

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 11 Edition)!

DON'T FORGET! LESSONS AND CAROLS will be at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 12 (with an abbreviated format) and 8 & 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 13...there will be NO Communion and we will have Sunday School for Youth and Children, as well.

After nearly 17 years as the Education Director at Ascension Kathy Johnson is retiring. Her last day will be on December 31. We are planning a farewell for Kathy on Sunday, December 27. That morning we have only one worship service (at 9:30). Following that service, we'll have a reception for her in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy has impacted many lives through Sunday School, Wednesday Night Live, Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunts, Youth Ministry, Mission Trips, and many other ministries. Can you write her a note or a letter telling her of some of your memories of her serving you and our community? You can bring that note to the office or send it to the church. Thank you for participating in this appreciation.

The Nursery is temporarily unavailable. We are currently looking into a change in location so we can reopen it during Worship and WNL!

Many Thanks to Bri Fort and her many helpers who decorated the Church for the Advent and Christmas Season.

Ascension has an upright freezer available for no cost. If you are interested, contact the Church Office.

Calendar At-a-Glance (December 12-18):

Saturday (12-12): **10:00 a.m. Agape & Youth Band Combined Rehearsal**
 5 p.m. A Festival of Lessons & Carols (Abbreviated Version)

Sunday (12-13): **Third Sunday of Advent**
 8 a.m. A Festival of Lessons & Carols
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Monday (12-14): 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

Tuesday (12-15): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. Ladies Small Group Bible Study

Wednesday (12-16): 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Ginkel
 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live
 5:00 p.m. Children's Worship, Music, & Arts (Music)
 7 p.m. Advent Midweek Worship
 7:45 p.m. Youth Praise Team Rehearsal

Thursday (12-17):

Friday (12-18): 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

Wednesday Night Live MENU for December 16: Italian Sub Sandwiches, Chips' Carrots & Celery, Fruit Cups, Brownie Bites! (Menu is subject to change!)

Address and Phone Updates: Phone for Jini Smith, 303-797-1764; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Thieme, 14055 Lexington Cir., Westminster, CO 80023. **Please note these changes in your directories!**

The Poinsettia ordering chart is on the landing Bulletin Board in the Narthex or if you wish call the office and have your name put on the list. Poinsettias are \$20 each, same price as last year. We have ordered **only 14 Poinsettias**. Individuals can dedicate a Poinsettia for the Holiday Season. Poinsettias can be taken home after New Year's. Envelopes for payments are located below the ordering chart. Please make sure that you place a check mark next to Poinsettias and note Poinsettias on your check. **WE HAVE ONLY 4 POINSETTIAS LEFT FOR DEDICATION, PLEASE ORDER YOURS SOON!**

It is, once again, time to renew your Lutheran Witness subscriptions—Please contact the office ONLY if you wish to CANCEL a current subscription or if you wish to ADD a new subscription. The cost of a subscription is \$22 (you can place your check made out to Ascension and noted 'Lutheran Witness-2021', in the offering plate). **The deadline for changes is MONDAY, December 14!** (New subscriptions will begin in March of 2021.)

Are you missing the yummy home canned goodies you always purchased at the Ladies Craft & Bake Sale? I have some good news for you! Maureen James, who always donated a large number of those wonderful home canned goods will be selling what she has to those from Ascension who would like to purchase! Her phone number is 303-798-5839 (be certain to leave a name and number if she does not pick up) and her address is 12 Meadowlark Lane, Littleton. Maureen will be donating all monies earned to the Ladies Guild!

Pastor's Topics for Wednesday & Sunday Adult Classes: No Sunday Classes until after construction is completed. On Wednesdays, Pastor's study on prayer will resume on January 6, after a short break.

We continue a verse-on-verse study of Revelation, meeting Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Narthex. Our study is written and taught by Pastor Don Ginkel. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

News from Extended Day Preschool! Our Extended Day Preschool continue classes in person. **The Preschool is currently accepting registration for 2021/2022** and we have openings available in both classrooms (Contact the Church Office with questions)!

The Young Adult Group will be meeting at Ascension at 6:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Thursday): Our next meetings will be held on January 14 & 26! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna (jenna.lindeman@cune.org). **We will NOT meet December 24!**

MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) will be meeting in-person on Tuesday, January 12, at 9:30 a.m.! We will continue to meet every second TUESDAY of the month!

Moms who have kids that range from infant to age 5 are welcome to come! Please join us! We would love to see you!

Social Ministry is humbled to be able to have the Christmas Family Program as one of our most rewarding Missions. This is a program that is set up to offer help to members of our OWN congregation that are struggling to give their families a Christmas. **Thank you!**

Prayer: For God's mighty hand to bring to an end this virus; For our country, and for our newly elected officials at all levels as they seek to govern, may they be guided by His strong hands; For those who have lost jobs or been downsized; For family & friends Mel Raddeman, who died November 9; For Patricia Rolf, following the death of her sister from COVID; For Tim & Dave Anderson and their families, following the death of their mother, Lynne Williamson, on November 24; For Joyce Gallagher, who recently learned of the deaths of 2 brothers-in-law, Gene Peterson (September) and Pat Gallagher (November 21); For Sandee Thieme, with Stage 4 brain cancer; in palliative care; For Jackie Brinkman, following hospitalization with seizures; For Ted Lemke, For Dale in a care facility & Rosemarie Calender, who is now entering Hospice Care; For Lisa, daughter of Millie Cox, with a recurrence of cancer; For Diane Backhus, awaiting back surgery on December 15; For Barb Lone, awaiting hip-replacement revision surgery on December 30; For Deb Shiflet, for answers in the next steps as she deals with autoimmune issues that are causing her great misery; For Linda Nedry, following knee surgery on December 9; For Danielle Ruggera, with COVID; For Andrew & Kala, son & Daughter-in-law of Don & Marilyn Loptien, who had a foster child that was returned to the family; For Ryan O'Byrne, for continuing issues with digestion; For Kathy, sister-in-law of Marilyn Loptien, with breast cancer; For Susie Weideman, sister of Lorine Grau, with COVID; For Joyce Gallagher, for improvement with lung issues & difficulty breathing; For Karen, sister of Ellen Thompson, beginning treatment for ovarian cancer; For Chris Stoddard, former member, recovering from gall bladder surgery on November 30; For Alyssa Giron, daughter-in-law of Joyce Gallagher, with stomach issues; For Sherrie Shelton, for multiple issues; For Dave Hitztaler's health situation which has declined from Covid recovery to managing his long-term disease, IPF - Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, a debilitating lung disease that makes it very difficult to breathe as he is now in palliative care.

Thanksgiving & Praise: Millie Fitzpatrick on her 99th birthday (December 11) and Bernice Arsenault on her 99th birthday (December 14).

Ascension Prayer Group: *Galatians 6:2--The Passion Translation: Love empowers us to fulfill the law of the Anointed One as we carry each other's troubles.*

Come and join the Ascension Prayer Group on December 23 at 2 pm. We will meet via Zoom to pray for 30 minutes using the ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication) format. Our prayers will be for Ascension Lutheran Church, Pastor John, and the church members.

The plan is to pray together every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. If interested, please send me your email address so you can be included in the Zoom invite.

Margo Pasha MargoALPasha@yahoo.com

Thank You! -- "My attempts at becoming a gymnast have completely failed, so am thinking of giving up on it! Thanks be to God through your prayers, cards, words of encouragement and excellent at home care my recovery is progressing! Christian friends are truly a blessing. Thanks to everyone." Doris Rohde

"Big Thanks to the Ascension Quilters for the lovely quilt that Pastor Larson delivered last week! Just the thing for winter days as I sit and read or watch TV. I also appreciate the many cards from the Ladies Guild and from my ALC friends over the last almost nine months. Thank you for your calls and most of all, thank you for your prayers, particularly now. Sherry and I are overwhelmed with your kindness and thoughtfulness. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas Season. Dave Hitzaler"

"My sincere thanks to all of you who sent prayers and cards, who brought flowers, and who called to express concern for me these past months. All were very much appreciated. What dear, special friends you are!" Blessings, Ruth Wiggins

Flowers for December 12 & 13 were donated by Bill & Gloria Gaudreault in joyful celebration of Bill's 77th birthday on December 15.

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 614,182 (\$12,582/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 576,612
Payroll Protection Program Loan:	\$ 89,000
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 181,992
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 36,960 (Distributed: \$ 31,100)

Attendance (December 2, 5 & 6):

Mid-Week: 29 Saturday: 32 Sunday: 8 a.m. 48 10:30 a.m. 65 Total: 174
Sunday School: 27 (no adult class)

West Wing Project Update: "This past week has been a week of many events. The West Wing has been packed and made ready for both storage and relocation. As of this Tuesday, most of the furniture, materials, and wall decorations have been removed. These items have been placed into storage in the Conex Containers at the west end of the parking lot. All this has not occurred without much planning, work, and stress. Your Ascension Staff has strived to maintain programs such as Wednesday Night Live, Sunday School, Worship Services, and Preschool while being asked to both relocate and decide what materials are required for the next five months and what items can be placed into temporary storage.

Please pray for the Staff and construction project and encourage them during this effort to renew our facility and prepare the building for the next 50 years of service to the Lord. We are blessed with the ability to undertake this renovation, but we must support and encourage those Staff members at Ascension who have had to increase their normal workload just to provide the service that is expected each week.

Next week, we will begin the demolition phase of the project. This will require that most of the West Wing is vacated. We hope and pray that the certification of the Fellowship Hall as a temporary location for the Preschool will be approved quickly by the State. This temporary certification is required to continue operation of the Preschool. All our future activities in the building for about five months will be limited to the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen in the lower level and the Narthex, Nursery-Office, Sanctuary, and balcony in the upper level until the project is completed. There will be some continuing use of Pastor's Office and the Music Director's office. These two offices will be open and used some of the time during the project but will need to be vacated for painting, flooring, and lighting at the required time." West Wing Committee: Bob Hea, Roger Koester, Chuck Mielke and Jim Riebling

Capital Committee Update: "The Capital Campaign Committee would like to thank everyone for the prayers, the Pledge commitments and the donations for the West Wing remodel project. The whole effort came together late in this year's calendar and we can feel so blessed that so much has materialized in support of this renewal of our aging facility wing.

The move ahead was overwhelmingly given through the results of a membership survey and finally by a positive vote through the voters meeting giving the Church Council direction to empower the Board of Trustees to move forward with enthusiasm. Professionals were brought in to study the dynamics of the facility and to pull together a comprehensive plan. Architects and engineers were identified, and the west wing design and costs were drafted. The LCEF was contacted and they said they would support the project if the Church membership could show that they would financially support the work. The Capital Campaign Committee was formed, and the return of support was such that LCEF said they would be happy to underwrite the effort and the formal papers were signed. The project is now engaged and moving forward with vigor.

Pledges were made for 2020, 2021, 2022 and money has regularly been coming in. Your Committee would like to encourage everyone in the last weeks of this year to get the 2020 Pledge in. Even if you were not able to make a pledge any amount of money donated is significant in helping to complete the project; pennies, nickels, dimes add up and any amount will help to complete the project. The more we can pay up front the less we will have to borrow for the work. It is also never too late to enter a Pledge if your circumstances permit. Please continue to pray for the successful completion of this significant project, which supports our many ministries." Your Capital Campaign Committee: Jim Adams, Art Gordon, Bob Hea, Kim McCormick, Chuck Mielke, Dawn Munson, and Kathleen Wucherpfenning

An Update from Littleton Family Services: Currently, there are no scheduled events due to the resurgence of COVID.

Virus Relief Fund Update—The Virus Relief Fund was set up at the beginning of the Colorado stay-at-home phase to assist members and the community who may need

financial assistance during this pandemic. It has been a huge help to a number of families and individuals.

To date, the committee has contacted 31 individuals or families to see if they need assistance, and we have given assistance to 28 of those. (The others indicated they are doing OK at this time.) This financial assistance thus far totals \$ 31,100. Our goal is to have the fund last until a few months after businesses can return to near capacity of operation, so we are trying to make distributions accordingly.

If you would like to contribute to the fund, we encourage you to send a check made payable to "Ascension Lutheran Church" and mark it, "Virus Relief Fund."

Ascension is thankful that we can help our members and community during this time, and the recipients are so grateful. If you have any questions about the fund, or if you know of someone who needs assistance, feel free to contact Pastor or Kathy Johnson.

Severe Weather Shelter Network has begun at Ascension! "We need YOU - with our guests sheltering in motels this year we still need to provide our guests a meal. Here is how you can help, Registration Assistant (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), Food Packaging (5:45 p.m.- 8 p.m.) and Food Delivery (6:45 p.m.-8 p.m.). Dinner and Breakfast bags will be prepared at Ascension then delivered to our guests. Masks/gloves will be required while working with food and our COVID-19 NEGATIVE guests. If you can help please click here -> [SWSN 2020-2021 SURVEY](#) or drop a note in my box in the Narthex. If you want more flexibility for volunteering please contact me, we have options. I am happy to answer any questions you may have, please give me a call or send an email." Brianna Fort, briby@gmail.com, 623-680-9510.

ALC Foundation Update: The Foundation has been active with news from many missions. Despite the pandemic, our missions in the community and around the world are busy! We received news from Mission Experience in Haiti and from our mission in Slovakia and have posted their letters on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Lutheran High School is conducting in-person learning for those who wish for that experience, and remote learning for those who prefer to be at home. We have provided \$3,000 towards expansion of the high school and LHS's newsletter is on the board as well. Please take time to read their news when you are at the church.

Denver Society of Creation: Upcoming speakers are Dr. Ed Holroyd (January 2021) and Dr. Barbara Helmkamp (February 2021).

December is a month of giving. Your estate plan is a way for you to plan gifts, too. Planning those estate gifts can provide opportunity to give the gift of **peace**, reconciling with family or friends with whom you have become estranged. Planning a gift for them can point to the greatest gift, the gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Get started on your "peace gifting" today. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at 970-988-0305.

KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand

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This week on KFUO.org, tune in to midweek Advent service on 12/16 at 12 p.m. CT from Village Lutheran Ladue, study "Advent with the Prophets" on Sharper Iron with Pastor Timothy Appel (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), and hear Holiday Wrappings with Ron Klemm sharing classical music of the season (weekdays at 10:30 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts!

As always, if you are aware of someone who does not receive or check email regularly, please let them know that this email will be posted on the website in the same place that Happenings have always been posted.

Silent Night: ***Silent night, holy night!***
 All is calm, all is bright
 Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
 Holy Infant so tender and mild
 Sleep in heavenly peace
 Sleep in heavenly peace

 Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight
 Glories stream from heaven afar
 Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia!
 Christ the Savior is born
 Christ the Savior is born

 Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace
 Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
 Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

We will be singing this song in just 13 short days, on Christmas Eve.

This is my favorite Christmas song...but I do not think I have been able to sing it all the way through since I have become a believer. I get through the first 2 lines and then I start to tear up and my voice starts to crack (it is not all that great when it is not cracking!) and I stop even trying to sing and I listen...and just feel. I feel the peace and serenity that comes from knowing that I have a Savior and that He lives within me as that peace washes over me.

I wish for you His peace and the pure joy of His first coming as we await our celebration of His birth and, in His time, His eventual return. (Kathie Harvey)