

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (November 20 Edition)!

Thanksgiving Eve—November 25! Please join us for Worship at 7 p.m.

Voters' Meeting - November 22: "This Sunday, November 22, at about 12 noon, the Voters of Ascension will meet to transact some of the more important business for the upcoming calendar year. At this meeting, we will be approving the 2021 Budget. Also, this is the meeting for election of officers and Board chairs. **We especially are looking for a Treasurer.** We will also have an update on the Education Wing Project construction. If you are able, please attend this most important meeting. Lunch will be provided by the Ascension Foundation and served by the Ladies Guild." Arvin Michel, President

"At the Voters' Meeting on November 22, the voters will be asked to designate a lay delegate to represent Ascension at the Circuit Forum to be held in January and at the Rocky Mountain District Convention to be held June 10-11 in the Denver area. If you wish to be considered for this position, please contact Arvin Michel (303-797-2124) or Pastor Larson."

Christmas Decorating!! Yes, it is almost that time! We will be decorating the sanctuary **NEXT Saturday, November 28 starting at 8:30 a.m.** I need about 5 people to come help fluff and decorate trees, fluff, and hang garland, and put up Poinsettias. If you are interested in helping please let me know via email, call/text, catch me at church or drop a note in my box. Bri Fort, bribly@gmail.com, 623-680-9510.

Calendar At-a-Glance (November 21-27):

Saturday (11-21):	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 4 p.m. Packing Party! 5 p.m. Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion
Sunday (11-22):	8 a.m. Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
Monday (11-23):	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 4 p.m. Packing Party!
Tuesday (11-24):	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 4 p.m. Packing Party! 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 7 p.m. Elders' Meeting
Wednesday (11-25):	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 4 p.m. Packing Party! 5:30 p.m. Agape Rehearsal 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Thursday (11-26):	Thanksgiving Day: Office Closed
Friday (11-27):	Office Closed

Many Heartfelt Thanks! "Thank you so much to Christa and the youth who visited and brought me goodies this past Sunday! It was so wonderful to see you and to feel connected to Ascension through you!" Phyllis Westra

“Thanks to the Youth Group for the care package, the flowers, and especially for the visit!” Millie Fitzpatrick

Interim Coordinators Needed - As you probably know, Kathy Johnson will be leaving her position as Education Director at the end of December. We are currently searching for a part-time employee for this position, and we will continue this search. In the meantime, we want to be prepared to continue offering and managing Sunday school and Wednesday Night Live as they are now. In order to do that, we are looking to fill two interim part-time positions. These would both be paid positions. Here are the positions that we need:

Sunday School Coordinator—This person would be responsible for coordinating Sunday school each week. This includes arranging for any substitute teachers, leading a brief opening each week for the youngest kids, ordering curriculum, answering questions, communicating with families, etc. (Approximately 8 hours per week.)

Wednesday Night Live Coordinator—This person would be responsible for coordinating Wednesday Night Live each week. This includes planning the dinners, printing and distributing curriculum as needed, scheduling teachers/leaders, communicating with students and parents, etc. (Approximately 8-10 hours per week.)

If you can help in these areas, or if you know of someone who can, please talk to Pastor or Kathy Johnson. Thanks for your consideration!

Address and Phone Updates: Sherrie Shelton, 5555 S Elati St, #311, Littleton CO 80120; Lois Kreye, 3377 Mill Vista Rd., Unit 3117, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129; Elizabeth Bible-Miller (phone change) 303-601-4718; Lester (Les) Young (address change) 6455 Peak Vista Cir., Colorado Springs, CO 80918; Larry & Flo Westra (***additional address change, please check***) PO Box 20242, Colorado City, CO 81019. **Please note these changes in your directories!**

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!

KOINONIA Bible Study has decided to cancel future meetings through January. They will re-evaluate at that time!

Pastor's Topics for Wednesday & Sunday Adult Classes: On Sundays (November – December), Pastor will be doing a study on the Scripture lessons of the week and on Wednesdays, Pastor begins 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 Fellowship Hall. 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. If you are Director certified or know of someone who is and who would be interested in this part time position (20 hours per week), please contact the church office. Thanks for joining us in prayer for this ministry! **The Preschool is currently accepting online 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. (2nd & 4th Thursday): Our Next Meeting will be held on December 10! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna (jenna.lindeman@cune.org).

MOPS and Operation Christmas Child! We thank you for the items that you were able to supply! We were able to fill 17 boxes (Please note the addition!!)

God's Creation Calendar Sales: It is that time of year again! The time of year that we look forward to the next. As you look forward to the year 2021, please consider buying a God's Creation Calendar from the youth. We will be selling these calendars as a fundraiser for our summer mission trip. Each calendar costs \$10 with a substantial amount of that going to the youth group. Thank you for all your support!

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 friends and family of Nicole Schill, who died from an infection, friend of Rose Kahler; 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 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, awaiting surgery on November 23; For Mel Raddeman, in Rehab following a minor stroke earlier in November; For Sue Eastridge, with Covid; For Jay Visneyi, friend of the Groelings, with Bile Duct Cancer; For Ryan O'Byrne, grandson of Barb Bader, undergoing testing for possible digestive issues; For Elle Lambert, following back surgery on November 10; For Julie Woods, daughter of Judy Bress, following successful surgery on her colon on November 9; For Dale in rehab for a spinal infection & Rosemarie Calender recovering at home, with heart issues; For Judy Mihok, following a recent

hospitalization for infections; For Sherrie Shelton, in rehab, for multiple issues; For healing and strength for Dave Hitztaler; For Amanda Craig, niece of Kathie Harvey, with Covid.

Thanksgiving & Praise: For Eric Craig, brother of Kathie Harvey, doing very well after his last surgery and possibly able to return to work next week.

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 576,436 (\$12,582/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 539,956
Payroll Protection Program Loan:	\$ 89,000
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 148,282
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 36,760 (Distributed: \$ 27,800)

Attendance (November 14 & 15):

Saturday: 35	Sunday: 8 a.m. 54	10:30 a.m. 50	Total: 139
Sunday School: 50 (Adult & Young Adult Classes Only)			

Flowers for November 21 & 22 were donated by Edna & Linda Achziger in loving memory of Edward Achziger.

West Wing Project Update - Big news: “The closing on our loan with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) occurred Friday, November 13. The Permits from the City of Littleton were “pulled” by Himmelman Construction on Monday, November 16. SO - The West Wing Project has begun!

This means that the Staff and Congregation need to prepare for the Office, Preschool and other areas to move to new locations very soon. This will cause disruptions for the Staff and Congregation. Alternate locations will be chosen for the office, classes, and Preschool. Parts of the West Wing will be closed to the Staff and Congregation very soon. And eventually all of that area will be closed.

We are hope the disruptions will be smooth and of course, we realization certain Church functions need to continue uninterrupted.

Please pray for the Project, Staff and Committee. We need those prayers!” West Wing Committee: Chair Bob Hea, Jim Riebling, Roger Koester and Chuck Mielke

An Update from Littleton Family Services: “Our next scheduled date is **December 8 from 4-6 p.m. for the distribution of Christmas Gifts (for those who signed up)!**

We are so grateful for your continued support and enthusiasm of LFS. We appreciate you all more than you'll ever know!!” Much love, Missy & Megan

‘Tis the Season – The Littleton Family Services Adopt-A-Family program is here! Remember, if you adopted a family, gifts are due to Littleton Family Services by **December 1st** and we will make pick-up or drop-off arrangements with you. If you have any questions, please reach us at support@littletonfamilyservices.org.

“I am so honored to be a member of Ascension Lutheran with the most generous people in Colorado. Even in these rough times, when our own money is tight, you

have continued to support Angel Tree with a total of \$2,571. Angel Tree gifts will be especially important this year as the children receive these gifts representing the love of a parent in prison and the love of God for them, because there have been NO family visits since March, when the prisons shut their doors to families, visitors and volunteers. As we begin our own preparation for Christmas, know that this gift is already winging its way to the hands of these kiddos. Thank you that this year and every year, YOU make this ministry a success. *May the Lord shine His Christmas Star into your hearts and warm your hearth this season.*" Jude Donovan, Prison Ministry Coordinator, ALC.

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 30 individuals or families to see if they need assistance, and we have given assistance to 27 of those. (The others indicated they are doing OK at this time.) This financial assistance thus far totals \$ 27,800. 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, 623-680-9510.

ALC Foundation Update: The Fall brings many requests to the Foundation from local charities, which we are thrilled to support. We granted \$2000 to the Severe Weather Shelter Network this year, which will help with vouchers to hotel rooms for the homeless during extreme weather conditions. We partnered with Ascension's collection through Jude Donovan and matched \$500 to Angel Tree, an organization that provides Christmas gifts to children whose parents are incarcerated. Also, \$250 was granted to IFCS, formerly Inter Faith Task Force, which works right here in the Littleton and Englewood areas to provide much needed food and supplies to local families. Expenses during the pandemic have grown exponentially for charities reaching out to those in need. We thank YOU for supporting these Charities which take

care of people on a very personal level through our congregation's generous and faithful giving to the Foundation.

Denver Society of Creation: Please join us on December 3 at 7 p.m. at Mt. Zion Lutheran (500 Drake St., Denver) as Dan Kreft speaks about "Wherefore Art the Begats?" and on December 6 at 10:30 a.m. at Beautiful Savior Lutheran (6995 W. 120th, Broomfield) as Dan Kreft speaks about "The Problem of Distant Starlight." 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.

The third visit with your Ascension Gift Planning counselor is called "Summary."

In this stage the counselor will give you everything you decided on during the design stage, making sure it all makes sense and making sure it is "your" plan. Then the counselor, with your permission, will forward this information to your attorney so the process can continue. To get your Lifetime Plan for Giving started, contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at 970-988-0305.

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This week on KFUO.org, begin studying 2 Corinthians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT), finish Titus on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), and consider how our Lutheran Confessions tie into our practice and vocation as Lutherans on Concord Matters (11/24 at 2 p.m. CT). Find these 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.

Psalm 147: 3-5 - He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." This is what I need...right now. Have you ever had a day like this? Or a week? A month? Or...well, I think that we can all agree that 2020 has been a YEAR like this!

We are wounded and broken, and we are blessed to have a God who not only can but will heal us and bind our wounds! Our Lord is great and mighty...and He understands our brokenness. And He has fixed it...at the cross. Blessings. (Kathie Harvey)