

COUNCIL CORNER

At its meeting held on May 11, the Church Council:

- Received Pastor's Report which highlighted membership and financial information on the annual parochial report to the NJ Synod, worship attendance statistics for 4/5- 5/11 and pastoral calls and visits, and noted that she has applied for various grants, including grants for a summer program and a Day Care or Preschool. She also reported that she will be conducting a three-session new member class, culminating in welcoming new members on June 21 through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism, and that she will be attending the NJ Synod Assembly on May 30 along with several members of the congregation who will be serving as voting members. With joy and thanksgiving, she reported that, on May 9, Rev. Kasana was officially approved for inclusion to the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- Received President Elizabeth Lowe's report which highlighted activities in which she participated and noted that cleaning out various closets throughout the building, including reviewing archival items, will take place over the summer months.
- Received Financial Reports and reviewed year-to-date expenses and income through 4/30/26 and agreed to provide a financial update to the congregation via the Sunday bulletin on a quarterly basis beginning June 28.
- Received a report from the Love in Action Social Ministries team which highlighted initiatives by the town of Ridgefield to promote community events and connections, the Family Promise Walk-in-Dinner on 3/10 and the upcoming Walk-in-Dinner on 7/14, the monies collected during the Lent campaign to support St. Paul's Feeding Ministries, the Easter Egg Hunt on 4/4, NJ Buddies Health Fair on 6/13, plans for "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday on 9/13, upcoming LGBT Ministry events (Dinner and Drag Show on 6/12, a showing of "1946 the Movie" on 6/18), and that the Praise and Worship on 5/29 will be via Zoom.
- Received a report from Communications Director, Bill Kauffman, noting that the worship bulletin will now be a link on eBlast and that Rev. Kasana and Patricia regularly post photos and sermons on TikTok and Instagram
- Received a report from Music Director, Miki Tomita, noting that a choral group, *Voces Dominicana* will be renting space in the building with the hope of drawing children from the community.
- Received a report from Robert Jacoby, Property Manager, which noted various accomplishments during the past month and issues that need to be addressed in the coming months, including a listing of various electrical and plumbing inspection requirements that will need

to be scheduled pertaining to the air conditioning units and boiler, and noted that the new boiler was installed on April 27.

- Received a report from Seminarian, Wayne Olsen, noting that he will have only one more semester after his internship and anticipates completing his studies by the end of 2027.
- Received a report from Pastoral Associate Rev. Kasana Akridge in which she highlighted the continuing partnership with Ridgefield High School's STRIVE program, noting that students, accompanied by their job coaches, regularly attend on Wednesdays to assist with the Loaves and Fishes lunch program. She reported that planning is underway for the Praise and Worship service on Saturday, June 27, celebrating Pride Month in June, hosted by the Love Grace Blessed Truth Ministry, and that a drum set and video content for social media has been purchased to enhance Praise and Worship and to reach the LGBTQIA+ community online.
- Received a report on the Feeding Ministries program which highlighted food assistance, clothing distribution and family support programs during the month of April with statistics of meals served at the Loaves and Fishes lunch program and food distributed at the Pantry along with clothing distributed from the "clothes closet" along with a generous donation of children's diapers.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be on Tuesday, June 9, 2026.