

Thursday (1-7): 7 p.m. Denver Society of Creation: Dr. Ed Holroyd (at Beautiful Savior, 6995 W. 120th, Broomfield)

Friday (1-8): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

Wednesday Night Live will resume on January 6! Dinner will be Chef's Choice!

Pastor's Topics for Adult Classes: There will be **NO Sunday Classes until after construction is completed.** On Wednesdays, Pastor's study on prayer will continue.

Pastor Ginkel's class will NOT meet on January 6 but will resume on January 13!

News from Extended Day Preschool! Our Extended Day Preschool continue classes in person. **The Preschool is currently accepting registration for 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 & 28! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna (jenna.lindeman@cune.org).

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!

A big "Thank You" for all the people who contributed with donations and for all of the volunteers that helped with the Christmas Families this year!!! You are very much appreciated. You really came through for us in a big way!

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 the family and friends of Les Young, who died on December 27; For Dave Hitztaler and his family as he enters Hospice Care at home, struggling with his lethal lung disease, IPF - Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis; For Sandee Thieme, with Stage 4 brain cancer; in palliative care; For Kathy Johnson, as she concludes her ministry at Ascension; For Jenna Lawrenz, as she enters her final month of pregnancy, we pray for a safe delivery of the twins and good health for mother and daughters; For Jenna Harvey-Kabelman, granddaughter of Kathie Harvey, for life issues; For Ted Lemke; For Lisa, daughter of Millie Cox, with a recurrence of cancer; For Diane Backhus, following back surgery on December 15; For Barb Lone, following 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 Jim Wendelken who broke 4 ribs in a fall; For Carol Mickelson, dealing with heart issues; For Linda Nedry, following knee surgery on December 9; 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 Brian McGregor, friend of Del & Lorine Grau, with COVID; For Karen, sister of Ellen Thompson, beginning treatment for ovarian cancer; For Carol Zeller with Interstitial Lung Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis and cardiac issues.

Ascension Prayer Group: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: *The Passion Translation*

Let joy be your continual feast. Make your life a prayer. And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.

Come join us in the New Year to pray for Ascension Lutheran Church, Pastor Larson & staff, and our members. On **January 13 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 will pray from our hearts trusting this is God's perfect plan for us in Christ Jesus. If interested, please send me your email address so you can be included in the Zoom invite. Margo Pasha MargoALPasha@yahoo.com

Thank You! – “Thank You to my Pastor, Kathy, the Ladies Guild and church members: Friends like all of you are a real treasure in my life. I really don't know how I have been so blessed so well belonging to such a wonderful church by a group of people who have been so wonderful to my life and Duane while he was here. Thanks to the Ladies Guild for the Beautiful quilt and all the rest of the goodies. The loving hands and precious time they give to do such beautiful work to give to people like us who appreciate it with all of our hearts...My Thank You seems so small compared to all you have done but comes from a grateful heart. Merry Christmas to all of you and please stay well and healthy for the season.” Phyllis Westra

Flowers for January 2 & 3 were donated by Michelle Kabelman in loving memory of Brandon.

Stewardship (No change as of 12/28):

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 651,928 (\$12,582/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 620,893
Payroll Protection Program Loan:	\$ 89,000
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 269,570
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 43,110 (Distributed: \$ 33,000)

Attendance (December 24, 25 & 27):

Christmas Eve: 236 Christmas Day: 22 Sunday: 9:30 a.m. 86 Total: 344
Sunday School: No Sunday School

West Wing Project Update: “The West Wing has been packed and is either in storage or relocated. The majority 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.

We have begun the demolition phase of the project and most of the West Wing is vacated. The Fellowship Hall has been approved as the temporary location for the Preschool by the State. 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 \$ 33,000. 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 continues 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) at Beautiful Savior, Broomfield. Please see the bulletin board for additional details or check out our website!

If you'd like to receive our emails or newsletters, you can sign up by going to our website, www.denversocietyofcreation.org or email info@denversocietyofcreation.org and request to receive our emails. Also, we've been posting videos of our speakers on the web site, so if you missed a meeting and would like to see the presentation, just go to our website, click on "Past Speakers" and select the video you would like to view.

Putting an estate plan together is a somewhat complex task. There are multiple documents you may need. Yet the most significant part of that estate plan is the gift plan you create, giving gifts to family you love and the ministries you care about.

Entitlement would dictate that gifts to family, Godchildren or friends all need to be equal. Grace would indicate that God has provided gifts to you to meet needs in people's lives, whether family or ministry. It is not boiler plate. You need to pray through a plan. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at 970-988-0305.

“Grace: In Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, the younger son is the focus of our scorn. Yet the father graced him when he returned.

What often gets overlooked is that the older son was angry with his father for showing grace to his younger brother. He felt his rightful share of the inheritance was late in coming to him. Jesus specifically told this parable to convict religious leaders of the Jews that their religious construct had written off God's grace and they were focused on what they were entitled to.

We have a tremendous opportunity when constructing our gift plans within our estates to reclaim grace as we give gifts with God's gifts, rather than grudgingly give “deserved shares” to ungrateful family or ministries. Your gift plan can maximize reflection on God's grace, and you can even bear witness to that before the Lord calls you home. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help.” Jason Jones, CGP, CDE; Gift Planning Counselor, LCMS Foundation; Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or 970-988-0305.

This week on KFUO.org, we celebrate our Savior's birth during the 12 Days of Christmas with music, prayer, and scripture, with regular programming resuming Jan. 7. We are excited to welcome Rev. Brady Finnern as the host for Thy Strong Word, airing weekdays at 11 a.m. CT.

Pastor Mike from Mission Experience has made a number of 2021 calendars available for sale. Mission Experience is the orphanage for children in Haiti. This year due to the Virus, the fall fundraiser was not able to be held-these calendars are part of how they raise funds. The calendars are only \$10. You will find them and where to send the check on a table in the Narthex.

Deuteronomy 11:12-14: It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end. So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil.

The Scripture above is about a time when the Israelites entered a new land.

We are entering a new year, but the promises of God, His faithfulness, and His love for us have not changed! In this world everything seems to be in constant flux...the weather, the government, our lives in general.

Let these words from God remind you that He remains faithful...no matter where or when we are.

Blessings in the New Year! (Kathie Harvey)