

**GOOD AFTERNOON!**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 4 Edition)!**

**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.

**As of the 29th of November the Nursery will be temporarily unavailable. We are currently looking into a change in location.**

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

**The Memorial Service for Lynne Williams** will be at Horan & McConaty (80<sup>th</sup> & Wadsworth) on Tuesday, December 8 at 3 p.m. You may watch it live at [Horancares.com](http://Horancares.com).

**Voters' Meeting - November 22:** "On November 22, 36 members of Ascension Lutheran Church met for the quarterly Voters' Meeting. Prior to the meeting, a luncheon was provided by the Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation and served by the Ladies Guild. In 55 minutes, the Voters did the following things:

We elected Tom Munson as President; Tim McClaren as Vice-President; Barbara Rutter as Secretary; Stephanie Luethy as Treasurer; Scott Luethy as Chair of the Board of Elders; Norm & Connie Fringer as Chairs of the Columbarium & Anita Baresel as Chair of Social Ministry.

We set a budget of \$662,125.00 for 2021. We received a report from Roger Koester for the Education Wing Renovation Project. We have begun packing everything from the West Wing and will see everything moved the week of November 30. The project will be completed by the end of April, 2021. Larry Nisbet, the chair for the Capital Campaign reported on the good progress of the campaign and encouraged all to be involved in this historical project.

We selected Arvin Michel to be Ascension's Lay Delegate for the Denver Southwest Circuit Forum to be held in January, 2021 and the Rocky Mountain District Convention in June, 2021.

Pastor reported that the congregation will celebrate and show our appreciation to Kathy Johnson for her 17 years of service at Ascension with a gathering on Sunday, December 27, following the 9:30 worship service. We'd like to invite everyone to write a note to Kathy and express your gratitude for the service she has done for you and for our congregation. Pastor reported that we have applicants to serve as our Sunday School Coordinator, our Wednesday Night Live Director & our Extended Day

Preschool Director. Pastor has been nominated to serve as the Circuit Visitor for the Denver Southwest Circuit. This 3-year commitment would begin in June of 2021. Finally, the assembly showed appreciation to those who have served Ascension so well in these past years - Arvin Michel, President; Dennis Lord, Vice-President; Allen Brookshire, Treasurer; Tim McClaren, Secretary; Brian & Marion Wilson with Life Enrichment & Collin Brinkman with the Youth Board. The next Voter's Meeting will be on Sunday, January 24, 2021." Pastor Larson

**Calendar At-a-Glance (December 5-12):**

Saturday (12-5): 5 p.m. Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion  
Sunday (12-6): **Second Sunday of Advent**  
8 a.m. Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion  
Monday (12-7): 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool  
Tuesday (12-8): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study  
**9:30 a.m. MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers)**  
Wednesday (12-9): 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. Adult Bible Study  
5:00 p.m. Children's Worship, Music, & Arts (Music)  
5:45 p.m. Agape Rehearsal  
**7 p.m. Advent Midweek Worship**  
7:45 p.m. Extra Youth Praise Team Rehearsal  
Thursday (12-10): **6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study**  
Friday (12-11): 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool  
Saturday (12-12): **10:00 a.m. Agape & Youth Band Combined Rehearsal**  
5 p.m. Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion

**Wednesday Night Live MENU for December 9:** Chicken & Noodles, Dinner Roll, Sweet Peppers & Carrots, Clementines, Mini Cinnamon Rolls! (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; Sherrie Shelton, 5555 S Elati St, #311, Littleton CO 80120; Lois Kreye, 3377 Mill Vista Rd., Unit 3117, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129; Phone for Les Young, 719-648-6273. **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.

**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 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 continues a study on prayer.

**We began a verse-on-verse study of Revelation on November 11 and will continue to meet 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 Winter and Spring 2020/2021** 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. (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday):** Our Next Meeting will be held on December 10! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna ([jenna.lindeman@cune.org](mailto:jenna.lindeman@cune.org)). We will NOT meet December 24!

**MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) will be meeting in-person on Tuesday, December 8, 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 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 Sandee Thieme, with Stage 4 brain cancer (Cards and FaceBook contacts are welcome, but Sandee has requested no visits or phone calls as she currently has little energy); For Lisa, daughter of Millie Cox, with a recurrence of cancer; For Sue Eastridge, with COVID again; For Glenn Rousch, currently in Littleton Hospital with heart & kidney issues; For Linda Nedry, awaiting knee surgery on December 7; For Barb Williams, with COVID; For Danielle Ruggera, with COVID; 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 Doris Rohde, with a fractured pelvis from a fall on November 7; For Doris Kuhlman, with fractures in her leg, following a fall on November 11; For Bev Kistler, following surgery on November 27; For Jay Visneyi, friend of the Groelings, with Bile Duct Cancer; For Dale in rehab for a spinal infection & Rosemarie Calender recovering at home, with heart 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:** For Eleanor Anne Jankowski, upon her Baptism on Saturday, December 5; Millie Fitzpatrick on her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday (December 11) and Bernice Arsenault on her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday (December 14).

**Ascension Prayer Group:** *Matthew 18:19-20 – (The Passion Translation) "Again, I give you an eternal truth: If two of you agree to ask God for something in a symphony of prayer, my heavenly Father will do it for you. For wherever two or three come together in honor of my name, I am right there with them!"* Come and join in a symphony of prayer for Ascension Lutheran Church, our shepherd Pastor John Larson and the flock!

Starting December 9 at 2 p.m., we will meet as a group on Zoom to pray for 30 minutes. Using the ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication) format, we'll pray from our hearts trusting He will be right there with us. The desire is to be committed to pray twice a month as a small prayer group. Dates and times may be adjusted to suit the needs. If interested, please send me your email address so you can be included in the Zoom invite. Margo Pasha at [MargoALPasha@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Christa and the Youth Group for the lovely gift basket for Dave. All the items were most appreciated! It was so fun to see you all - even briefly! Thanks for spreading joy in Christ's Name!" Dave and Sherry Hitztaler

**Flowers for December 5 & 6 were donated by Sue Calhoun in loving memory of Ellie Romano (her birthday would have been December 3).**

**Stewardship:**

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 601,600 (\$12,582/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 557,981
Payroll Protection Program Loan:	\$ 89,000
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 160,932
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 36,960 (Distributed: \$ 30,000)

**Attendance (November 25, 28 & 29):**

Thanksgiving: 29    Saturday: 27    Sunday: 8 a.m. 57    10:30 a.m. 44    Total: 157  
Sunday School: 48

**West Wing Project Update:** “It has been a busy week since the last update. Both staff and volunteers have packed many, many boxes. The box count is now at 287 boxes purchased and about 280 packed. I would especially like to thank our boxing volunteers: Terri Brown and kids, Karma Bensen, Allen & Margaret Kent, and Bob Olsen. Our Interim Preschool Director Marla Golden along with Anita Baresel have labored for many days packing and helping us make arrangements to move the Preschool into the Fellowship Hall. Think of a kid’s toy room larger than a four-car garage packed full of “kids stuff” that needs to be sorted, moved or packed. That’s the Preschool!

We are presently trying to clear all the hurdles that prevent us from moving the Preschool directly into the Fellowship Hall. The South Metro Fire Department has inspected; however, they are holding the permit until the Fire Inspection Report that includes an elevator inspection is complete. Then West Metro will forward the permit to the Tri-County Health Department for their final approval. We hope that we will not have to cancel some of the scheduled days of the Preschool.

Kathie Harvey has moved her desk, computer, and equipment into the Nursery/ Temporary Office. So, very soon the south entry to the Church will be through the Narthex and not doors in the West Wing. If the stairs up to the Narthex are a problem the north doors off the parking will be open and one can access the elevator directly to the Sanctuary area and the temporary office. We need prayers...” 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 years 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 \$ 30,000. 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, [bribly@gmail.com](mailto:bribly@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).

**Lisa Riebling, who has been the one heading up the banner committee** and is the one who changes the banners at various times in the church year, is stepping down from that position. We are looking for a person to be in charge of the changing of the banners. If interested, or inquisitive, you can contact Lisa at 720-732-0081 or [riebling4@msn.com](mailto:riebling4@msn.com).

**December is a month of giving.** Your estate plan is a way for you to plan gifts, too. Your estate plans can leave the gift of **hope** to those who survive here on earth after you. Your **hope** is Jesus and the eternal life He has given you. Integrate that **hope** into the words of all your estate documents. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Jason Jones at [Jason.Jones@lfnd.org](mailto:Jason.Jones@lfnd.org) or call him directly at 970-988-0305.

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**This week on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org)**, hear Advent midweek service from Village Lutheran Church 12/9 at 12 p.m. CT, study Advent with the Prophets on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), and consider the practical application of our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (12/8 at 2 p.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://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.

**Mark 1:3 - “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”**

We know that this passage speaks of John the Baptist...but, I wonder, is it also spoken to us? Are we to be a “voice of one calling in the wilderness”? This is a time of the year

when we speak of the coming of the Lord. And not just of His birth, but of His return. If John was to prepare the way for the Lord following His birth, should we not be preparing the way, and the world, for His return?

It seems to me that this world is to be our wilderness and our witness to friends, family, and strangers we might pass along our way is how we are to "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

Be certain to listen to Pastor's sermon this weekend and see if you agree! Blessings!  
(Kathie Harvey)