurance policy further reviewed for liability coverage. It has also been suggested that the new policy is reviewed by an attorney.

The draft of the policy will be presented to the School Board at their meeting on September 22.

Recurring Business

- Affirm New Members, Confirmands, and Baptisms

New Members & Baptisms

September 2025

Baptisms for August

Charles Bradley Mililani Toyama 08/09/25

Old Business

- None

Approval of Minutes -John Rarick

- August 20, 2025 Church Council Minutes

There was a correction made to the August minutes - changing the spelling of Creighton Van Horn's last name (please remove the "e").

It was moved (Al), seconded (Michael) and unanimously passed to approve the August minutes as corrected.

Consent Approval of Reports to Council – John Rarick

- Pastor Tim Delkeskamp's Report
- Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp's Report
- Pastor Steve Herder's Report
- School Board Report
- Global Ministries Team Report

It was moved (Michael), seconded (Al) and unanimously passed to approve the Reports to Council.

Director of Operations Report

It was moved (Carrie), seconded (CVH) and unanimously passed to approve the Director of Operations Report, which includes approving the agenda for the 9.29.25 Congregational Meeting.

Information Items

- **Reflections on empowering and equipping, affirming and celebrating as we lead the culture of abundance at Ascension.**

Shared stories:

-Kaylee feels valued based on recent training sessions with Carrie Leonard and the Executive Team.

-CVH has initiated discussions with Food Share to connect the Ascension food pantry and this service.

-PT recognizes that the Kingdom Builders documentary is a great example of empowering, equipping, affirming and celebrating all the good work that goes on at ALC.

How can we encourage members and young people to develop new stories of generosity - through technology, videos, spreading the word, etc

-PC recognizes that Jennelle Smith (Worship Coordinator/Childrens' Ministry Director) wanted to empower and equip sunday school teachers by crating a consistent direction in curriculum. She did this by hosting meetings, and several different forms of communication. She also gave thank you gifts for all Sunday school teachers (pumpkin and note)

-Michael recognizes how Ashley Steere (School Board President) celebrated Ascension and the church, at a recent conference for the School of Nursing at Pepperdine. With a nursing background, and now as a nursing educator, Ashley affirmed how her faith has helped to guide her in her profession.

-Carrie shared that she met a family at a service who have been visiting for several months. Since they have children, she connected them with Spencer and Gemma, in hopes that the will family be encouraged to participate in youth activities and programs.

- **Joint Church Council / School Board Meeting—Wednesday October 15, 2025 at 5:30PM in Founders Hall.**

Closing Prayer – Crystal Bryant

Adjournment

It was moved (Carrie), seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM



Pastor Tim's Ministry Report- October 2025

Grace and peace my sisters and brothers in Christ, here, joyfully submitted, is my report for October:

Joint meeting of School Board and Church Council: I am looking forward to our time together with the school board on Wednesday, October 15th. It will be an incredibly important conversation about the One Ascension work we are doing together. Our executive staff team will be presenting what we feel will be an important opportunity to ensure financial stability into the future as we recommend funding the reserve funding that our Council and Schoolboard has been studying now for the last year and a half. Creating an adequate reserve fund does not always come with the instant gratitude that spending money can provide, but it is an incredibly valuable way to ensure the health of an organization like ours which has significant capital to maintain from year to year. I very much appreciate the concern that the council has shown for this as we invest in the long-term health of our organization. It will be a fruitful conversation.

Remarkable CYF momentum: If you aren't aware, great things are happening in Children, Youth and Family ministries these days. Numbers such as 30 plus children in confirmation and 20ish highschoolers coming to Sunday Night Bible Study. And things continue to grow as Pastor Chamie works with Spencer, Kaya and James to produce and excellent program of study and fellowship.

In addition, the experiment to have 2 Sunday Schools (one at 9am and one at 10:30) each Sunday is working well thanks to the oversight of Jenelle Smith and the help she is receiving from her volunteer teachers.

And then, last Sunday evening for our "Full-Moon Hike," we had over 100 people! This is nothing short of phenomenal.

Good start to the school year: Now that we are over a month in, I will pronounce that we have had an excellent start to the school year. Rich Gregory is working well with his newly formed administrative team. I commend Rich for these last years of having to cover so much of the principal work that he now can share with Heather. In addition to this, Amanda is doing a stellar job in replacing Connie. What excites me most about this is that it has created space for the school to move forward with strategic planning. We will hear more about this at our joint School Board meeting.

Annual Meeting Presentation: Thank you to all (John, Kaylee, Creighton, Steve) who led a wonderful Annual meeting. From my perspective it went incredibly well and gave those who attended a good picture of the good status of One Ascension. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to talk about how I want to lead One Ascension into the future. As a summary reminder of what I said:

In 10 years, Ascension Lutheran Church will....

...be a congregation that is financially stable.

- We will have reasonable/no debt
- We will have sufficient reserves in place for capital expenditures
- We will have a process by which reserve needs are evaluated on a regular cadence (3-5 years)
- Stewardship education and commitment is part of our culture.

...be a congregation that is sure of our mission.

- Our identity and purpose are lived out in our worship and how we serve.
- Our identity and purpose are evident to our local community.
- We continue to try and grow as a community and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ

...be a congregation that has established a Culture of Leadership.

- Our Executive Team is intentional about developing leadership skills throughout our employee base.
- We will be a place that welcomes, supports, and integrates ministry leader interns.
- We will be a place where those exploring ministry as a vocation can spend time in discernment.
- We will continue to develop volunteer leadership as we encourage and equip and affirm and celebrate.

In conclusion, I continue to be energized and take joy in being the senior pastor of such a wonderful church community. Truly we are a place where people love our Lord and serve with passion and joy.

In his service,

Pastor Tim

Pastor Chamie's September 2025 Council Report

Children, Youth, & Family

Children



Sunday school kids got to take highlighters home with them to remember the lesson!

We kicked off Sunday school for the school year on September 14 and had over 30 kids in attendance between the 9:00 and 10:30 services. Jenelle and I are very excited about the new curriculum we are using this year and how it is in series that last 4 to 6 weeks. For each series, the students have a memory verse. To inspire attendance, we decided to do a “prize jar.” Each week of the series that students are at Sunday school, they get to put their name in the jar. Then at the end of the series, a name is drawn for each Sunday school class. They receive a prize that is related to the series theme. September’s theme (into the first week of October) was “Backpack Blessings.” Students were encouraged to “highlight the good in others.” We are thankful for returning Sunday school teachers to the 9:00 service time - Vicki Weeks, Rachel Bowen, Chandler Ruggeiro, and Chelsea Ruggeiro. We are thankful for new Sunday school teachers at 10:30 - Christina Woolsey and Cate Moss.

For each series, we are also lifting up a service project. In September, all of our Sunday school children packed school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Starting in

October through November, we are encouraging kids to bring food for the food pantry. They will tour our campus food pantry in November.

Jenelle and I participated in two webinars from Group Publishing about a new program called “Team Family.” It is a quarterly event to gather families together with the goal to help families celebrate the season and connect home life and faith life. We are very excited to do our first Team Family event in October. We haven’t had much time to plan this one, but we want to give it a try and get feedback from our families.



Sunday school kids doing the activity for the day.



A definite highlight for me was teaching First Communion classes. Families come to just one session, but I offered three to include more children and accommodate different schedules. Jenelle joined me for a couple of classes as this is her first time with First Communion classes. I look forward to having her do more with it the next time we offer the classes. I love remembering the story of the Last Supper with the kids and reading them a wonderful book about communion. Then we practice kneeling in the sanctuary and

what happens when we take communion. Next I show them where Mrs. Brytzman prepares the communion. They love seeing the special tool used to pour the juice! We end the class with baking the bread that will be served on their actual First Communion Day.

Youth

High schoolers had an overnight on September 7 that rolled into Rally Sunday. Mr. Gottmer led games and activities. I led a late night prayer service in the sanctuary. We took all of the kids to In & Out at 10:30 at night. James, our middle school youth intern, was working then at In & Out and it was fun to see him!

Another special outing we had was Grace Fest. This was an all day Christian music festival at Lake Castaic. Mr. Gottmer has said that he wants to bring more Christian music into the life of the youth ministry. We took a dozen middle schoolers and high schoolers to Grace Fest. We got to advertise our church as we showed up in the Ascension bus driven by Elijah Lomeli. It was a very fun and phenomenal day as several youth were moved to tears by the power of the music and worship experience.

Both middle school and high school participated in our September service project of packing 200 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Confirmation kicked off in the latter part of September. We have invited 6th graders to attend this year with the 7th and 8th graders. The 6th graders don't have any requirements; they get to ease into the program. They 7th and 8th graders need to get 8 leadership notes and 8 worship notes during the course of the school year and have regular attendance at our studies. Currently we have 36 middle schoolers signed up for confirmation! This is very exciting! We will still take more - so spread the word! I love the confirmation team of Kaya Anderson and James Halvorson as our paid youth interns. We are still in the process of fully onboarding them. It's all new, but I am so excited to have both of them on board. They are gifted and called young adults, that's for sure! I also love that our team includes seasoned mentors Don Weeks and Carlah Schneider.

High school youth group is thriving under Spencer Gottmer's leadership. The last Sunday of September there were 18 youth at Bible study! That's the highest number we have had in long time! Spencer is passionate about discipleship and has been going through a book with the youth called *Knowing God*.



We brought lawn chairs and quilts to lay out our area on the hillside at Grace Fest as we got to listen to several different Christian musicians.



Confirmation students playing "Fast Friends" - a get-to-know-you game.



High schoolers at gathering time as they snack and catch up before Bible Study.

Interfacing with the Schools

As the students know, Wednesday is my favorite day of the school week when we are all in chapel together! We had a great month of chapel in September as our theme was focused around the Season of Creation. I loved working with music and worship teacher Kelsey Packman. Together we taught Worship Arts with the 7th graders on Tuesdays in preparation for chapel. We are grateful that high school senior Tyler Hassenbein is our tech person for chapel on Wednesdays - his school schedule worked in that he doesn't have to go to school until later on Wednesdays!



Jenelle and me at the ECC for Bible story time!



Jenelle and I started a weekly visit to the ECC to read to the "non-nappers" at 2:00 PM on Mondays. Sometimes we will go together, sometimes it will be just her, sometimes just me - but it will be consistent in that one of us will be there every Monday and the start of the week. Then Pastor Steve ends the week with singing to the preschoolers on Fridays.

Our school kids also participated in the kits project with Lutheran World Relief. Every grade TK-8 came through to pack school kits. We did right around 400 kits! I loved doing the intro with each class and being able to connect with all of the students. Vicki Weeks and Louise Evenson were amazing organizing this project with others from the church who they got to help.

I attended the Fall School Board Retreat. This was an important day as we work on strategy and vision for the next five years.

Worship... and baptisms... and memorials



We sure did have a lot of children and youth come up for the Backpack Blessing on Rally Sunday!



Rally Sunday was a great day of kicking off a new school year. We had so many students and youth come forward to the Backpack Blessing which was led by the CYF team - Jenelle, Spencer, Kaya, James, and me. I was in tears watching Mark Foreman's amazing Kingdom Builders film at the lunch.

During worship, I baptized Elizabeth. She came into the sanctuary that morning with so much happiness and joy. I found it to be such a special day and I couldn't stop the tears in worship during her baptism. Pastor Tim and I both participated in a private baptism of a first grader (yes, I cried at that one, too).

My clergy coach encouraged me to retreat away for a day to go through all of the Advent and Christmas scriptures and put together the material for all of the musicians and worship team. She advised that doing it in September is better for everyone. So I took a Thursday and did just that and now all the leaders in worship have the Advent/Christmas worship chart! We will be meeting in October to go over all of this.

I led the memorial for Matthew Harrington. His daughter Camille Harrington teaches 1st grade at Ascension Lutheran School. I assisted in the memorial for long time church member Mara Hassenbein's mom.

Other

Lutheran Connections. I attended the installation of Pastor Beth, the new campus pastor at California Lutheran University. It felt good to be there with other Ascension members and to welcome Pastor Beth. Bishop Bos delivered a great message for the day. Our middle school youth intern, Kaya, was in the small group that sang at the installation.

Women's Ministry.
I attended the kick-off
breakfast for the
**Women's Monday
Morning Bible Study.**

It is exciting to know that 80 women are a part of this Bible study! I led **Word & Wine** in September at my dear friend Marcella's vineyard - right here in Thousand Oaks. We talked about John 15 where Jesus says he is the vine and we are the branches - which seemed appropriate to study while at a vineyard! It was a very lovely evening with a couple of dozen very lovely women.



Word & Wine



Garden Class. I taught a 3-week therapeutic gardening class that had 17 participants. Each week we did something hands-on with plants and then I did a bit of “plant science/gardening 101” as well as the spiritual/biblical/faith connection. We started in the Ascension Garden outside of the “bungalow” (the modular at the far end of the parking lot) and then ending in the Nature Lab (located in the bungalow). I loved being able to use things I learned from my time getting my certificate in horticultural therapy. It always does my heart well to combine faith and gardening!

Adult Sunday School. I taught adult Sunday school on the last Sunday of September as we were about ready to close out the Season of Creation. I showed three different videos of churches connecting to creation. Then I gave a little tour of the parking lot garden boxes which are and will be planted with natives.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Chamie

Church Council Report – Sept. 30, 2025 – Pastor Steve Herder

The month of September began with Labor Day, and we prayed for the safety and well-being of all workers, and for those who are either unemployed or underemployed. These are the neighbors that we often help with our Caring Ones and Agape Fund. In the midst of the difficult days in our country and world, here at Ascension we continue to follow in the footsteps of our loving and merciful Savior Jesus, sharing his light and compassion for all people, and God's creation. Thinking of creation, we are thankful for all the ways that our worship team lifted up the Season of Creation, Sept. 1st through October 4th.

September 1

Labor Day

Praise the work people do to sustain their families and benefit their communities and society. Pray that all will receive fair wages, work in safe environments, receive encouragement, be renewed through times of sabbath, and experience joy and fulfillment in their labor. Pray for those who seek employment and for the care, support and well-being of people unable to work.

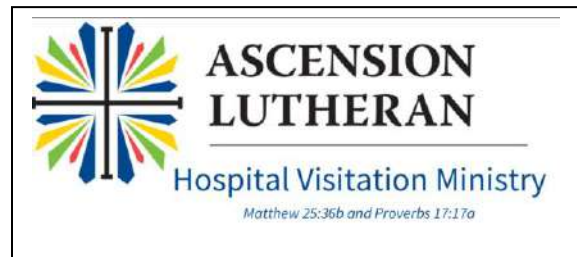
Each September our ELCA celebrates “God’s Work Our Hands” Sunday. We didn’t do that specifically this year as we have done in other years, but I would say we celebrated that theme in even greater ways with our Kingdom Builders projects. If you haven’t seen Mark Foreman’s amazing video about it, please do so, and share it with others.

We hope that you all are following our “365 in ‘25” prayers each day, with Bible readings. If you’d like to be in our email prayer group, let Linda Morrow know. We thank Susanne Hopkins for her devotions each Monday morning that we include on social media.

The month of September for Senior Adult Ministries included our ongoing visitation ministries, Eucharistic Ministries (home Communion visits), Christian Life Hours at senior living places in town, SAMs Tram, GriefShare, 3M (minor maintenance ministries), and Lunch Bunch! I’ll include a photo of my home visit with Badia (who used to teach chemistry at UCLA!) and a photo of the Christian Life Hour that I led at University Village Oak View, with talented help from Janet and Joel Weber. Twenty people worshiped with us!



This month I met one-on-one with six people who are willing to be on our Hospital Visitation Ministry team. Of course, your pastors will visit as well, and it's great to use the caring gifts of our lay leaders: Cindy Ashley, Linda and Callie Gray, Norm Guetschoff, Barbara Krum and Judy Marshall, who are willing to fulfill Jesus' words in Matthew 25, "I was sick, and you visited me."



If you or a loved one is in a hospital, your pastors and these caring friends in Christ would like to visit you, pray with you, encourage you, and support your family. We will keep the visit short, unless you'd like to visit more. Call the church office or your pastors anytime to let us know how we can support you and pray for you.

Our Community Concerns Team, besides the weekly food pantry ministry, the monthly Hot Meal Ministry, Chris' leadership of 3M (special thanks Don Weeks for help with Carol Ranschau's move; thanks Lory Breitzman too), we participated in the Harbor House fundraiser at Emanuel Presbyterian Church. It was an outstanding evening. Photo taken by David Newman, mayor of Thousand Oaks.



Our Global Ministries Team met in September to hear an update from Sarah and Ali from Kafika House in Tanzania. Yes, they were here in person, to thank us for our gifts



last year in Gifts of Hope. Pastor Chamie also shared some important themes for care for God's creation here in the Season for Creation. Louise and Vicki are busy preparing for all the LWR kits that will be put together this month and next. Carol Bjelland is leading the ministries for Fair Trade month in October. I'll be hosting our Conejo Valley Interfaith group on Oct. 14, and Carol will share about Fair Trade.

In October we will also highlight our work with Global Refuge. Pastor Eric Shafer who volunteers with this ministry will lead our adult education class on Oct. 5.

On Sept. 25th I was happy to accomplish a big task. I sent to our printers in Moorpark, Corporate Graphics, all the materials for Gifts of Hope, for them to send out the flyer, cover letter, and order form, via snail mail in October.

Julie and I joined about 30 other people at Cathi and Dave Peterson's on Sept. 28th. They hosted a beautiful evening for a fundraiser for Great Music at Ascension. Special music



was provided by a small group from the Conejo Jazz Orchestra, preview of the GMA concert on Oct 5th! Another fun part of the evening was to witness the SpaceX rocket leave from Vandenberg. You see the rocket contrails in the photo.



This month I celebrated my 43rd anniversary of ordination at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Wausau, Wisconsin. For it, this month I purchased a new Bible from Augsburg, the NRSV updated version, and am now appreciating reading and studying from it every day. On the topic of ordinations and installations, this month I attended the ordination service of Pastor Mary Ann

Harrison (Altadena) and the installation service of Pastor Beth Gallen as campus pastor at CLU. On Sept. 30th ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton finishes her term of leadership and October 1st, Bishop Yehiel Curry begins his term! We give thanks and pray for these leaders.



A personal highlight of the month for me was to be able to be with my parents on their 70th wedding anniversary on Sept. 9th. It was a very short trip but well worth it. (Thanks to kind and generous friends who made that happen.) This Facebook post on that day reached over 3k people! Thanks for all your love and prayers for them as well. They worship online with us every weekend.

October 2025



Every day I will bless You, and praise Your name forever and ever.
(Psalm 145:2)

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.
(Colossians 4:2)

Ascension Lutheran Church, School and Foundation
Thousand Oaks, CA

Praying this prayer each day, from Psalm 145: 17

“The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

Monthly Benevolence Global Refuge

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Our Prayer Chapel is open before and after worship services			1 <i>Yom Kippur</i> Pray for our Jewish siblings <i>Leviticus 16</i>	2 Pray for our new President Bishop of the ELCA, Bishop Yehiel Curry <i>Psalm 37:1-9</i>	3 Happy 9 th work anniversary, Kaylee Searway! <i>2 Timothy 1:1-14</i>	4 Happy Birthdays to Mike Marvin & Camryn Lomeli Outdoor 6pm worship with Blessing of the Animals <i>Luke 17:5-10</i>
5 <i>Indigenous Peoples' Day</i> Great Music at Ascension 4:00pm <i>Psalm 95:1-7</i>	6 Support Mesa Golf Tournament <i>Psalm 139:1-14</i>	7 Pray for Ascension's social media outreach. Share with others <i>Acts 1:8</i>	8 Pray for our Lunch Bunch fellowship 12:00pm <i>2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c</i>	9 Happy Birthday to our Council President-Elect, Creighton Van Horn <i>Psalm 111</i>	10 Pray for Christians who are persecuted around the world <i>2 Timothy 2:8-15</i>	11 Pray for all our support groups that meet on campus <i>Luke 17:11-19</i>
12 Many Mansions Bowls of Hope 11:30-2:30 2400 Willow Lane <i>John 14:1-6</i>	13 Pray for our preparations for Gifts of Hope next month <i>Proverbs 31:8-9</i>	14 Pray blessings for all our young adults <i>Proverbs 3:5-6</i>	15 Joint School Board and Council Meeting <i>Genesis 32:22-31</i>	16 World Food Day <i>Psalm 121</i>	17 Pray for all of our Life Groups and Bible studies <i>2 Timothy 3:14-4:5</i>	18 CLU Homecoming <i>Luke 18:1-8</i>
19 Pray for our Sunday Adult Education classes <i>Romans 15:4-6</i>	20 Pray for our Foundation Trustees <i>2 Corinthians 9:6-8</i>	21 Prayers for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan <i>Psalm 122</i>	22 Pray for each of our men's ministry groups <i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i>	23 Pray for our ELCA missionary in Madagascar, Pastor Kristin Engstrom <i>Psalm 46</i>	24 Pray for Conejo Free Clinic (fundraiser, 6pm) <i>Romans 3:19-28</i>	25 Pray for Rev. Scott Adams installed tomorrow at Holy Trinity, Inglewood <i>John 8:31-36</i>
26 Reformation Sunday (wear red) <i>Ephesians 2:8-10</i>	27 Pray for our Christian Life Hours at senior living places <i>Psalm 71:14-19</i>	28 Pray for our LWR Quilters today! <i>Philippians 4:4-9</i>	29 Thank God for our music ministries and tech team <i>Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18</i>	30 Pray for our Southwest L.A. Synod Bishop Brenda Bos <i>Psalm 149</i>	31 <i>Halloween</i> October 31, 1517 The Protestant Reformation began <i>Ephesians 1:11-23</i>	19-39

From Pastor Steve: I'll add this doc to my October council report. A relative of mine who is at another Lutheran church, is part of a discipleship and leadership class. One of their assignments was to ask a Christian leader these five questions. She asked me. I share them with you, Ascension, because they are some of the most important things that I could communicate about discipleship and leadership. I'd be curious how you would answer each of these questions! Let's talk.

1. How did you first recognize God's call in your life?

From both my dad's side of the family and my mom's side, I received the strong sense that each of us who are baptized into Christ, into his body, the Church, have a calling from God. Ephesians 4 is very important to me: "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all...." and leaders are called "to equip the saints for the work of ministry...." In baptism we are each given a strong identity and a purpose and mission in life.

To answer that question in a specific way for me, as a pastor, I'd say this. Besides the powerful family influences in my life's call from God, I'd give two more examples. When I graduated from high school, I went to the Holy Land with Dr. James Kallas, where we walked "in the footsteps of Jesus" in Israel, and Paul in Greece and Turkey, and John on the island of Patmos. This travel experience made the Bible come alive for me and I've been a lifelong student of it ever since. The other profound experience for me in my younger years, at our Lutheran camps in WI, was both being a camper and a camp counselor. These all solidified my sense of God's call upon my life.

2. What spiritual practices have been most life-giving for you?

- (a) Daily prayer time with God, and includes listening, with a very long list of intercessory prayers for people, ministries, leaders and countries, Psalms 145 and 117 (with countries that I pray for), Ephesians 3:14-21, and the Lord's Prayer. Each month I publish a daily intercessory prayer and a Scripture that either goes with that prayer or is a reading from the lectionary. That's been a life-giving personal practice as well as a congregational practice. In 2024 we did this under the theme "24 weeks in '24" and this year it's "365 in '25!"
- (b) Daily Bible reading, sometimes through the Bible, sometime a focus on one book of the Bible, sometimes in depth with just a verse or two, and often a focus on the Psalms. Since the Psalms were Jesus' prayerbook, they are ours as well! With my Olive Tree Bible app I have various translations, and amazing helps with the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament. These daily and Biblical language studies are life-giving to me. Since 1980 I've been a student member of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew.
- (c) Worship in community. It's a joy to gather each weekend with friends in Christ at Ascension Lutheran in Thousand Oaks, to worship God, sing the liturgy, hear God's word read and proclaimed, receive the Sacrament of

Holy Communion, share in the offering. At Ascension we give “caring ones” and those are every loose dollar bill in the offering plate that goes to help those who are unhoused, or who are unemployed or underemployed. A highlight of worship that is very life-giving is all the music and hymn/song singing! When I am away from Ascension, I love to worship at other congregations and learn new things of how best to lead and do worship!

- (d) Because we are saved by God’s grace in Christ, I am free to love and serve my neighbor, especially the most vulnerable, in my community and around the world. Love of others, service to others, encouragement to them, advocacy for the greatest in need, are all daily life experiences that I practice as spiritual disciplines as well. I will lift up two global partners that I wish every congregation would support: Jubilee USA Network, and Global Refuge. Many of us already support ELCA missionaries, ELCA world hunger, YAGM, Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, Bread for the World, and some Fair Trade ministries.
- (e) Care for God’s creation, walking out in it, taking photos of God’s beautiful creation, receiving daily emails about how best to advocate for God’s creation, supporting such groups, and talking about our climate crisis, are all important spiritual disciplines to me.
- (f) I thought of one more that may not be as often considered a spiritual discipline, but I would because it’s encouraging faith and ministries for others, and I receive much joy in doing this. Each day of the year I do two to five posts on social media for our congregation, sharing prayers, Scripture, devotions, updates on ministries here (church, school, and foundation), from our synod, other synods, our ELCA, and around the world from many global partners I enjoy doing this as a good way of communicating the faith we share.

3. How do you handle seasons of doubt and discouragement?

A friend of mine was fond of saying that the Psalms are God’s complaint department. This is sure true as we pray many of the psalms of lament, both individual and communal. Reading and praying these psalms of lament often help me in times of doubt and discouragement. Jesus prayed some of the psalms when he was on the cross and I imagine him praying all of Psalm 22 and not just the first verse from the cross. Also, I’m remembering Hebrews 12:1-2, in times of doubt and discouragement, and am thankful for Christian community to help, and look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Lately, the times that I’ve been most discouraged have been around the actions and words of political leaders, and even here there are some psalms that help me a lot to express my feelings to God. Family and close friends are a big help in these times as well.

4. Who has shaped your understanding of leadership the most?

That would be my parents, my grandparents, my immediate family and extended family, who have all modeled servant leadership. I think of this phrase that you have probably heard: “The ground is level at the foot of the cross.” In being “a little Christ” to each other and to our neighbor, there is no thought of hierarchy or comparison or “lording it over” but only of love, service, humility, compassion, and care for one another, with and because of the love of Jesus in our lives.

5. What advice would you give to someone who is seeking to grow as a disciple or leader?

- a. Ground yourself in daily Scripture and prayer, and in weekly worship with community. Be part of a small group Bible study or Sunday adult education.
- b. Grow in your giving of your time, talents and treasures.
- c. Learn from those that you see are good models of leadership. Do their lives display the fruits of the Spirit?
- d. Read from the best authors, or listen to the best podcasts, on the Christian faith, and on other leadership skills in psychology, sociology, health, the world, and our changing culture. Learn from the best Biblical theologians, mystics, and prophets throughout history.
- e. Be nurtured in nature, as one friend describes it.
- f. Both work hard and take times for sabbath rest, travel, or retreats. Along with this, exercise well to be a good steward of your body.
- g. Be careful where you get your news and monitor the time spent there. Also remember theologian Karl Barth said that we need to have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.
- h. Have a global vision for the ministry that we are about. Our work is always both local and global. Never either/or. Our God is a global God. (Actually, John 3:16 says for God so loved the “cosmos”; that’s the Greek word for “world” here!)
- i. If you don’t have a personal vision or mission statement, pray about what that would be for you. Talk about that with trusted friends. Tweak it as you seek to make it more wholistic for God’s call in our lives. Maybe think about two or three Bible passages that are most important to you and think of them as your “life verses” that continually shape you as a disciple and a leader. (For the last 20+ years my mission statement has centered around these four themes: we are people of prayer, lifelong learners, faithful witnesses, and world servants for Christ.)

All of you in this cohort will be in my prayers this coming year and I look forward to hearing how you all grow in your life of discipleship as leaders in the church! God bless you all!

Steve Herder

Ascension Lutheran Church, 1600 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
www.alcto.org pastorsteve@alcto.org

Church Council Report
Kaylee Searway

October 15, 2025
Director of Operations

Attendance

Last month I reported an average weekend attendance of 356 for the six weeks before Rally Day. In the four weeks after Rally Day our average weekend attendance has been 423.

Date:		Sat.	9:00	10:30	MISC	Total	
8/31/2025		42	242	87		371	Missing, used Average
9/7/2025	Rally Day 10 am service				477	477	
9/14/2025		60	288	78		426	
9/21/2025		57	246	98		401	
9/28/2025	Cowboy Church on Saturday	108	271	89		468	Missing, used Average
10/5/2025		61	250	86		397	

Annual Meeting

Thank you all for your significant efforts in having such a great Annual Meeting with our congregation. Steve Smuck, Mike Marvin, Camryn Lomeli and I have been working on a couple of follow up items from questions asked at the meeting. We intend to follow up with a couple of individuals, and discuss our long-term investment instruments with the finance committee.

Directory

Carolyn and Dianne have left into this project wholeheartedly. We have gotten a couple of photos submitted. Now that we are solidly into October I need to coordinate a couple of photo opportunity days with Pastor Chamie and the youth, and write a newsletter article reminding members to update their information and send in their chosen picture or have a new one taken by the youth.

Maintenance

Jude has been installing new window shades in some of the classrooms and portions of the church office and sanctuary building. Jeff, Cam, and Jude have been working to clear and improve the path along Colina side of the church office. Jeff installed racks for music stands in the sacristy hallway. Did you know that our maintenance team teaches a group of students about basic maintenance skills each Friday? The students assist them with a project on campus. Currently the students are working to improve the benches in front of the concrete stairs; they have made new slats to replace broken ones. I am really proud that our team shares their useful skillset with students each week.

Human Resources

October means preparing for open enrollment with Portico for 2026 health care, vision, supplemental life insurance, flexible spending accounts, health savings accounts, and retirement contributions. This year the offerings vary drastically from the Bronze+, Silver+, Gold+, and Platinum+ choices we have seen in recent years. The full-time school employees will have options between two copay plans and two high deductible health plans (HDHP's). Carolyn helped me prepared individualized health cost options with 12 calculations for each school employee: each level of coverage for themselves, themselves plus spouse, or themselves plus spouse and dependents. I'll be emailing each of those out so that they have some time to decide between the four plans by the late October deadline. Our church employees will choose between a copay plan and an HPHP plan for the same monthly portion they currently pay. Portico's plans have a 4% baseline increase for 2026, with the same percentage for disability and group life. We budgeted for a 5% increase, so assuming similar enrollment as this year, our healthcare budget number will be on target. I am really grateful to our Regional Representative for Customer Outreach Andrea Arey for offering to host a zoom with our team to answer questions about the health plans being offered.

Finance

Mike and Camryn have been "work-blocking" away to close September and prepare reports for the October 15th meetings. Having the first of the month fall on a Wednesday is the shortest possible turnaround, so I think they are doing pretty well! We will turn our attention to gathering documents for the audit in the latter half of October.

While Camryn and Mike close September I've been spending some time with Pastor Tim, Pastor Chamie, Jenni McCoy, and Rich Gregory to learn what we can from the reserve study and make some recommendations to the School Board and Council about the ERTC funds. It's been a good collaboration. Mike was really helpful in dispelling down the reserve study into some digestible pieces of information. I've enjoyed our executive leadership sessions understanding the results and discerning some possible actions. You'll hear more about that in our joint session with the School Board!

Thank you,

Kaylee Searway

Director of Operations



Ascension Lutheran School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 22, 2025

Location: Ascension Lutheran School

Mission Statements

Church:

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

Early Childhood Center (ECC):

To nurture the whole child, establishing a lifelong learner and a foundation of faith.

Day 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

Present:

Ashley Steere, Jenni McCoy, Anna Woodward, Kathy Roshanai, Chris Poveromo, Kyle Jones, Jeanette McNulty, Rich Gregory, Nelly Trumbo, Matt Hurdle, Pastor Chamie

Guests:

Brooke Costi, Kaylee Searway, Cameron Lomeli, Mike Marvin

Absent:

Scott Bean

Call to Order

Chair **Scott Bean** called the meeting to order at **6:39 p.m.**

The Board began by reciting the mission statements of the Church, ECC, and Day School.

Devotion

Presenter: Chris Poveromo

Chris led a devotion on *listening*, drawing from **Luke 8 (The Parable of the Sower)** and **1 Kings 19 (Elijah and the still small voice)**, reflecting on humility and attentiveness in leadership and service.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

- **Motion:** Nelly moved to approve the meeting agenda.
Second: Jeanette.
Outcome: *Motion carried.*
 - **Request:** Anna requested that the **Financials** be pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion.
 - **Motion:** Cathy moved to approve all remaining Consent Agenda items.
Second: Nelly.
Outcome: *Motion carried.*
-

Old Business

Financial Report

- Anna discussed that the positive variance in payroll expenses was due to several positions not being filled until later in the year.
- She also reviewed cash flow timing issues related to **ECC** and **ALS** tuition payments and proposed strategies to smooth revenue fluctuations.
- Rich outlined his discretionary fund usage and led a conversation on refining the **budget development process** for future fiscal years.

Motion: Chris moved to approve the financials.
Second: Jeanette.
Outcome: *Motion carried.*

New Business

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Presentation

Presenter: Kaylee Searway

Kaylee presented an overview of the **FTE (Full-Time Equivalent)** metric and explained its impact on staffing and budgeting. She will include FTE data in all future financial reports.

Modular Classroom Update

Presenter: Anna Woodward

Anna provided an update regarding the **modular classroom** situation. Additional details and next steps will be discussed at the **October meeting**.

Subcommittee Planning

Presenter: Ashley Steere

Ashley led a discussion on subcommittee engagement and proposed that each subcommittee convene and meet with their respective teams **prior to January 2026**.

ALS 2024–2025 Parent Survey Results

Presenter: Rich Gregory

Rich summarized key findings from the **2024–25 Parent Survey**, including:

- Insights into middle school enrollment trends and parent retention intentions.
 - Encouraging feedback and high enthusiasm for the upcoming **Gala event**.
-

Closing Prayer

Pastor **Chamie** closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment

Motion: Kyle moved to adjourn the regular session and reconvene for executive session.

Second: Jeanette.

Outcome: *Motion carried.*

The meeting adjourned at **8:51 p.m.**

Next Meeting

Date: October 15, 2025

Format: Joint School Board and Church Council Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Poveromo, Secretary



Wednesday, October 1, 2025

4-5:30 PM, the 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 - Bev Selle

OPENING PRAYER - Jill Binsley

Topic: Global Refuge

(also Ascension's October Benevolence Designee)

1. 4:00-4:10pm WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

2. 4:10-4:30pm Focal Topic: Global Refuge

- * Updates on what our synod and Church are doing in support of Refugees (Pastor Steve)
- * Update on Conejo Interfaith Refugee Team work (and other refugee ministries (Louise Evenson)
- * Pastor Eric Shafer will be at Ascension Sunday October 5, 9am service and will be leading the Adult Education Hour

3. 4:30-4:35pm Jubilee (Pr. Steve)

4. 4:35-4:50pm Habitat for Humanity (Pr. Steve)

5. 4:50-5:00pm Update from the Synod-wide and the Churchwide assemblies, Summer 2025 (Pr. Steve)

5. 5:00-5:15pm Gifts of Hope – Materials update, Volunteers at Reception Table in Narthex before/after services (All)

The selected beneficiaries this year are:

- * Reconciliation Lutheran Church, Juba South Sudan (partnering with ELCA Global Mission and Lutheran World Relief)

- * Friends of Fieldworkers (in addition to our historical gifts, this year we added the gift "Emergency Relief" to support new and unique challenges these neighbors have experienced this year)
- * Harbor House, Thousand Oaks (we believe this is our most effective way to help neighbors in our community who are unhoused)
- * ELCA World Hunger, God's Global Barnyard

6. 5:15-5:20pm Lutheran World Relief Kits - (Personal Care, Baby, School) (Louise Evenson)

7. Fair Trade – See the attached report (Carol Bjelland)

8. 5:20-5:25pm Oct. 16th is World Food Day. There are many ministries at Ascension to support individuals who are food-insecure. Brief discussion (All)

9. 5:25-5:30 pm GMT – Reflections, Planning (send Bev any calendar updates you would like her to post)

Fall 2025 GMT Meetings:

November 5th 4:00-5:30 pm Bethlehem Room

December 3rd 4:00-5:30 pm Bethlehem Room

Meeting Notes

WELCOME

Bev Selle extended greetings to all present: Andy Binsley, Beverly Selle, Carol Bjelland, Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp, Ethel Jordan, Jill Binsley, Marcia Koenig, Mary Wennes, Stacy Smith (remote), and Pastor Steve Herder. Guests in attendance: Ali Carey and Sarah Rejman from Kafika House in Tanzania.

OPENING PRAYER - Bev Selle

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Bev Selle

Bev was welcomed by the group as the GMT chair for the year. She asked members to let her know if they wanted her to print copies of any of the handouts distributed via email prior to each month's meeting.

Members will take turns offering the opening prayer at the monthly meetings. Contact Bev to volunteer.

Members were encouraged to send Bev items that would be of interest to the GMT.

KAFIKA HOUSE PRESENTATION – Sarah Rejman, Founder and Ali Carey, Director of Philanthropy

Sara Rejman and Ali Carey from Kafika House in Tanzania shared the ministry and work of Kafika House, a nonprofit organization providing a loving home for children receiving pre- and post-operative care and rehabilitation for surgically correctable disabilities. Kafika House was one of the beneficiaries of Ascension's 2024 Gifts of Hope program. Sara and Ali thanked Ascension for its support.

Key points from their enlightening presentation include the following:

- The project was founded in 2008; over 12,000 children have been treated with surgery and rehabilitation since that time.
- Two facilities are in northern Tanzania for orthopedic and plastic surgery; surgeons are now mostly Tanzanians trained through local hospitals.
- The cost per patient including identifying the need, surgery, and rehab is \$1200. Families are encouraged to contribute 2%-5% of the cost.
- 800+ children are being treated this year; more than 1000 children are expected to receive treatment next year.
- High levels of naturally-occurring fluoride in the water is a contributing factor for many of the disabilities that are treated.
- Funding is primarily provided by individual, foundation, philanthropic, and corporate gifts.
- For more information, visit FriendsOfKafikaHouse.org or kafikahouse.org.

TOPIC: CREATION CARE – Pastor Chamie

Pastor Chamie discussed caring for God's creation. The Christian calendar recognizes the "Season of Creation" from September 1-Oct. 4, which Ascension is acknowledging this year with special altar paraments and flowers. Pastor Chamie prepared a bulletin insert and delivered a sermon on the "Season of Creation" for the Aug. 30-31 services. The October 4th Saturday evening church service will be outside and will include the "Blessing of the Animals".

Other relevant comments and information include the following:

- We serve God by saving the planet.
- Caring for creation is in Scripture.
- Some of the ways that Ascension supports creation care include:
 - Fair Trade Lane
 - Blessing of the Animals
 - Benevolence offering in September supports C.A.R.L. (Canine Adoption and Rescue League)
 - Caring for the Poor
- Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary has a Center for Climate Justice and Faith

GIFTS OF HOPE 2025

The selected beneficiaries for 2025 are as follows:

- Reconciliation Lutheran Church in Juba, South Sudan (partnering with ELCA Global Mission and Lutheran World Relief)
- Friends of Fieldworkers
- Harbor House
- ELCA World Hunger, God's Global Barnyard

The global beneficiaries for GOH 2025 will be a focus at Ascension the weekend of Nov. 15-16.

The local beneficiaries for GOH 2025 will be a focus at Ascension the weekend of Nov. 8-9.

Stacy Smith has worked on the GOH flyer, and Dave Harkins has worked on the order form.

Volunteers will be needed at church on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th weekends in November, and possibly the 1st weekend of December to represent the GOH campaign.

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY UPDATE – Pastor Steve

At the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly held July 28-Aug. 2 in Phoenix, Pastor Yehiel Curry was elected to serve a 6-year term as presiding bishop. Pastor Lucille Mills was elected to serve a 6-year term as secretary.

Pastor Steve expressed thanks for Bishop Eaton's service.

FAIR TRADE MINISTRY – Carol Bjelland

The Fair Trade Ministry report was distributed via email prior to the meeting. Carol highlighted an upcoming special art project for Fair Trade Lane and Founders Hall. The children and youth of Ascension church, EEC, and school will be invited to help create the art.

Fair Trade Lane dates were listed in the report and on the GMT calendar.

Lutheran World Relief Kits – Louise Evenson

The LWR Kits report was distributed via email prior to the meeting. Bev highlighted that this year’s goal of assembling 800 kits will be exceeded. Numerous individuals and groups have helped secure funding for the kit items.

Volunteers will be needed to assist in the set up/assembly/packing of the school kits. Sign-ups will be requested in mid-September.

IMPORTANT DATES

Calendar items for September, October, November and December were distributed via email prior to the meeting.

OTHER: Upcoming GMT meetings:

October 1	Topic: Global Refuge; Gifts of Hope	4-5:30 Bethlehem Room
November 5	Topic: TBA	4-5:30 Bethlehem Room
December 3	Topic: TBA	4-5:30 Bethlehem Room

Submitted by Ethel Jordan

September

September 7	Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice - Ventura County is hosting two DIFFERENT immigration forums that may be of interest to you. 2pm at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 1251 Las Posas Rd. Camarillo, CA 93010 FORUM Part 1: Why are there so many undocumented people? How did we get here?
September 10	GMT Meeting: Kafika House, Creation Care, Gifts of Hope Planning; 4-5:30pm in the Bethlehem Room
September 10	Fair Trade Lane 12:45-1:15pm Wednesday with Lunch Bunch
September 14	Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice - Ventura County is hosting two DIFFERENT immigration forums that may be of interest to you. 2pm at Mt. Cross Lutheran Church 102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010 FORUM Part 2: What you can do to protect our community
September 18	Fair Trade Lane 2:30-4:00pm Thursday afternoon
September 20	Fair Trade Lane 5:45-6 pm & 7-7:15 pm Saturday night
September 21	Fair Trade Lane 8:30-9 am & 10-10:30 am Sunday Morning LWR Kits Assembly: 10:30am Sunday School Children assemble school kits; 5-6:30pm Confirmation Class and Senior
September 28	Luther League assemble personal care kits
September 29	LWR School Kits: 2-4pm, Founders Hall, set up the materials for the assembly of school kits this week.
September 30-October 1	LWR 8:30-3:00 PM Ascension School classes assemble school kits

October**Monthly Benevolence is Global Refuge**

October 1	GMT Meeting: Topic - Global Refuge, Continue Gifts of Hope Details; 4-5:30pm in the Bethlehem Room
October 2	9am PST Global Refuge Webinar: President and CEO Krish O'Mara Vignarajah; Update on Immigration Policy and Programs
October 4	Blessing of the Animals, during Ascension's 6pm service (outside)
October 5	Pastor Eric Shafer speaking at Adult Ed.; Global Refuge
October 7	LWR: 8:30-10:00 AM ECC parents and children assemble baby care kits
October 9	Fair Trade Lane 2:30-4:00pm Thursday afternoon 2025 Southwest California Women's Organization Fall Convention, California Lutheran University, T.O.; https://form.jotform.com/kristalshipp/2025-welca-registration-form deadline October 3rd; contact Julie Jenson, Convention Registrar (805) 218-8416, jujujnsn21@gmail.com ; Bible study & plenary sessions, Music, worship and meaningful workshops, renewal and connection
October 10-11	
October 11	Fair Trade Lane 5:45-6 pm & 7-7:15 pm Saturday night
October 12	Fair Trade Lane 8:30-9 am & 10-10:30 am Sunday Morning

October 14	Fair Trade - we've been invited to share a short presentation on Faith & Fair Trade with members of the Conejo Valley Interfaith group as they gather at Ascension for their meeting 11:30am-1pm. We are delighted to be invited!
October 18-19	Weekend Worship services- Dedication/blessing of quilts and kits
October 22	LWR Ingathering of kits and quilts, 10-noon, Mt Cross LC, Camarillo
October 26	3pm, Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Pastoral Installation of Reverend Scott Hamilton Adams; 9300 S. Crenshaw Blvd, Inglewood, CA 90305
November	
November 5	GMT Meeting: 4-5:30pm in the Bethlehem Room
November 9	Ascension Adult Education, 10:30am Church Library: Harbor House and Friends of Fieldworkers Local Focus of Gifts of Hope
November 9	4pm Thousand Oaks Civic Art Plaza, Scherr Forum Theatre; A remarkable opportunity to experience a powerful premiere documentary about a unique concert performed by Cantor David Shukiar in the Terezin Concentration Camp
November 12	Fair Trade Lane 12:45-1:15pm Wednesday with Lunch Bunch Ascension Adult Education, 10:30am Church Library: Pastor Carmen Retzlaf (Mission Funding Director, ELCA) and Pastor Lisa Kipp (Director Congregational Engagement, Lutheran World Relief) - International Focus of Gifts of Hope
November 16	Fair Trade Lane 2:30-4:00pm Thursday afternoon
November 20	Fair Trade Lane 5:45-6 pm & 7-7:15 pm Saturday night
November 22	Fair Trade Lane 8:30-9 am & 10-10:30 am Sunday Morning
November 23	Fair Trade Lane 2:30-4:00pm Thursday afternoon
December	
December 3	GMT Meeting; 4-5:30pm in the Bethlehem Room
December 6	Fair Trade Lane 5:45-6 pm & 7-7:15 pm Saturday night
December 7	Fair Trade Lane 8:30-9 am & 10-10:30 am Sunday Morning
December 11	Fair Trade Lane 2:30-4:00pm Thursday afternoon

Updated info re: Fair Trade to share w/GMT & Council -

1. Ascension is hosting the Conejo Valley Interfaith group of clergy and leaders Tuesday, October 14th. Ascension Fair Trade has been invited to give a presentation about Fair Trade, lead the group through a chocolate tasting & open Fair Trade Lane for them. We are so very happy to have this opportunity to share the message of Fair Trade & Fair Trade at Ascension especially in October – National Fair Trade Month. We're ready to offer info/assistance if other congregations wish to start Fair Trade ministries of their own.
2. Carol will be going to Wisconsin to join, in-person, the Ambassadors meeting of the Mt. Meru Coffee Project on November 1st. Following the meeting, a celebratory lunch for members of the congregations of the Greater Milwaukee Synod celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Mt Meru Coffee Project.
3. The Fair Trade Wednesday morning Chapel messages for Sept & October speak to hands & hearts & Fair Trade – hearts, promoting justice for people & planet, that guide hands to grow, sew, weave, carve, harvest & celebrate Fair Trade. We'll carry forward this message with Sept & Oct communications generally (email, TWAA, social media). This also syncs with our special art projects planned for October.
4. Special Fair Trade chocolates from Lake Champlain Chocolates in Burlington, VT will be available for purchase in October as we celebrate National Fair Trade Month. Flier is attached.
5. Fair Trade art project involving students & youth of Ascension continues to move forward. Additional details, including lots of opportunities to volunteer to help, will be shared shortly

Fair Trade Lane Revised Schedule:

October:

10/9 - Thursday afternoon

10/11 - Sat night

10/12 - Sunday AM

November:

11/12 - Wed w/Lunch Bunch

11/20 - Thursday afternoon

11/22 - Sat night

11/23 - Sunday AM

December:

12/6 - Sat PM

12/7 - Sunday AM

12/11 - Thursday.



FAIR TRADE LANE

WILL BE OPEN

**Thursday, October 9th
2:30 - 4 PM**

**Saturday, October 11th
5:45 - 6 PM & 7-7:15 PM**

**Sunday, October 12th
8:30 - 9 AM & 10 - 10:30 AM**

EVERYONE'S INVITED!
The double doors to Founders Hall will be open

October

is...

FAIR TRADE MONTH



Fair Trade Lane will be open:

Thursday 10/9
2:30-4:00 PM

Saturday 10/11
5:45 - 6 PM & 7-7:15 PM

Sunday 10/12
8:30 - 9 AM & 10-10:30 AM

ALL ARE INVITED!

The double doors to Founder's Hall will be open



Lake Champlain
CHOCOLATES®

Organic

Fair Trade

In October we have gift-able bags of assorted chocolates from Lake Champlain Chocolates in Vermont

Celebrate autumn on Fair Trade Lane this month with a four count bag of delicious chocolate leaves, wrapped in colorful foils for the season! This gift bag of fall-themed chocolates includes assorted dark & milk chocolates - filled with maple caramel, caramel and peanut butter & one other assorted flavor of Vermont chocolates. All organic and fair trade.

✓ Milk Chocolate
Caramel Leaf

✓ Milk Chocolate
Peanut Butter
Leaf

✓ Dark
Caramel
Maple Leaf

✓ One Assorted
Vermont
Chocolate



\$5 per 4 count bag

fairtrade@alcto.org

www.alcto.org/fairtrade/





MINISTRY OF LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF-LWR KITS, SEPTEMBER, 2025

DATE SEPTEMBER, 2025 SUBMITTED BY LOUISE EVENSON

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

Now comes the fun part of this service project at Ascension: the assembly and packing of kits for LWR. Here are the scheduled assembly/packing times:

September 28, Sunday

10:30 AM Sunday School Children, assemble school kits. Point persons: Jenelle Smith and Vicki Weeks

5-6:30 PM Confirmation Class and Senior Luther League assemble personal care kits. Point persons: Vicki Weeks and Pr Chamie

September 29, Monday

2-4 PM, Founders Hall, Set up of school kits materials

September 30-October 1, Tuesday-Wednesday

8:30-3:00 PM Ascension School classes assemble school kits

Point persons: Louise, Vicki and Pastor Chamie

October 7, Tuesday

8:30-10:00 AM ECC parents and children assemble baby care kits

Point persons: Jenny McCoy and Pastor Chamie

October 18-19, Weekend Worship services- Dedication/blessing of quilts and kits

October 22, Wednesday LWR Ingathering of kits and quilts, 10-noon, Mt Cross LC, Camarillo

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

All set up of materials, assembly and packing of kits will be in Founders Hall.

Volunteers needed to set up school kit materials- **Sept 29, 2-4 PM**

Volunteers needed to assist school children assemble school kits- **Sept 30-Oct 1, 8:30-3:00 PM.**

If you can help for any period of time, please contact Louise Evenson, lpevenson@gmail.com, 925-518-5795.

The fall is off to an amazing start with a great array of events that are attracting increasing numbers of Ascension-goers!

Unfortunately, this has also proven to be prime time for cybercrime. We have had at least two scam attempts in just one week involving internet “spoofers” who used the names of Pastor Tim, Pastor Steve, and our President-elect in order to fool members into giving them money and information.

1. A member wrote that she had received both an email and follow up text from someone who identified him/her self as “Rev. Timothy Delkeskamp office.fathercare1960@gmail.com requesting I buy gift cards for the staff.”

2. Several members gave us a head’s up on this widespread email:

“I would like to know if you're available, Steve needs to pay a vendor today but doesn't have Zelle or PayPal. Please let me know if you can help pay with either...Steve will send you a reimbursement check if you can help. Please get back to me as soon as you get this.

Best Regards

XXXXXXX

President Ascension Lutheran Church”

Pastor Steve and I immediately posted warnings on social media and I sent one out to our email list. I also wrote a new warning piece for our newsletter citing the reported 33% increase in online crime in this past year alone. And I have been researching this in hopes of coming up with some new methods of combatting internet con artists who direct their efforts at Ascension. This includes going to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center, where I immediately discovered that they are having a problem with people impersonating...the Internet Crime Complaint Center itself ([Home Page - Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#)). Also, in order to file a complaint, someone has to have been defrauded. I have sent out a bat signal to an ELCA Church Communications group to which I belong, asking if anyone has methods beyond warnings to deal with this, but so far I haven’t heard of anything new. I have more steps in mind and will report developments, and gladly accept suggestions.

On different note, as I continue to monitor our Social Media numbers, I see we already have 10 new followers (total 212) on our Senior Luther League Instagram since Spencer Gottmer came on board as Interim Youth Director and began posting items there. We are up 11 for Ascension’s (total 558) in the same time period, and 42 for AL School’s Instagram (total 861). The school has also added PALS (82) and ascensionlutheran8 (165). So, Instagram is a booming spot.

We are now up to 35 episodes of the sermon podcast, which is such a great option for those who miss church. I know I have listened to several and been glad to have them! We will soon expand into Substack (in addition to Spotify, Apple podcasts and our website).

Thanking you for your generous commitments of time and talent,

Stacy Smith Bosco, Communication Coordinator