

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Council Agenda
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 - 7:00pm
Bethlehem Room**

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

Devotion – Michael Feltner

Treasurer's Report – Steve Smuck

New Business

- **Fundraiser request for Hanging of the Green – Kaylee Searway**
- **Vote on an amendment to Ascension Lutheran Church's fundraising policy**
- **Budgeting for future church expenses related to pastoral sabbaticals – John Rarick**

Recurring Business

- Affirm New Members, Confirmands, and Baptisms

Old Business

- Vote on the Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy – Kaylee Searway
- Vote on the allocation of the ERTC funds in coordination with the ECC & Ascension School

Approval of Minutes -John Rarick

- October 15, 2025, Church Council & School Board Combined Minutes
- October 15, 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' Report
- School Board Report
- Foundation 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.**
- **The next Church Council meeting will be held on December 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

Closing Prayer – Creighton Van Horn

Adjournment

FUND RAISING REQUEST FORM

MINISTRY: Hanging of the Green DATE: 10/23/25

SUBMITTED BY: Kaylee Searway

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT:

Free will offering at Hanging of the Green
to offset expenses and
to benefit future Hanging of the Green events.

DATE AND TIME OF EVENT: Dec 7, 2025

ONE TIME / RECURRING: one time per year, please add to approved list

CHURCH RESOURCES REQUIRED: ushers & trays

CHURCH RESOURCES CHARGE HOG Designated Account

OFFICE/ADMINISTRATOR APPROVAL:  DATE: 10/23/25

COUNCIL APPROVAL: _____ DATE: _____

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT:**Fund Raising Policy & Procedure****P&P 3.1**

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to establish the policy and procedures for fund raising within the Ascension Lutheran Church and Foundation (hereinafter "Ascension" unless otherwise stated). While Ascension Lutheran School, including the Early Childhood Center (hereinafter, "School"), shall determine and maintain its own fund-raising policy consistent with its mission and governance, fund-raising activities that involve Ascension Church, Congregation and/or Foundation shall be subject to this Policy in the manner set out below.

Fundraising activities serve at least two important purposes. First, they highlight the specific mission, importance, and needs of the organization which is raising the funds. Second, they help to build community within the church and enthusiasm for its ministries.

2.0 POLICY

2.1 A fundraiser is any event, activity, or solicitation that seeks to generate income or goods and services for a specific ministry within Ascension including the School.

2.2 All fundraising programs and activities within Ascension must be submitted in writing to and approved by the Ascension Lutheran Church Council ("ALC Council") if not a recurring event listed in Appendix 1.

1. Fundraising programs and activities of the School shall be consistent with the mission of the School and the School's policies and procedures.

2.3 Fundraising should be in line with our mission statement and should benefit:

1. The Ascension General Fund or a special designated fund or ministry (e.g., Building Fund, Organ Fund, youth programs) or
2. Affiliated church organizations (e.g., Local Synod, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response) or
3. Entities that are not Ascension-related that (1) hold an IRS certification as a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code (e.g., Community Action Council, American Red Cross) and (2) have a clearly humanitarian objective consistent with Ascension's mission, as determined by the ALC Council or
4. Ascension-sponsored organizations approved by ALC Council and indicated in Appendix 1 (e.g., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts when sponsored by Ascension).

2.4 No fundraising activity by Ascension, including the School, shall include games of chance, including, but not limited to raffles, Bingo, or any similar games or activities.

2.5 The use of any church facilities such as, but not limited to the patio, parking lot, rooms, chairs, tables, sound and video equipment, must be requested and approved, and setup cleared through the office of Ascension's Director of ~~Administrative Ministries~~Operations.

1. All fundraising activities or programs of the School that involve use of any church facilities shall be subject to this Section 2.5 and coordination with the office of Ascension's Director of ~~Administrative Ministries~~Operations.

2.6 For fundraising activities and programs of the School that involve invitation to Ascension's Congregation to participate, written notice (at least ten (10) days in advance unless involving an

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emergency or urgent situation) shall be provided by the School to Ascension's Director of ~~Administrative Ministries~~Operations. This advance notice will facilitate communication to Ascension's Congregation and consistency with the Statement of Purpose above.

3. PROCEDURES

3.1 Approvals:

1. The attached request form must be completed and submitted to the office of Ascension's Director of ~~Administrative Ministries~~Operations for approval by the seventh (7th) calendar day of the month before each special event.
 2. The attached request form, once approved by the Director of ~~Administrative Ministries~~Operations, shall be submitted to ALC Council for approval before each special event. ALC Council approval shall be obtained before each special event is held.
- 3.2 All recurring events must be submitted initially for approval by ALC Council and then added to the recurring events indicated in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Recurring events in place at the time this policy is approved, including future ALC Council approved updates and revisions hereto, and included in Appendix 1, need not submit a new approval request.
- 3.4 A financial report or summary shall be submitted to the office of Ascension's Director of ~~Administrative Ministries~~Operations (Finance Office) at the completion of each fundraising event using expense form Appendix 2, or other format (s) used by the fund-raising organization.
- 3.5 Regularly scheduled recurring events shall report the results of their fundraising at the conclusion of their scheduled event (s) or at least annually in the Ascension Annual Report.
- 3.6 The church office shall record the monies received and timely process these funds consistent with Ascension's Policies and Procedures.
- 3.7 All net monies earned will be credited to the appropriate ministry sponsoring the event.
- 3.8 The cost of using church facilities may be charged to the ministry sponsoring the event. Facility charges shall be determined by Ascension's Director of ~~Administrative Ministries~~Operations and approved by the ALC Council.
- 3.9 Contributions received where "Goods or Services" were received by the contributor will not qualify as charitable contributions for tax deductions.

2 REVISION AND APPROVAL HISTORY

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS			
REVISION	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED	DATE
--	Initial Release	ALC Council	3/21/2012
1 st Rev	Finance Committee review of Rev 1		10/15/18
2 nd Rev	Finance Committee review of Rev 2		03/18/2019

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Effective Date: 3/21/2012

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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3 rd Rev	Finance Committee Review of Rev 3	Approved with agreed upon changes	4/15/19
	Submission to ALC council	Approved with agreed upon changes	4/17/19
	Appendix 1 – Added Christmas and Spring musical to list of recurring fundraisers	Approved by Council and School Board at joint meeting	10/16/2024
4 th Rev	<u>Updated from Director of Administrative Ministries to Director of Operations and update Appendix 1</u>		<u>11/19/2025</u>

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ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT: Fund Raising Policy & Procedure P&P 3.1

FUND RAISING REQUEST FORM

MINISTRY: _____ DATE: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT: _____

DATE AND TIME OF EVENT: _____

ONE TIME / RECURRING: _____

CHURCH RESOURCES REQUIRED: _____

CHURCH RESOURCES CHARGE _____

DIRECTOR OF ~~ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES~~ OPERATIONS APPROVAL:

DATE: _____

COUNCIL APPROVAL: _____ DATE: _____

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: _____

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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APPENDIX 1

Recurring Fundraising Efforts at Ascension Lutheran Church, School and Foundation

Ascension Lutheran Church

Children's and Youth Ministries

- Strawberry Shortcake fund raiser for CLU Scandinavian Days.
- Spaghetti dinner/talent show
- Easter breakfast
- Chili cook-off
- Conejo Valley Days
- Trash walk
- Parking lot sale
- 24 Hour Planned Famine for World Hunger (Either ELCA Hunger campaign or Lutheran World Relief)
- Cookie/Soup bags
- Lefse making
- Christmas dinner

Carillons

- Christmas greens

Chancel Choir

- Cantata

Women's Ministries

- November Thank Offering (see monthly benevolences)
- Bunco nights – money raised for special benevolences
- OASIS

MOPS

- "Twice is Nice" yard sale
- Christmas boutique

Men's Ministries

- Annual golf tournament

Stephen Ministry

- Yearly Christmas gift to Gifts of Hope, from Stephen Ministers

Community Concerns

- Angel Tree before Christmas
- CROP Walk
- Lutheran Social Services
- Harbor House
- Project Response

Global Ministries Team

- Gifts of Hope
- Fair-trade product sale
- ELCA World Hunger
- Lutheran World Relief & IMA World Health
- Mission Accompaniment Trips (Peru or other)
- Restaurant fund-raiser

Matthew 25:35 Outreach Ministry Team

- Tutoring Outreach Ministry
- CV Interfaith Refugee Welcome Team
- CV Women's Interfaith Network

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Effective Date: 3/21/2012

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ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT: Fund Raising Policy & Procedure P&P 3.1

Great Music at Ascension

- Concerts and Receptions

Life Groups

- Local restaurant fundraiser

Commented [KS1]: I think each group should ask on an individual basis

Twelve monthly benevolences – chosen by pastors on annual basis

- January – Willis Moerer Seminary Scholarship Fund
- February – Right Road Kids (formerly, The Dream Fund)
- March – ELCA World Hunger
- April – Manna
- May – Agape Fund
- June – Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences
- July – Gideons
- August – Habitat for Humanity
- September – ELCA Disaster Response
- October – Lutheran College Scholarships
- November – Women's Thank Offering
- December – Jail Ministry

Ascension Lutheran TK-8 School

- Annual auction
- Yearly fund appeal
- Annual fund – Bandits and Chili's
- School Branded Merchandise
- Local restaurant fundraisers
- PALS Fun Run
- ALECC and ALC – See's Candies; Toppers (approx. every 3 months);
- "Original Art" – September School sweatshirt sale – November; "Tiles to Treasures"
- Wednesday Chapel offerings – designated by student council for various benevolences
- Christmas and Spring Musicals – free will offering to benefit music program

Commented [KS2]: Does anyone know what this is?

Early Childhood Center

- ECC Branded Merchandise
- "Original Art"
- Local restaurant fundraisers

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Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation

- Emphasis the first weekend of November
- Anniversary or other special commemoration or celebration

Ascension Lutheran Church and School-Sponsored Groups/Organizations Meeting on Campus

- Scouts (Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownie Troops, Daisy Troops)

Commented [KS3]: I thought these groups had to fill out the form...do we want this an recurring approved item?

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT: Fund Raising Policy & Procedure P&P 3.1

APPENDIX 2

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Fund Raising Report**

Date: _____

Fund Raising Purpose: _____

RECEIPTS:

From	\$ Amount
Cash	
Checks	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	

EXPENDITURES:

Purpose	\$ Amount
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
NET PROCEEDS (Total receipts less total expenditures)	

Received From: _____

Signature: _____

New Members & Baptisms Report

November 2025

Baptisms for October

Name	Date Baptized
Lucas James Allen	10/04/2025
Miley Ann Shaw	10/12/2025

New Members for October

No New Members

ASCENSION CAMPUS ALCOHOL POLICY

Draft For Discussion Purposes

(10~~14~~302025)

Purpose:

This Policy has been established consistent with the laws of the State of California, the County of Ventura, California, and Ascension's Constitution, By-Laws and mission. This policy sets forth the application, approval, and implementation process for serving and consuming alcoholic beverages in conjunction with events on the campus of Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church (hereinafter, "Ascension" unless otherwise noted). This Policy, including the required Event Application Form (Exhibit 1) sets forth minimum requirements. Additional requirements may be imposed and implemented by Ascension's Church Council. Exceptions to this Policy, the Event Application, and the requirements herein must be approved by Ascension's Church Council.

As a faith community comprised of Church, School and Foundation, the members of the Ascension community lead and host ministry and fellowship programs and events, furthering Ascension's mission. These programs and events, occurring throughout the calendar year, use campus sites and facilities. This Policy, subject to the terms and conditions herein, shall permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with ministry, fellowship, and School events and programs on campus. It is the expectation that alcoholic beverages are consumed responsibly, with health and safety in mind.

Policy:

Alcoholic beverages are permitted on Ascension's campus, to be served and consumed in conjunction with Ascension events and programs, when specific permission is sought and granted by the Church ~~Council~~Office Administration in the manner set-out in this Policy. The consumption of alcoholic beverages shall not be the primary purpose of any event or program at which alcoholic beverages are served. These events and programs include, but are not limited to, ministry and fellowship meetings, gatherings and dinners; special fund-raising and celebratory events of Ascension's Church, School and Foundation. When required by applicable law or this policy, alcohol will be served by a caterer or food/beverage service provider holding required license(s) to do so. When appropriate, the ~~Council~~Church Office Administration may approve the careful service of beer or wine by a caterer or host under the provision of our joint host alcohol insurance coverage.

Procedure:

Definitions:

Ascension: Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church, School and Foundation, hereinafter “Ascension” unless otherwise noted.

Ascension Campus: The property of Ascension at 1600 E. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks, California, including: (a) indoor meeting rooms and halls, including but not limited to, the Library, Founders’ Hall, Pederson Hall, and the Bethlehem Room; and (b) outdoor spaces including, but not limited to, the garden (behind the modular buildings), the garden in front of the Early Childhood Center, the School lawn, the Patio outside the West Narthex, and Parking Lots 1-5.

Event Application: Exhibit 1 to this Policy

Event Host: A ministry, organization, department or group of Ascension Church, School or Foundation; a member(s) in good standing of Ascension Church or School.

Permitted Alcoholic Beverages: Beer, Wine (including champagne), and Hard Seltzers

Scope:

This policy applies to all individuals, groups or organizations, regardless of Ascension affiliation, on the Ascension Campus.

Application: An Event Application to serve alcoholic beverages at a location(s) on the Ascension Campus must be completed and submitted to the Ascension Church ~~Council Office~~ for review and approval. The Event Application form is included in this Policy as ~~Exhibit~~Exhibit 1. ~~The completed Event Application must be submitted to Ascension’s Director of Operations not less than ten (10) business days prior to the monthly meeting of the Ascension Church Council. The completed application will be included in the agenda for the monthly Church Council meeting.~~

Locations Where Alcoholic Beverages May Be Served and Consumed

- a. Indoor Meeting Rooms and Halls, including but not limited to, the Library, Founders’ Hall, Pederson Hall, and the Bethlehem Room.

- b. Outdoor Spaces including, but not limited to, the garden (behind the modular buildings), the garden in front of the Early Childhood Center, the School lawn, the Patio outside the West Narthex, and Parking Lots 1-5. Outdoor spaces must be fenced, tented or staffed by security personnel to control access. (Method(s) of controlling access must be included in the Event Application.)

Insurance:

Specific insurance requirements will be as set out in the Event Application form. The Church Council-Office Administration may impose additional insurance requirements as a condition to approving the Application.

Security:

Security Officers must be on-site to staff any event or program where alcoholic beverages will be served and anticipated attendance is over one hundred (100) people.

One security officer per one hundred (100) anticipated attendees is required. The Event Host will use a pre-approved security officer (s) scheduled and assigned by Ascension Church Administration. ~~£~~

The cost of hiring security officers is \$85 per officer per hour, and should be paid to Ascension Lutheran Church in advance of the event. ~~will be the sole responsibility of the event sponsor. Ascension will provide a list of pre-approved, already vetted security officers. The Event Host will use a pre-approved security officer.~~

All security officers used for events and programs where alcoholic beverages will be served are required to be certified and trained through the State of California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control training. (www.abc.ca.gov; For Ventura County, CA, email: Ventura@abc.ca.gov)

Food and Alcoholic Beverage Service:

Beer and wine can be served by a host in conjunction with a meal or approved event per the approved application.

Alcohol may only be sold by a caterer or food/beverage service provider having current, retail licenses, in good standing, to sell alcoholic beverages.

~~When alcohol is served with food sold and provided by a caterer or food/beverage service provider, that caterer or food/beverage service provider must have current retail licenses, in good standing, to sell and serve food and alcoholic beverages.~~

Ascension requires that you use an approved caterer for events of more than 50 people. You must provide the name and contact information of your selected caterer on your application. The caterer must maintain Ascension's Church Office will maintain a list of caterers/food service providers, with current contact information, insurance coverages and necessary licenses to sell and serve food and alcoholic beverages. ~~Use of caterer(s) or food/beverage service provider(s) other than those on Ascension's list must be set out in the Event Application and will be subject to the approval of the Ascension Church Council.~~

The price of alcoholic beverages sold at an event or program on Ascension's Campus shall not be at a level to encourage excessive consumption.

Service of Alcohol:

All Ascension groups or individuals sponsoring or hosting events at which alcoholic beverages will be served must review this policy, implementation guidelines, including any special limitations or requirements added to the Event Application by the Church ~~Council~~Office Administration, and are responsible for ensuring compliance.

Delivery of alcoholic beverages for events on the Ascension Campus must be coordinated through the Event Host. The manner in which the alcoholic beverages will be delivered to the Ascension Campus (date/time/location/responsible parties) must be included in the Event Application.

Alcohol storage on campus must be confined to a secure area under the control of the Event Host or their designated representative who must be more than twenty-one (21) years of age. Alcoholic beverages for the event may be brought onto campus no sooner than three (3) hours before the start of the event.

At all events where alcoholic beverages are served, suitable type and quantity of non-alcoholic beverages and food shall be available for the duration of the event. Non-alcoholic beverages shall be featured and shall be visible as prominently as the alcoholic beverages.

No event or program will include any form of drinking contest in its activities or promotion.

No person under twenty-one (21) years of age and no obviously intoxicated person shall be furnished, served or given an alcoholic beverage.

~~No person under twenty-one (21) years of age may serve any alcoholic beverage.~~

Servers and event assistants are prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverage at events.

Serving of alcoholic beverages must be discontinued at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled ending of the event or program.

Alcoholic beverages or containers shall be removed from the event site only by the Event Host or the event's food and beverage caterer(s) or service provider(s). No one under twenty-one (21) years of age shall be involved in removing alcoholic beverages or containers. All alcoholic beverages and containers (empty or not empty) shall be immediately removed from the event site by the Event Host or the food and beverage caterer(s) or service provider(s) at the conclusion of the event.

The Event Host or designated event caterer(s) or food/beverage service provider(s) is responsible for the verification of identification and legal age of all guests consuming or being served alcohol.

The Event Host or the caterer/food and beverage service provider is liable for ensuring the service of alcoholic beverages is appropriate and compliant with this Policy.

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT:

One Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy

P&P 5.2

1.0 PURPOSE

This Policy has been established consistent with the laws of the State of California, the County of Ventura, California, and Ascension's Constitution, By-Laws and mission. This policy sets forth the application, approval, and implementation process for serving and consuming alcoholic beverages in conjunction with events on the campus of Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church (hereinafter, "Ascension" unless otherwise noted). This Policy, including the required Event Application Form (Exhibit 1) sets forth minimum requirements. Additional requirements may be imposed and implemented by Ascension's Church Council. Exceptions to this Policy, the Event Application, and the requirements herein must be approved by Ascension's Church Council.

As a faith community comprised of Church, School and Foundation, the members of the Ascension community lead and host ministry and fellowship programs and events, furthering Ascension's mission. These programs and events, occurring throughout the calendar year, use campus sites and facilities. This Policy, subject to the terms and conditions herein, shall permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with ministry, fellowship, and School events and programs on campus. It is the expectation that alcoholic beverages are consumed responsibly, with health and safety in mind.

2.0 POLICY

Alcoholic beverages are permitted on Ascension's campus, to be served and consumed in conjunction with Ascension events and programs, when specific permission is sought and granted by the Church Office Administration in the manner set-out in this Policy. The consumption of alcoholic beverages shall not be the primary purpose of any event or program at which alcoholic beverages are served. These events and programs include, but are not limited to, ministry and fellowship meetings, gatherings and dinners; special fund-raising and celebratory events of Ascension's Church, School and Foundation. When required by applicable law or this policy, alcohol will be served by a caterer or food/beverage service provider holding required license(s) to do so. When appropriate, the Church Office Administration may approve the careful service of beer or wine by a caterer or host under the provision of our joint host alcohol insurance coverage.

3.0 PROCEDURE

Definitions:

Ascension: Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church, School and Foundation, hereinafter "Ascension" unless otherwise noted.

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT:**One Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy****P&P 5.2**

Ascension Campus: The property of Ascension at 1600 E. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks, California, including: (a) indoor meeting rooms and halls, including but not limited to, the Library, Founders' Hall, Pederson Hall, and the Bethlehem Room; and (b) outdoor spaces including, but not limited to, the garden (behind the modular buildings), the garden in front of the Early Childhood Center, the School lawn, the Patio outside the West Narthex, and Parking Lots 1-5.

Event Application: Exhibit 1 to this Policy

Event Host: A ministry, organization, department or group of Ascension Church, School or Foundation; a member(s) in good standing of Ascension Church or School.

Permitted Alcoholic Beverages: Beer, Wine (including champagne), and Hard Seltzers

4.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all individuals, groups or organizations, regardless of Ascension affiliation, on the Ascension Campus.

Application: An Event Application to serve alcoholic beverages at a location(s) on the Ascension Campus must be completed and submitted to the Ascension Church Office for review and approval. The Event Application form is included in this Policy as Exhibit1.

Locations Where Alcoholic Beverages May Be Served and Consumed

- a. Indoor Meeting Rooms and Halls, including but not limited to, the Library, Founders' Hall, Pederson Hall, and the Bethlehem Room.
- b. Outdoor Spaces including, but not limited to, the garden (behind the modular buildings), the garden in front of the Early Childhood Center, the School lawn, the Patio outside the West Narthex, and Parking Lots 1-5. Outdoor spaces must be fenced, tented or staffed by security personnel to control access. (Method(s) of controlling access must be included in the Event Application.)

Insurance:

Specific insurance requirements will be as set out in the Event Application form. The Church Office Administration may impose additional insurance requirements as a condition to approving the Application.

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT:**One Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy****P&P 5.2**

Security:

Security Officers must be on-site to staff any event or program where alcoholic beverages will be served and anticipated attendance is over one hundred (100) people. One security officer per one hundred (100) anticipated attendees is required. The Event Host will use a pre-approved security officer scheduled and assigned by the Ascension Church office administration. The cost of hiring security officers is \$85 per officer per hour and should be paid to Ascension Lutheran Church in advance of the event.

All security officers used for events and programs where alcoholic beverages will be served are required to be certified and trained through the State of California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control training. (www.abc.ca.gov; For Ventura County, CA, email: Ventura@abc.ca.gov)

Food and Alcoholic Beverage Service:

Beer and wine can be served by a host in conjunction with a meal or approved event per the approved application.

Alcohol may only be sold by a caterer or food/beverage service provider having current, retail licenses, in good standing, to sell alcoholic beverages.

Ascension requires that you use an approved caterer for events of more than 50 people. You must provide the name and contact information of your selected caterer on your application. The caterer must maintain insurance coverages and necessary licenses to sell and serve food and alcoholic beverages.

The price of alcoholic beverages sold at an event or program on Ascension's Campus shall not be at a level to encourage excessive consumption.

Service of Alcohol:

All Ascension groups or individuals sponsoring or hosting events at which alcoholic beverages will be served must review this policy, implementation guidelines, including any special limitations or requirements added to the Event Application by the Church Office Administration, and are responsible for ensuring compliance.

Delivery of alcoholic beverages for events on the Ascension Campus must be coordinated through the Event Host. The manner in which the alcoholic beverages will be delivered to the Ascension Campus (date/time/location/responsible parties) must be included in the Event Application.

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT:**One Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy****P&P 5.2**

Alcohol storage on campus must be confined to a secure area under the control of the Event Host or their designated representative who must be more than twenty-one (21) years of age. Alcoholic beverages for the event may be brought onto campus no sooner than three (3) hours before the start of the event.

At all events where alcoholic beverages are served, suitable type and quantity of non-alcoholic beverages and food shall be available for the duration of the event. Non-alcoholic beverages shall be featured and shall be visible as prominently as the alcoholic beverages.

No event or program will include any form of drinking contest in its activities or promotion.

No person under twenty-one (21) years of age and no obviously intoxicated person shall be furnished, served or given an alcoholic beverage. Servers and event assistants are prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverage at events.

Serving of alcoholic beverages must be discontinued at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled ending of the event or program.

Alcoholic beverages or containers shall be removed from the event site only by the Event Host or the event's food and beverage caterer(s) or service provider(s). No one under twenty-one (21) years of age shall be involved in removing alcoholic beverages or containers. All alcoholic beverages and containers (empty or not empty) shall be immediately removed from the event site by the Event Host or the food and beverage caterer(s) or service provider(s) at the conclusion of the event.

The Event Host or designated event caterer(s) or food/beverage service provider(s) is responsible for the verification of identification and legal age of all guests consuming or being served alcohol.

The Event Host or the caterer/food and beverage service provider is liable for ensuring the service of alcoholic beverages is appropriate and compliant with this Policy.

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT: One Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy

P&P 5.2

Exhibit 1



1600 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks CA 91362

Application For An Event with Alcohol On The One Ascension Campus

1. This form must be submitted to the Director of Operations.
2. Nonalcoholic drinks and food must be available at the function.
3. People attending the function must not bring their own liquor. All liquor must be supplied by the requestor or approved selected caterer conducting the function.
4. Those conducting the function must take full responsibility for the proper behavior of those attending.
5. People attending the function must observe the Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy.

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

Ascension Host/Representative: _____

Type of Function: _____

Date of Function _____ Time of Function: From _____ to _____

How Many Attendees do you anticipate? * _____

*Caterer required for more than 50 guests, one security guard per 100 guests)

Location on Campus: _____

If Outdoors, how will access be controlled? (fencing, ect) _____

Estimated Attendance: _____

Type of food to be served: _____

Type of alcohol (check all that apply):

_____ Wine _____ Beer _____ Champagne _____ Hard Seltzer

Nonalcoholic beverages to be served: _____

Number of Security Guards Required: _____ (One per 100 – per every person over 50)

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT: One Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy

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Your food and beverage caterer:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

(All caterers are required provide a Certificate of Liability form that shows General Liability limits of \$1,000,000 each occurrence and \$3,000,000 aggregate, Liquor Liability in the amount of \$1,000,000 each incident, and must name Ascension Additional Insured. All caterers must have current licenses, in good standing, to serve food and to serve/sell alcoholic beverages. Please submit proof of insurance coverage and copies of food and alcohol licenses with your application.)

I/we agree to comply in ALL respects with Ascension Alcohol Policy. I/we understand that we are required to discuss our timing and plan to deliver/pickup alcohol and empty alcohol containers to/from the campus with our Ascension Hist/Representative.

Signature of Organizer _____ Date: _____

Statement of Support and Approval of Selected Caterer:

Ascension Host/Representative

Date

Ascension Church Office Representative

Date

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUBJECT: **One Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy** **P&P 5.2**

REVISION	DESCRIPTION	APPROVAL	DATE
---	Ascension Campus Alcohol Policy	Submitted to Church Council	11/19/2025

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

Present Church Council: John Rarick, Creighton Van Horn, Carrie Leonard, Steve Smuck, Crystal Bryant, Ethan East, Anita Cohen (present for Al Baker), Anna Woodward (via Zoom).

Not Present: Michael Feltner

Present School Board: Ashley Steere, Jeannette McNulty, Matt Hurdle, Chris Poveromo

Others Present: Pastor Tim, Pastor Chamie, Kaylee Searway, Rich Gregory, Jenni McCoy

Call to Order and Welcome – John Rarick, Council President

The Joint meeting of Ascension Lutheran Church Council and School Board was called to order at 5:50 PM.

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 (Ashley) and seconded (Ethan) than unanimously passed to approve the agenda.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

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

- Policy highlights include:
 - Beer & Wine may be served on campus for events and programs with an approved application
 - Service will be from an approved caterer and under the provision of joint alcohol insurance policy
 - One security officer required per 100 attendees

- Retail license and insurance are required if alcohol is sold (ie, cash bar)
- Careful delivery and storage
- Alcohol service ends 30 minutes before end of event
- Beverages and containers will be removed from campus at the end of the event.
- Discussion:
 - How do we handle situations like Fair Trade tastings, or Women & Wine events on campus? Details about insurance coverage for small groups, or ALC ministries TBD.
 - It has been suggested that one security provider be approved and used for all events, to ensure consistency and peace of mind.
 - Determine suggested & approved catering companies because of insurance and who has been properly vetted. How do we handle other ideas like Food Trucks, etc.?
- Possible vote at November 2025 Council meeting

Reserve study funds and update on Employee Retention Credit (ERTC) funds

- Presented by executive team (Pastor Tim, Pastor Chamie, Kaylee, Rich & Jenni)
- Having a reserve fund will allow a stable financial future, so a study was conducted to determine needs on a 14+ year timeline.
- Seven options for use of funds were presented (Options A, B, B+, C, C+, D, C+) as consideration.
- To date, \$677,623 in funds have been received as ERTC (Employee Retention Tax Credit).
 - Some proposed use of the funds include:
 - 1- Adding to a reserve fund
 - 2- Proceed with covering immediate projects (update exterior restrooms, patio resurfacing and new AC for sanctuary)
 - 3- Establish employee retention programs

Discussion:

- An employee retention program (as presented in one of the Options) has not yet been decided, but some ideas include 401K contributions, increase or update benefits program.
- Can the reserve funds be put into a long term fund with Thrivent or an investment program to prepare for projects that will be 10+ years out?
- Lots of time, thoughts and prayers have been considered on the options presented. The Options will be considered at November School Board, with an endorsement to Council. Council will vote at the November 2025 meeting.

State of the School

Ascension School – Rich Gregory, Principal

- Working to develop 5-10 year strategic plan to support a thriving school (9 bullet points that are part of the plan for consideration)
- 187 students currently enrolled
- 2 kindergarten classes this year, but now need space for growing school
- Working on financial projections, doing research (community, parents, staff)
- It is projected that in 1-3 years, the school will need additional classrooms, and physical updates.

Early Childhood Center – Jenni McCoy, Director

- 190 students currently enrolled (7 preschool classes, 3 infant and 4 Parent/Me classes)
- 34 staff members
 - Challenges:
 - public school TK is offered free
 - Tuition rates
 - Retention of quality teachers
 - Incredible positives for future success:
 - State of the art facility
 - Excellent staff
 - Reputation for being a high quality program
 - Flexibility in ages and classroom
 - Nature Explore Certification

Closing Prayer - Rich Gregory

Adjournment – John Rarick

It was moved (Carrie) and seconded (CVH) then unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM.

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

Present are John Rarick, Creighton Van Horn (CVH), Carrie Leonard, Ethan East, Crystal Bryant, Steve Smuck, Anita Cohen (Foundation substitute for Al Baker)

Not Present: Michael Feltner, Anna Woodward

Others: Pastor Tim, Pastor Chamie, Kaylee Searway,

Welcome and Call to Order -John Rarick, President

It was moved (CVH) and seconded (Crystal) to call the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

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 (Ethan) and seconded (Carrie) then unanimously approved to accept the agenda.

Opening Prayer – Ethan East

Treasurer's Report – Steve Smuck

- Offerings for September were off from what was expected. This has been a trend for the current quarter, and has resulted in an 11% giving deficit.
- We should communicate (Generosity committee or Treasurer) that we did approve a new budget with expected contributions. We need to reflect on where contributions are, and need to send gentle reminders to members about their commitments.
- Based on other favorable offers, the NET deficit to the budget YTD is \$17,117.
- Please refer to the Treasurer's Report for hard numbers.

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

New Business

No new business

Recurring Business

- Affirm New Members, Confirmands, and Baptisms

New Members and Confirmands

September 2025

Baptisms for September

Elizabeth Du Toit 09/14/2025

Noah Richard Poveromo 09/27/2025

Old Business

- Update on land sale – Creighton Van Horn

Application for new construction will go to city next week (10/20/25) and new maps will also be presented. Civil engineer to submit new maps for lot adjustments and parking lot, but all fees will be paid by Yonkin. CVH is hopeful the Planning Commission hearing will be scheduled by our November Council meeting.

Approval of Minutes -John Rarick

- September 17, 2025 Church Council Minutes

It was moved (Steve) and seconded (Ethan) then unanimously passed to approve the September 2025 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**

It was moved (Carrie) and seconded (Steve) then unanimously passed to approve reports to council.

**Discussion during this vote included a comment from Ethan, that he appreciated Pastor Steve's report and the big questions he asked to be considered.*

Information Items

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

Shared Stories:

- CVH brought attention to discern a procedure or policy, in which Council can empower the School Board to recognize and implement campus needs.
- Carrie recognizes Pastor Steve's work to empower and affirm so many others to offer ministry in our community.

At this point during our meeting, the School Board President (Ashley Steere) presented a recommendation, about the Executive Team proposal, during the Joint Meeting, regarding use of funds from ERTC.

"The School Board moved to recommend to Church Council to move forward with Option B or the reserve finding Executive Team proposal, including a recommendation of a tithe of 90K to come from the approved, but not received, 5th payment of the ERTC.

Discussion for November meetings: How do we account for funds that do not include facilities repair or improvements.

Closing Prayer – Steve Smuck

Adjournment

It was moved (CVH) seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM



Pastor Tim's Ministry Report- November 2025

Grace and peace my sisters and brothers in Christ, here, gratefully submitted, is my report for the month of November:

The month of November began with big, scary news. Jenni McCoy, our amazing Early Childhood Center Director (ECC) made us aware she will be resigning and moving to Texas where she will be helping to take care of her soon to be born grandchild. It is something that she always planned to do, we (herself included) just didn't realize that it all was going to happen so soon. Fortunately, she has given us until the end of March to find her replacement. Thus, we begin the search process for our next ECC director. The good news is that our ECC is a place where the best of the best want to be. Our building is state of the art, our teachers are excellent and encouraged and equipped to continue this excellence, and the culture that Jenni has created is a joyful one. The challenge then becomes to find someone who will help us by joining our executive team and continue to grow into the future. Our Principal, Dr. Gregory, will be leading this process and we will be transparent as we can as we move through it. We are hoping to have our next director on board by February so that there can be some overlap training in the month of March.

At our October Council meeting, Steve Smuck let us know that offerings and financial giving is down according to our schedule. This may be due to any number of factors including the reality that giving is simply below what we anticipated it would be. It also could be about timing as we are discovering more people are giving later in the year. However, no matter what the factors may be, we put out the word to the congregation through the newsletter, a congregational email and verbal announcement during church. Moving forward, we will continue to monitor this and take further actions as we may need.

Our Generosity Team is undergoing a bit of a metamorphosis right now. Our long-time leader, Karsten Lundring is stepping down, and he is handing off leadership to Ed Klodt. We are also combining two "giving oriented" teams together- the Generosity team and the "Be the Blessing" team. Our focus will be on teaching generosity through a series of practical challenges. We are taking as our model the Kingdom Builders' endeavor. It was wonderfully successful at engaging people who were sitting on the sidelines. And we were not only able to engage people but to tell their stories and encourage others to do the same. Look for challenges to come in 2026. And thank you to Karsten for his faithful and successful leadership.

It has been wonderful to work with our Executive Team on the process of going through the workbook “The 5 Dysfunctions of a Team” by Patrick Lencioni. Our leader, who has put in a lot of wonderful work, is Carrie Leonard and our team is taking it wonderfully seriously and so, as the result, good results are happening. We are building trust, growing in our ability to approach conflict, we are supporting our commitment to working for one Ascension. In the next few months, we will be looking at the last 2 dysfunctions which are “Avoidance of Accountability” and “Inattention to Results.” I am very grateful to both Carrie and our Executive team for the work they are putting in to make this happen.

Just to note, it has been a difficult season in terms of pastoral care. We have had several saints pass away in the last month- which include a growing number of people who don’t have a church home but are looking to us to help them go through the process of death. I am deeply grateful for the partnership of Pastors Steve and Chamie who are each carrying their fare share of the load.

Finally, I am in the process of reframing my sabbatical. Having not gotten the funding that I applied for from the Lilly Foundation, I have had to reframe my time. I still plan to travel and study but I now need to figure out what funding is available and adjust my travel accordingly. There are really 2 parts to it for me. The first is providing for the church and staff as I go. I believe it is wise to have a part-time interim Senior Pastor in place while I am gone. This will keep the staff dynamic in place while I am gone and not put too much of an extra burden on the staff. I have estimated this cost to be about \$10k. Secondly, I would like to fund some of my travel and study expenses. I applied for about \$20k for the “dream sabbatical” but now I am hoping for around \$10k. Fortunately, there appears to be some money available through the foundation and through the dedicated fund that we have developed out of our budget over the years. We shall see where I end up!

In his service,

Pastor Tim

Pastor Chamie's October 2025 Council Report

Children, Youth, & Family

Children

In October, we started a new **Sunday school** series (that goes through November) about the books of the Bible. We did this in anticipation of the Bible Milestone during Reformation Weekend. We gave out Bibles to 2-year-olds, 2nd graders, and 6th graders (6th grade is new this year and something we are adding as 6th grade begins confirmation).

A word about Bibles

I spent a lot of time researching and reviewing Bibles for different ages. I listened to feedback from parents who received Bibles last year. I had our Children's Ministry Director Jenelle Smith look at the top choice Bibles I had picked to get her feedback. We were very thoughtful and prayerful in the Bibles that we chose. What we are seeing is that culturally, people are less familiar with the Bible. We have also observed at both the church and the school, that Bible instruction has been weak in the last few years since Covid. Spencer Gottmer gave a Bible pop quiz to middle schoolers and realized we have a lot of work to do to help young people know the Bible! So this is something that the Children, Youth, & Family team is committed to doing - helping kids know their Bible! What Jenelle and I like about the 2-year-old and 2nd grade Bibles in that they are very age appropriate. In recent years, we were giving Bibles to 2nd graders that had cute kids' covers, but were "too much" for their age and stage in faith development. Jenelle and I also like these Bibles because they include prayers and questions that families can use at home to get to know these stories better - and Sunday school teachers can use as well. In terms of the 6th grade Bibles, we chose the journaling Bibles. These Bibles have columns on each side where students can write notes, draw accompanying pictures, and be able to easily mark what they have read and studied. The vision is that they will mark up these Bibles all through their confirmation journey and be able to look back and see all they have learned when they are confirmed... and then they will keep on reading and marking these Bibles through high school youth group.

First Communion

We had 11 children celebrate their **First Communion** during the first weekend of October. Then 6 more children asked if they could take the class as well - including two new confirmands in 7th grade who hadn't yet done the class. So I scheduled another class and these 6 celebrated their First Communion the last weekend of October. That means in October, we had a total of 17 children and youth who had their First Communion! This makes my heart so happy!



I had fun baking mini pies with the kids at the Family Fall Faith Fest!

Family Fall Faith Fest

Jenelle and I attended a couple of webinars put on by Group Publishing about their "Team Family" program. This program is about gathering families together 4 times a year for a seasonal event to help families grow in faith and connection. Each family leaves with a "team family" bag of resources to continue to live their faith at home during the season. We decided to give it a try and had so much fun with the families at our October gathering. We had around 115 people participating! We are excited for future "team family" events!



Families gathered together for a brief “teaching time” and prayer at the Fall Family Faith Fest.

Youth

Confirmation & High School Youth Group are strong and steady. We have a great youth staff with Spencer, Kaya, and James as well as wonderful youth mentors. We are still trying to find our “sweet spot” in how confirmation will look as we have brought 6th grade into the mix and we have so many students this year (currently 38 students enrolled in confirmation). We are exploring what that looks like in terms of “who does what... and how/when” between our youth interns and me. Kaya and James are the leaders for 6th & 7th grade and I am for 8th grade. We ordered a new confirmation curriculum this year - Faith Inkubators - which is a great curriculum, but we are still figuring out how to best use it and which grades should do which sections of the curriculum. We are also working on the structure of our meetings and how to help the students grow in faith and friendship and not have it be “cliquey” with kids who go to Ascension School versus those who don’t. This is the biggest challenge with 8th grade as that particular class has the highest ratio of Ascension School kids.

I also want to note that originally Spencer had just a 3-month “interim” youth contract as the high school youth director. This was to see how it went - and it has gone great! High school youth group has exploded in numbers. Spencer is loving leading high school ministry and the youth response is positive. I have been in discussion with Spencer, Kaylee, and Rich Gregory. Spencer will continue to do high school youth ministry on top of his already full teaching schedule at Ascension through the remainder of this school year. Then we are looking at having him still teach at the school the next school year, but less hours at the school so he has more hours at the church. This is a work in progress, so prayers are appreciated!

In July of 2024, a full time youth director position was created and was filled just one year as our person hired resigned to have a baby. I imagine some wonder if we need a full-time youth director. For this current school year, we are making it work to have Spencer approximately 10

hours a week plus our paid youth interns and me. I do feel, however, that we need more “youth ministry director/leader hours.” I am carrying more youth ministry duties than I probably should, but that is sometimes necessary during transition. Youth ministry is going well (the strongest we have had in several years), but for us to be sustainable, let alone grow into the future, we will need need to have the right staffing hours and duties.

On the last Sunday of October, we had a combined middle school and high school youth outing to the pumpkin patch in Camarillo. Jeff drove the bus. It was fun to have a busload full of youth!



Youth loaded the bus to go to the pumpkin patch!



Impromptu Toppers Night... these youth all helped with the Family Fall Fest and then stayed for 6:00 worship and then were hungry... so I decided to take them out for pizza and we had lots of fun!

Interfacing with the Schools

At the ECC, I got to do a presentation for all the ECC teachers on “Nurturing the Spiritual Lives of Children.” The following week, I did the presentation for one of the parenting classes offered by the ECC. I talked briefly about Fowler’s Stages of Faith, reflected on Dr. Lisa Miller’s book *The Spiritual Child*, and shared stories and practices as a pastor and mom that I did with my



own children as they were growing up. I hope to do a version of this class in 2026 for parents at the church and school - and community - as well as for our teachers at the day school. With the ECC class, I focused on the littles, but would like to expand this for elementary-aged children and teens.

I went with the 7th & 8th graders at the school to the ingathering of the Lutheran World Relief Kits at Mount Cross in Camarillo. It was a deeply meaningful day to see these young people unload and reload hundreds of boxes of kits and quilts coming from area churches into the big packing truck.

Pastor Tim, Jenelle, and I participated in the school’s Trunk or Treat. We were the Scooby crew - Pastor Tim was Fred, Jenelle was Velma, and I was Daphne. We handed out “mystery bags” that included candy, a Jesus pumpkin sticker, and an invite to children’s ministry events. All the candy we handed out was donated by a former Ascension student and confirmand who now works for a candy company - thank you to Brooke Snyder!

Worship... and memorials

Planning worship is no small undertaking. I am grateful for our great worship team. All of the lead musicians, Lan as tech-lead, Jenelle, Pastor Tim, and I had a seasonal meeting so we could go over Reformation Weekend, All Saints’ Weekend, and begin to do more planning for Hanging of the Greens and Advent and Christmas. Think of the Thanksgiving meal... you spend hours and hours preparing for the feast that everyone eats in a half hour. That is what worship is like... you spend hours and hours preparing for the “worship feast.” I really love doing this, though I imagine that most people don’t consider how much our worship leaders and pastors do for every weekend service let alone adding all the special things for the special days on the Christian calendar.

Pastor Tim was serving at Cursillo the first weekend of October and then went to visit our son in Arizona the third weekend of October, so I preached both of those weekends. We team-preached on Reformation Weekend. Thus October was a busier preaching month for me as I typically don’t preach that many Sundays in a month.

I led the memorial for Kathy Tremonti. Kathy’s daughter is a former Ascension teacher and two of her grandsons were my students when I taught at Ascension School. Kathy and her husband

loved coming to chapel when their grandchildren were at our school. They rarely missed a Wednesday. The fact that the family wanted her memorial at Ascension speaks to the importance of weekly school chapel and how we connect and minister to families even after they are no longer at the school.

Other

Blessing of the Animals. St. Francis of Assisi Day is October 4 and this year that fell on a Saturday, so we decided to merge the 6:00 service with Blessing of the Animals. I enjoyed working with Pastor Steve and Nancy Lee on this special service. It was more “low key” as it had been in previous years versus the “big event” that Blessing of the Animals was in 2025. The service was well attended.

Lutheran Connections. I joined Pastor Steve and other clergy as we robed and processed for Dr. John Nunes inauguration as California Lutheran University’s new president. I was moved by the words he - and his wife Monique - spoke at the inauguration. I feel we are blessed to have them as part of our Ascension family. I had coffee with the new campus pastor at CLU, Beth Gallen. We talked about ways we might partner with things like ministry interns and soul care of young adults.

Full Moon Hike. We had a full moon hike to the cross at California Lutheran University on October 5. The hike was open to all ages in our One Ascension community. We had 100 hikers! The evening was absolutely beautiful. My favorite moment was when we were all gathered around the cross and took a moment of silence to observe the beautiful moon, hear the crickets, and feel the blessing of community in God’s good creation.



Service. I love partnering with our Global Ministries Team, Community Concerns, and Lutheran World Relief to see through the eyes of children and youth ministries and connect our young people and their families to meaningful service projects. I also attended the quarterly “100 Women Who Care” with several of our Ascension women as we joined other women in the community in learning about and supporting the local needs of people.

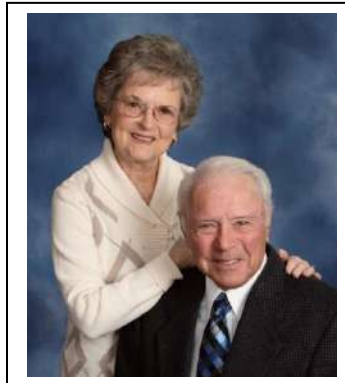
Building Partnerships of Care. In the month of October, I met with Pastor Erin Martinson who serves part-time at Trinity Lutheran in Ventura. She is also a spiritual director and grief coach. I will be teaming up with Pastor Erin in the new year as we lead a class on grief. I also met with Pastor Jen Witten who was one of our guest pastors last year during Holden Evening Prayer. Pastor Jen has been a hospice chaplain. She is also a certified “holy yoga” instructor. At Ascension, several of us are having these “seed conversations” about how we might have something like a “center for spiritual, mental, and physical wellness.” Pastor Erin and Pastor Jen would be great people to have on such a “resource team.” There are so many needs out there... hurts, pains... longings for health and wholeness... so I am looking forward to see what God will do with all of this. On a somewhat related note, my clergy coach shared with me in my October coaching session that churches are going to be seeing a “death tsunami” in the coming years. There are studies out there that note that church populations are aging - and the large boomer generation is aging - so many of our older church members will die. At the same time, non-church goers are often looking for a church and/or spiritual care when a loved one dies. My clergy coach says that she is advising pastors to ponder this and prepare by getting people on your “care team” and having resources ready and available for people.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Chamie

Church Council Report – Nov. 1, 2025 – Pastor Steve Herder

As a caring Christian community, centered in Christ, we both rejoice with those who rejoice, and we weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15). We do that each month, and I'll share some of the key moments for both of those sides of life for the month of October. This week I'll have the memorial service for Jean Renta. She was part of Ascension's first trip to Peru in 2008. Brenda and Chuck Heinrich were on four of those trips with us, and Brenda led our GriefShare group each Thursday, was a 10:30 Sunday usher, a Stephen Minister, faithful in Bible study, and feeding those unhoused. We grieve Brenda's death this month, as well as our friend Marilyn Castan, who lived with Alzheimer's for many years at Royal Oaks. Their photos are here. We have anticipatory grief with Margaret Skinner who has not eaten for the last week. We love and support each of these families, as we thank Jesus our Good Shepherd for carrying us now and into eternal life.



With the loss of Brenda leading our every-Thursday 1pm GriefShare group we greatly appreciate Stephen Ministry Leader Norm Guetschoff for now leading GriefShare. He has been assisting Brenda for the last three years after his wife Karen's death. This month and next Norm will lead GriefShare's material for those grieving during the holidays. Anyone grieving the death of a loved one is welcome to attend. The group meets in the Sonrise Room. (If you don't know that location, ask an office staff person.) Most GriefShare groups across the country hold 2 or 3 13-week sessions during a year. I am proud of Ascension for hosting a GriefShare group every Thursday of the year, except for holidays and holy days. Today, Nov. 1, we remember and give thanks to God "for all the saints who from their labors rest!"

We weep with those in our community, country, and world who struggle with providing the basics of life, even having enough food to eat. Your Community Concerns Team and Global Ministry Team work hard at caring for the most vulnerable. We look forward to this month's Gifts of Hope (more on that in next month's report) and we appreciate the great work of our volunteers and donors for our Friday Food Pantry. We witness the needs are ever growing. Your Caring Ones (loose dollar bills in the offering) and the Agape Fund (checking account) greatly help those who are unhoused, unemployed, or underemployed. Thank you, Ascension, for your generosity.

Then this past month of October there were many ministries and people for whom we were thanking God and rejoicing. To keep this from going on for pages and pages, I'll just name them, thank the leaders of each ministry, and share some photos.

1. The Blessing of the Animals with about 125 people and 75 pets. Thanks to Country Spirit for providing the music.
2. Lunch Bunch with a great group of friends!
3. Our Christian Life Hours at senior living places
4. Sunday classes on Global Refuge, my class on the movie "Conclave," Dr. Max Fuhrman's class on memory, and Dr. Carol Bartell's class on The Reform Legacy of Leipzig, Germany



Blessing of the Animals



Saturday, October 4, our 6 PM worship service will move outside to the big back parking lot. This is a worship service where you can bring your pets!!

Country Spirit's Nancy Lee will lead music. We will read scripture, hear a homily reflecting on a myriad of stories from the Bible that pertain to animals, and say a word of blessing over all the pets.

1600 E. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks



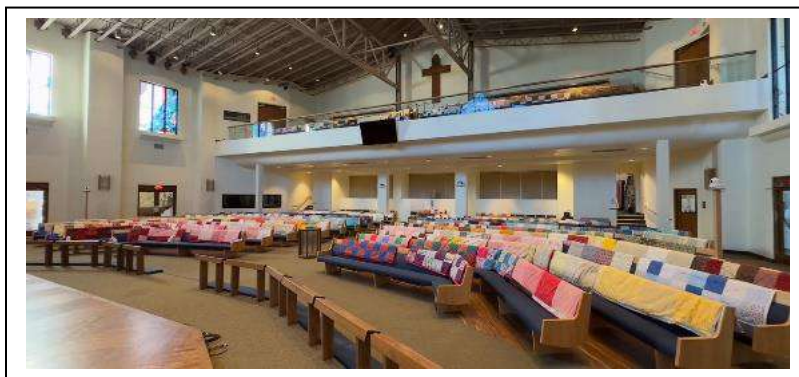


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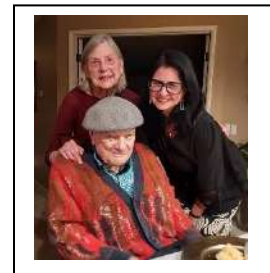
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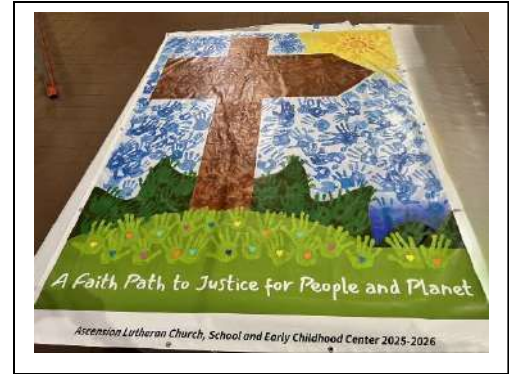
5. Lutheran World Relief Kits (over 900!) and Quilts (over 100!) Thank you, One Ascension.
6. October was Fair Trade month with the hand painted new banners in Founder's Hall! A full month for FT.



7. The Global Ministries Team Dinner for Dr. Christina Sanchez. She has been a very blessed part of our team, helping us with connections with CLU international students. Now she is at Augustana University in South Dakota. Pictured here with Marcia and Jack Koenig.



8. I hosted the Conejo Valley Interfaith Association here on Oct. 14. Thanks to Carol Bjelland for presenting on Fair Trade to this group. Here's one of the new banners.
9. The combined meeting of our Church Council and School Board, that I was glad to attend.
10. The installation of our new ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry (which I watched online), the inauguration of President John Nunes as president of California Lutheran University, and the installation of Rev. Colleen Windham-Hughes as rector of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
11. CLU's Founder's Day award to Mark Gulsrud who designed stained-glass windows at CLU, Holy Trinity, here, as well as our baptismal font
12. The 3-hour worship & installation of Rev. Scott Hamilton Adams at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Inglewood, working part-time there and part-time at Cal Lutheran
13. Our Facebook page has 2,454 followers. Stacy, Pastor Chamie and I post on it most days.
14. Special thanks to friends David and Blanca Negrete for providing delicious tamales for our Sunday between services fellowship time! See their photo to the right.
15. Personally, three joys were: hosting four friends at our home for CLU's homecoming; Julie and I attending Zac's soccer game at UCSB with his parents, our friends, Steve and Susie Lundeen Smuck (photo below); and then a quick four-day trip the end of the



Congrats, you have 2,454 fans! To keep growing, try posting or engaging daily.



month to visit

my parents. They are doing well and greet you all. Julie and I are hoping to visit Natalie in NYC around Thanksgiving time. A blessed Thanksgiving to each of you! Thank you for your prayers and you are in our prayers, in Jesus' name.

November 2025

Praying this prayer each day, from Psalm 145:18-19

“The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.”

Gifts of Hope
November 8-9 & 15-16
alcto.org/goh25/



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Our Prayer Chapel is open before and after worship services						1 All Saints' Day Remembering loved ones who have died <i>Ephesians 1:11-23</i>
2 <i>Daylight Saving Ends</i> Our Ascension Foundation <i>Luke 6:20-31</i>	3 For all who are celebrating birthdays <i>Philippians 4:1-5</i>	4 <i>Election Day</i> Prayers for our Country <i>Philippians 4:6-9</i>	5 Men's Bibles & Brews, 7 pm <i>Joshua 1:8-9</i>	6 Our Community Concerns Team led by Chris Daleiden <i>Galatians 2:10</i>	7 Remembering Borderline <i>Lamentations 3:19-26</i>	8 Pray for Sunday School each Sunday at 9:00 & 10:30 <i>Colossians 3:12-17</i>
9 Gifts of Hope - local outreach Arete Concert @ CLU 2 pm <i>Luke 20:27-38</i>	10 Our Maintenance Team: Jeff, Cam & Jude <i>Exodus 36:1-7</i>	11 <i>Veterans' Day</i> Giving thanks to God for our veterans <i>Philippians 1:3</i>	12 Lunch Bunch @ noon Fair Trade Lane open 12:45 <i>Psalms 133</i>	13 For all who are celebrating birthdays <i>Galatians 5:22-23</i>	14 California Lutheran University & President John Nunes <i>1st Thessalonians 1:2-3</i>	15 Pray for all our anonymous support groups <i>Psalms 103:1-5</i>
16 Gifts of Hope - global outreach, South Sudan <i>Luke 21:5-19</i>	17 Women's Monday Morning Bible Studies <i>Romans 14:17</i>	18 Harbor House & our food ministry & Friends of Fieldworkers <i>Proverbs 21:13; 22:9</i>	19 Our Church Council with President John Rarick <i>Galatians 6:9-10</i>	20 Our Griefshare group that meets every Thursday @ 1:00 pm <i>2nd Corinthians 1:3-4</i>	21 Happy Birthday, School Board President Ashley Steere! <i>Colossians 1:1-10</i>	22 Happy Birthday, Cameron Ruggiero! <i>Colossians 1:11-20</i>
23 Fair Trade Lane Open Thanksgiving Service @ Temple Adat Elohim <i>Luke 23:33-43</i>	24 Our School and their vacation week <i>Proverbs 22:6</i>	25 Our Southwest CA Synod, Bishop Brenda Bos <i>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</i>	26 Each of our music ministries <i>Psalms 100</i>	27 <i>Thanksgiving</i> Thanks to God for blessings in Jesus <i>John 6:25-35</i>	29 For peace in war-torn countries <i>Psalms 122</i>	29 Pray for our Children's Choir practice each Sunday @ 10:10 in the K room <i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>
30 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> Prayers for our new church year as we study Matthew's Gospel <i>Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17</i>					alcto.org	40-59

Church Council Report
Kaylee Searway

November 19, 2025
Director of Operations

Attendance

In October I reported that average attendance for the four weeks after Rally Sunday was 423. I typically report a six-week average, and Cowboy Church was a very well attended service. The six weeks after Rally Sunday average 402, and the latest six weeks average 402. In short, let's thank Nancy Lee for her work on Cowboy Church services, encourage the ushers to continue counting consistently, and let's all invite friends and family to church!

Date:		Sat.	9:00	10:30	MISC	Total	
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	
10/12/2025		47	245	73		365	
10/19/2025		57	215	86		358	
10/26/2025		35	281	81		397	Missing, used Average
11/2/2025		49	329	77		455	
11/9/2025		42	307	88		437	

Directory

I met with Youth Director Spencer Gottmer; the youth are onboard and ready to help! Pastor Chamie and I will pick a couple of dates for photo opportunities in the coming weeks and I will get an announcement in the newsletter and pre-service slides.

Founders Hall Windows

The eight "skinny" windows on the south side of Founds Hall have been replaced thanks to a generous donation. They have been leaking for quite some time, and now they are fixed! The new Fair Trade art will be able to stay dry.

Patio Wrap

Jeff and I met with Josh Warner of Concrete 911 and we are excited about the plans for the patio wrap around the sanctuary. Josh was able to answer some of Jeff's questions about maintenance and upkeep, noting that we will need to reseal the patio with a clear coat that we can apply every two years. We are planning an opaque

epoxy finish in a large geometric pattern to embrace the cracking that has occurred along the rebar grid pattern. Jeff had an interesting idea to leave the concrete under the labyrinth unstained to tie into the unstained concrete on the stairs and leading up into the school, but the concrete is not in sufficient condition to pursue that plan. We are grateful for Josh's expertise in helping us plan something that will be aesthetically pleasing for years to come and something that our team will be able to maintain.

I signed the finalized cost proposal and we will be scheduling very soon. The installation should take about a week and a half. I would like this done before Christmas.

Sanctuary Roof

The sanctuary roof was replaced in 2015 by Channel Islands Roofing for \$62,885.00. In the last couple of years we have had several recurring leaks. Channel Islands believed the parapet walls and drains were causing the leaks. They recommended that we do some additional sealing and repairs in-house. We did; they did not work. Jeff engaged Local Roofs for a second opinion; they assessed that the whole roof should be replaced, but proposed trying to address by replacing the tiles on the spire as an intermediary step. They corrected the overlay so water should flow properly. We spent \$12,600 in May of 2024 on this attempt. It still leaked, so we had Local Roofs come back. They hired an independent contractor to core the roof, who assessed that the roof material was saturated and damaged. The contractor's recommendation was to replace the roof, or possibly add a seal coat to gain 5-7 years before replacement. With the Channel Islands Roof being beyond the 7-year warranty, we called them to see if they would still correct the defective roof. They maintain that the roof is not bad, the independent contractor is incorrect, and the parapet walls are the issue. Channel Islands tarped the parapet walls before the most recent rains. The leaks persisted in the same places as before. Channel Islands came Wednesday, Nov 12th and resealed the flashing along the parapet walls again. We expect an atmospheric river Nov 13-16. We anticipate the leaks will still be there.

Jeff and I feel that we are coming to end of solutions that Channel Islands will be willing to provide on the current roof. If we experience leaks this weekend, we will ask them to provide a proposal for a new roof. We already have one bid for a new roof from Local Roofs, and can seek a third bid from EPI Construction.

Folding Machine

If you have never said a prayer for a piece of office equipment before, now is the time! We have a fantastic semi-automatic folding machine that folds 280 sheets per minute. We have a Duplo DF-915, which currently retails for \$6,700. I have no idea of the providence of the one we have; it's always been here and working great. When it slips or has a fit our amazing team comes and straightens it out. It's not been professionally serviced in years as the technician who used to do it retired and we been able to find a new one. The small batches we are currently running are folding a bit crooked, which makes us more concerned for the coming holiday season, when there will be a more volume folded. Our multipurpose device does fold, but only 30 copies at a time. We are inquiring whether that quantity can be expanded by changing settings or upgrading the trays. I've reached out to the CLU Printing Services Department for a referral, and sent two requests for a maintenance appointment for the Duplo DF-915. Please pray that it keeps working, and perhaps that we can find someone who can service it for a reasonable amount of money. If you know a technician that might help be able to assist us please send them our way.

Human Resources

Most of our employees have completed the open enrollment process with Portico. I have been working with the leadership at Portico to smooth out some of the bumps around open enrollment for their larger employers. They have committed to providing an accurate list of 2026 selections before the first 2026 payroll so that we can accurately update payroll records as the changes are taking place rather than reactively when changes should already be in effect.

This will be our first year of ACA reporting in this payroll system. I am a little nervous. Camryn and I still have some work to do in setting up and populating data into the payroll system in order to be able to get the information out of it in January. It will take some dedicated time in the coming month to prepare for the reporting. I'm less concerned about W-2's and 1099's. The W-2's are coming with data from two separate payroll systems, but the year to date data migration went we moved to the current system went well, and I'm hopeful it will go smoothly. The data for 1099's comes from Shelby and should be similar to previous years.

One of my larger Human Resources tasks for the coming months will be serving on the hiring committee for our new Early Childhood Center Director. I worked with Jenni Mc Coy and school leadership to update the job description into one that we feel proud of posting. While Rich Gregory finishing putting together the team I am planning to prepare some quick tools/training for the team to embrace in reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates.

My administrative team and I were blessed to have Carrie Leonard meet with us and discuss our Working Genius results. It's fascinating for me as a leader how we/I/God has chosen team members of just the right gifts and temperaments to serve in the roles they do. I'm not saying that it takes a particular Working Genius or personality type to do a particular job, but there are some trends that seem to carry across the teams I manage. I have asked Pastor Tim to grant me a couple of retreat days to ponder the team dynamics more thoroughly. I will take two days in December at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu to dig a little deeper, particularly into running good meetings and how that looks different across different Working Genius proficiencies. My maintenance team will soon take the assessment and meet together with Carrie Leonard as well. I'm excited to help them dig deeper into their own team dynamics and to learn how to be a better leader for them.

Finance

Camryn and Mike have been working hard to have October results to the School leadership by Wednesday, November 12th to prepare for their early Board meeting on Monday, November 17th. It's typically a week later in the month, but moved up for Thanksgiving this month. The most current financial picture is important as the School Board must make decisions about tuition for the 2026-2027 school year. I have been preparing some tuition history from the last couple of years, and clarifying financial priorities with Rich and Jenni so we can be clear about needs. Jenni McCoy and Camryn are gathering data about our competitors in the area, and Camryn and I will find some information on pay matrices for local teachers and how that informs the CAPSO rates we must exceed and being competitive in the market to recruit and retain good talent.

Our Council Treasurer Steve Smuck is coordinating a finance committee meeting to occur in the coming weeks. He's noticed that the finance committee policy is a bit outdated, with a last revision in 2011. Ideally we will be able to update that document to reflect our current financial personnel and make sure its helpful to new Treasurers and Councils in future. We'll discuss where to place our Reserve Fund dollars and consider some options for the portion of ERTC funds that we want to set up to benefit employees in perpetuity.

Employee Program

Our executive team presented in the School Board and Council Meeting that we would like to reserve \$112,623 from the coming Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) funds expected to be placed into a program that will

benefit employees in perpetuity. I met with Sherith Squires to discuss some options. A favorite that keeps bubbling to the top of discussions is placing the funds into an Employee Endowment Fund. We could anticipate about a 5% return on the fund each year as a dividend, which we could then use to benefit employees. A return of about \$5,000 per year could meet different needs depending on the year: it could send some employees to a conference to further their education. We could pay additional funds into 403B accounts, which invests in employees' futures with the added benefit of not being taxed now. We have talked about opting the church employees into state disability like the schools, which would cause our church employees to be taxed \$300-500 more per year than they currently experience. We could mitigate that loss of money from their pockets for the first year for about \$8,000. The finance committee meeting will discuss the options in further detail.

Alcohol Policy

I've been working on the alcohol policy per our last discussion at the Joint Meeting. There are two versions in your council packet: a pdf redlining only the changes I made after the Joint Meeting, and one in the final formatting.

After speaking with the owner of our security company, he would prefer to have us book the officers and pay via invoice, having the families pay us. A benefit of this process is ensuring that security is booked when needed and we aren't relying on the renter to do what they should.

It will take time to develop relationships with trusted caterers, so for now I have left the section for the applicant to fill in their chosen caterer and stated in the policy what insurance policies and alcohol permits are required.

Fundraising Policy

The other policy attached is our Fundraising Policy: I have not made material changes to the body of the policy: I updated references from Director of Administrative Ministries to Director of Operations, but my main purpose was to update the Appendix of recurring fundraisers. Recent discussions and our pending fundraiser application brought this to front of mind. I could have updated the twelve monthly benevolences, but I think it makes sense to keep those at the discretion of the pastoral team. I tried to broaden scope on others: why say a specific restaurant or two when it could say local restaurant fundraisers? There wasn't a specific ECC section before, so I added one.

Thank you,

Kaylee Searway

Director of Operations



Ascension Lutheran School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 15, 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:

Brittany

Absent:

Scott Bean

Call to Order

Chair **Ashley Steere** called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

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

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

- **Motion:** Nelly moved to approve the meeting agenda.
Second: Jeanette.
Outcome: *Motion carried.*
 - **Motion:** Nelly moved to approve all remaining Consent Agenda items.
Second: Jeanette seconded
Outcome: *Motion carried.*
-

Old Business

Modular Counter Offer

- Anna updated the board on her findings on past negotiations with the Modular Company, with an eye toward us buying out the existing modulars
 - Further discussion will be had at the next board meeting.
-

New Business

ERTC Payment

- Chris moved to recommend plan B regarding the ERTC payments as presented by Pastors Tim and Chamie, Rich, Kaylee, and Jenni. Additionally, a \$90,000 tithe should be considered, as recommended by Pastor Steve.
- Cathy Seconded
- Motion Passed.

Tuition Increases

- The board had a quick discussion on the topic of tuition increases for the 26/27 school year at ECC and Day School.
 - A more comprehensive discussion will be held at the upcoming board meeting.
-

Closing Prayer

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

Adjournment

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

Second: Nelly seconded.

Outcome: *Motion carried.*

The meeting adjourned at **8:24 p.m.**

Next Meeting

Date: November 17, 2025

Format:

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Poveromo, Secretary

**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDATION REPORT TO THE COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

At its November meeting the Foundation approved eight grants for One Ascension programs totaling \$16,570:

- \$500 to Carol Bjelland to cover the cost of materials to create artwork exemplifying Fair Trade values.
- \$2,810 to Pastor Tim for personal sabbatical expenses.
- \$5,000 to Pastor Tim to partially cover staffing during sabbatical.
- \$500 to Kaylee Searway to purchase “brand recognition” tee shirts for One Ascension.
- \$2,000 to Pastor Chamie to purchase “Milestone Bibles” for 2nd graders and “Confirmation Bibles” for 6th, 7th and 8th graders.
- \$4,000 to Jeff Hengst to purchase nine new walkie-talkie type radios for the church, school and ECC campus.
- \$1,000 to Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, professor at Pacific Theological Seminary, to develop digital tools to accompany a book series, *Building a Moral Economy: Pathways for People of Courage*, being published by the ECLA’s publishing company, Fortress Press.
- \$760 to Pastor Steve to fund Gifts of Hope

The Foundation’s total assets were \$1,972,343 as of November 9; they fluctuate by a small amount daily with the financial markets. The investment portfolio has performed extremely well during the 2025, primarily due to the surge in equity values. In recent weeks we have reduced our equity holdings by 15 percent out of an abundance of caution and temporarily put the cash proceeds in a money market account. Equity holdings now comprise 62 percent of the investment portfolio. The cash from the sales of the equity holdings amounted to \$238,000. The money market currently has a 7-day yield of 5.1 percent.

Alan Baker

Foundation Representative to the Council

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.

MEETING MINUTES Nov. 5, 2025

ATTENDING: Carol Bjelland, Carol Bartell, Pastor Chamie Delkescamp, Marcia Koenig, Andy Binsley, Mary Wennis, Pastor Steve, Bev Selle

WELCOME - Bev Selle

OPENING PRAYER – Carol Bartell (see attached)

Topic: Human Right to Survive and Thrive

(Ascension's November Benevolence Designee – Ascension Foundation Scholarships)

Focal Topic: Human Right to Survive and Thrive

Last month's GMT agenda included Global Refuge, Jubilee, Habitat for Humanity, Gifts of Hope, LWR Kits, Fair Trade, Hunger - World Food Day (October 16, 2025). Going a little further

- Martin Luther posts 95 Theses October 31, 1517. "Martin Luther was all about the "we" & "us" vs. the "me" & "I". Community. The Commandment – *You shall not steal*- is about more than outright theft – it speaks to dishonesty, unjust ways, taking advantage of others. In his explanation to this Commandment, Luther calls us to actively help our neighbor improve & protect their property & their way of making a living. Sounds like Fair Trade principles of fair wages for labor & fair prices for goods. Sounds like **justice for people & planet.**" Carol Bjelland

How else do Luther's Theses speak to us in our service on the Global Ministry Team? **A reminder that Luther spoke of service:** Christians should serve their neighbor because God does not need our good works, but our neighbor does. He explained that the purpose of a Christian's vocation is to love and serve others

Justice Ministry with ELCA Partners – Excerpt from the video from **ELCA World Hunger**. Full video can be viewed at: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/elca-world-hunger>

We discussed the increasing need to feed others. Pastor Chamie mentioned that the Youth are planning a "field trip" to learn about hunger in February 2026. We will continue to discuss this at our next GMT meeting, and we are considering how to make the "field trip" a multigenerational

event. The GMT would not only learn more about hunger in the area, but would be supporting our youth in service.

- **Restore the US Refugee Admissions Program** – Action Alert from Global Refuge 10/17/25 email (see “Global Refuge Action Alert”)

[Global Refuge | Ask Lawmakers to Fully Restore the U.S. Refugee Program](#)

https://globalrefuge.quorum.us/campaign/107937/?mc_cid=369081bfd0&mc_eid=2f3fd018f4

See the GMT Important Dates Calendar for additional opportunities to learn about & advocate for opportunities for our global neighbors

Ukraine and Gaza – special focus of GMT in January (timing not possible for Easter Season due to other items already scheduled by the church)? Hunger, medical, other? The GMT in attendance agreed that we should consider this. We will discuss more in our December 2025 GMT meeting. Bev will talk with Pastor Carmen and Pastor Lisa when they are here for the Gifts of Hope Christian Adult Education Hour 11/16/25 about whether the ELCA has any programs to support those suffering in these two locations.

Photos and a thank you message from Dave Nonnemacher and his Ukraine colleagues were shared of the Van purchased with funds donated by Ascension last spring.

Lutheran World Relief Kits - (Personal Care, Baby, School) - See the attached report from Louise Evenson. 121 quilts and 900+ kits were prepared this year.

Fair Trade – See the attached report. Mt Meru Coffee Project Ambassadors meeting Nov 1st in Menominee Falls, WI. Fair Trade Serrv.org (Carol Bjelland)

Gifts of Hope – We will have Volunteers at the Reception Table in Narthex to answer questions and accept donations before/after both Sunday services.

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

Help requested for Angela's and Nina's families to come to their CLU graduation in May, from Kenya and Zimbabwe. Pastor Steve will look into funds to support this.

December Agenda Reflections, Planning (send Bev any calendar updates you would like her to post). Planning for a December 3, 2025 4:00-5:30 pm Bethlehem Room - Focal Topic: Year End

Reflections and end of year party. Contributions of refreshments accepted. Bev will send out a sign-up sheet for what people plan to bring to the party.

Hope for the Holidays (Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration Services) - Ascension is a Hub for sending Christmas Cards to detention centers, package bundles of 50 cards for detained immigrants & refugees. Not sure if will occur this year. If it does, we will be preparing these bundles while we celebrate the end of the year.

Nina Dube will update us on the GOH 2024 for Zimbabwe (Infohuts) and her participation in the ELCA world hunger leaders meeting in Ohio in September.

Other Announcements

Word fair Day will be held at CLU on November 14. See <https://www.callutheran.edu/student-life/calendar/event/2025-11-14-rooted-in-tradition/>

An Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 23 at Temple Adat Elohim, 7420 East Hillcrest Dr., beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Prayer for Opening of GMT Nov. 5

Three passages:

**Micah 6:8 ("Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God"),
Isaiah 1:17 ("Seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless,
plead the widow's cause"), and Amos 5:24 ("Let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream").**

**Lord, giver of life, creator of all things in this world, protect, guide, nurture
and sustain us in the work we come together to accomplish.**

**Sometimes we are overwhelmed and grow so weary of the challenges and
never ending tasks before us. We pray for those who are food insecure, those
who suffer from the impacts of war, and those who live in fear of deportation
and family separation. We pray for those who have been impacted by the
recent hurricane and other natural disasters. Give us the strength to combat
dissent, overcome obstacles and to persist in the work you have called us to
do. Grant us the courage to speak truth, the wisdom to act with compassion,
and the humility to see you in all people. Strengthen our hearts to break down
the barriers of division, end hatred and oppression, and to do our part to
create a community united in justice, peace, and a desire to help our neighbor
at home and abroad. through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Fair Trade Report – October & November, 2025

October is National Fair Trade Month. Ascension celebrated in many wonderful ways.

There was a field trip to the Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade retail shop in Pasadena – an opportunity to support Fair Trade and an opportunity to buy special holiday ornaments to give to families affected by the Altadena fire.

Special Fair Trade chocolates were brought in from Lake Champlain Chocolates in Vermont. Fair Trade volunteers created special fliers & autumn-themed packaging for the chocolates.

Fair Trade Lane was open 3 times in October. There were several 1st time visitors & friends accompanying veteran Fair Traders.

We sent a message of congratulations to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Simi Valley - they started their Fair Trade Ministry in October 2024. We provided information & assistance as they started their ministry & we are so very happy to continue a great partnership with them.

Ascension hosted the Conejo Valley Interfaith group on Tuesday, Oct 14th for lunch, learning, sharing & fellowship. The group wanted to learn more about Fair Trade & Ascension's Fair Trade Lane. Carol shared a presentation about the faith foundations of Fair Trade, conducted a chocolate tasting for the group & opened Fair Trade Lane for the group.

Our Chapel Message on Wednesday, Oct 8th kicked-off "Hearts & Hands & Fair Trade" special art projects. In the course of just a few hours over a few days, more than 400 handprints were made on the special art boards & banner: The Early Childhood Center (about 60 children on 10/15); Ascension's Sunday School, Confirmation Class & High School Youth Ministry (about 100 on 10/19); Ascension's School (about 185 on Oct 20 & 21); and teachers, leaders, staff & volunteers from the ECC, School & Church. Carol & Kim will work closely with Jeff & his team to hang the art in Founders Hall later this year for all to enjoy.

For November:

Carol will be traveling to Menomonee Falls, WI to participate in the November 1st Ambassadors Meeting of the Mt Meru Coffee Project. Later in the day there will be a special luncheon celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Mt Meru Coffee Project (the Fair Trade partnership between the ELCA's Greater Milwaukee Synod & the Meru Specialty Coffee growers in Tanzania.) The congregations of Greater Milwaukee Synod will be participating in the meeting & the luncheon. We will share greetings & congratulations from Ascension & Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in Simi Valley (SVLC purchases MMCP coffee through us).

Fair Trade Lane will be open on four dates in November. On Sunday, November 23rd, in addition to the regular Fair Trade Lane lineup, there will be a table with “shareables” available for purchase: bowl cozies & hot pads from Ascension’s quilters; special holiday Fair Trade handcrafts from around the globe; and special Fair Trade holiday chocolates from Lake Champlain chocolates.

Carol is working with SERRV to put in place a “Shop & SERRV” special ordering opportunity for the Ascension Community to purchase Fair Trade “wearables & shareables” (Fair Trade artisan handcrafts & holiday items) online for a defined 2-week period of time. With this special ordering opportunity, shoppers using the special code provided by SERRV will be given a discount on eligible items ordered during the window & Ascension will receive a monetary gift in return. Details will be widely shared to the Ascension Community.

October 18, 2025

Dear GMT friends,

This week I received the email message with photos and video from Dave Nonnemacher, our minister of presence in Ukraine. Dave will be leaving for Ukraine on November 5, returning before Thanksgiving.

This past February, you may recall that the Global Ministries Team hosted Dave at Ascension and CLU when he shared his humanitarian visits to Ukraine. In response, the Ascension community responded by purchasing a utility van for the Mariupol Chaplain's Battalion for delivering of food, medicines, solar light kits, and more to people in Ukraine.

Dave will know more of the process of the van purchase after he returns from Ukraine in November. He knows that it has taken these past few months to put in the hands of his friends the keys to this FORD van. War zones, foreign currency, paperwork at the border and other delays appear to be part of the challenges.

I'll be working with Stacy Smith to put these items in an upcoming TWAA for the congregation to see, but wanted you who have been close to this meaningful project to know the gratefulness our partners in Ukraine, the Mariupol Chaplain's Battalion.

Louise

From: **Dave Nonnemacher** <dave_nonnemacher@new-horizons.ro>

Date: Thu, Oct 16, 2025 at 7:41 AM

Subject: the circle has been closed.....

To: Paul Evenson <ptevenson1@gmail.com>, Steve Herder <pastorsteve@alc.to.org>, Louise Evenson <lpevenson@gmail.com>

Dear friends,

Attached are 2 photos and a video of the VAN that the ALC Foundation and the good people of ALC provided for the Mariupol Chaplains Battalion. It is hard to know exactly what transpired....I do know that because it was a wire transfer, for some reason, the access to funds and licensing the van was a process. Maybe I'll get a clearer answer in November. I know that they wanted a Ford, not a Mercedes. 😊 That will make Oleh very happy!! The 3 men pictured in the pics and video are my friends. I think of them and pray for them all the time....heroes. Life on the edge, every day.

From the paperwork Oleksandre sent me, it looks like they purchased it in April, but had it delivered and official in Ukraine earlier this week.

Please share these pictures with the appropriate people. It looks like a sweet ride!

Thanks again. The Battalion's work in Zaporizhzhia has expanded greatly to the civilian population of that city, due to the continuous attacks on civilians and their homes. I expect there will be many opportunities for service while I am there. God's people have responded in amazing ways and I am toting a goodly amount of USD that will go a long way to sharing Christ's love in tangible, needed ways. God bless ALC for continued and tangible involvement. UA



Dave Nonnemacher

New Horizons Foundation-USA

517 3rd Ave Two Harbors MN 55616

218.626.7222

Web: www.new-horizons.ro

Facebook: [FundatiaNoiOrizonturi](#)

Romania Semester: www.romania-semester.ro



Global Refuge (Formerly LIRS)
To: me · Fri, Oct 17 at 12:46 PM ▾



The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program has served as a highly successful system to vet, process, resettle, and support refugees arriving in the United States.

Amid recent reporting the refugee admissions cap will be sharply curtailed this fiscal year, now is the time to weigh in to express support for the program.

Contact your members of Congress today to urge the administration to fully restore the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

[Contact Your Representatives](#)

[Global Refuge | Ask Lawmakers to Fully Restore the U.S. Refugee Program](#)



Restore the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

For decades, the United States has welcomed refugees fleeing violence, conflict, or persecution in their home countries. [The U.S. refugee admissions program](#) (USRAP) is the long-standing system to vet, process, resettle, and support refugees arriving in the United States.

Refugees pass rigorous background checks and are interviewed overseas. Through the USRAP, the federal government partners with states, local communities, and nonprofit organizations including many faith-based organizations to provide integration support, such as English language classes and job training, to assist refugees on the road to rebuilding their lives and contributing to local American communities.

[Executive Order 14163](#), the “Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program” executive order from January 20, 2025, abruptly suspended this life-saving program. Flights were tragically canceled for refugees only weeks or even days away from reuniting with loved ones in the United States. This order has had cascading and real human impacts on refugee family members awaiting reunification, faith communities, employers, and more.

Thousands of refugees with canceled travel remain overseas and in limbo, including unaccompanied refugee minors, refugees with protection concerns, and stranded Afghan refugees. The rapid resettlement of Afrikaners in May demonstrates how the U.S. refugee admissions program remains capable of welcoming newcomers if it is allowed to do so.

A Presidential Determination (PD) setting the refugee admissions target for the 2026 fiscal year has not yet been set by the Trump administration. Now is the time to weigh in to express support for the program.

Contact your members of Congress today to urge the administration to fully restore the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program-- with a meaningful consultation process with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, a robust Presidential Determination target for refugee admissions in FY 2026, and a USRAP system that remains open to various groups of humanitarian concern across the world.

COMMUNICATION UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER, 2025

I'm enjoying getting ready for the busiest time of the year, and delighted to have detailed advance plans from Pastor Chamie to work with. They're inspiring and helpful.

As I've mentioned previously, we are in the process of moving our worship service live streaming to Vimeo, and now it's almost done. There are just a couple last glitches to fix as I write this. My husband, Dominick, and Lan Merrill deserve credit for getting the technical aspects worked out. Facebook viewers, ALCTO.org viewers and Vimeo viewers will all be able to watch through their preferred outlet. Additionally, private events may be live streamed to specific groups or individuals in a controlled way. This all means more security, more reliability, and more ease of use. And we will no longer be subject to the vicissitudes of Facebook and its unannounced changes that render interface plug-ins nonfunctional.

People *are* watching, too. A check of Facebook data shows that cumulatively, our "live" watch time so far in 2025 is 81 days and 23 hours. That's a lot of watching.

The live stream page was the third most-visited page on our ALCTO.org website this past 12 months — after the Home page and the Calendar. Rounding out the top 30 are:

4. Meet the Pastors; 5. About Our Worship Services; 6. Staff Directory; 7. Signups & Announcements; 8. Career opportunities; 9. Index; 10. Food Pantry; 11. Contact Us; 12. Map/Directions to Ascension; 13. What We Believe; 14. Music; 15. Find Help; 16. Great Music at Ascension; 17. Seasonal Worship; 18. Harbor House; 19. Blessing of the Animals; 20. Links to Past Live Stream services. 21. Ministries; 22. GriefShare; 23. Fair Trade; 24. Be the Blessing Grants; 25. Solid Food – The Ascension Sermon Podcast; 26. Country Spirit; 27. Senior Adult Ministry; 28. Member Documents; 29. 365 in 25 Prayer; 30. Membership at Ascension.

This is out of more than 100 pages. The list could be instructive in terms of promotion for future reference.

I am also enjoying seeing our sermon podcast grow, the latest additional outlet being Substack, which I like because subscribers are automatically emailed the weekly sermons. Since starting earlier this year, Solid Food has had 523 sermon downloads. Nice.

With gratitude,

Stacy

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