

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (November 6 Edition)!

Voters' Meeting - November 22: "On 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. The positions to be filled are the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and Chairs for the Boards of Elders, Life Enrichment, Columbarium, Social Ministry, and Youth. 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

Christmas Decorating!! Yes, it is almost that time! We will be decorating the sanctuary on **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 7-13):

Saturday (11-7):	5:00 p.m. Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion
Sunday (11-8):	8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Education Hour/Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Young Adult Bible Study (at Starbucks (Windermere & Littleton Blvd.) 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
Monday (11-9):	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool 9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)
Tuesday (11-10):	9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Church Council
Wednesday (11-11):	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (Pastor Don Ginkel-The Book of Revelation) 5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live 5:00 p.m. WNL Music/Worship/Arts (Art) 6:00 p.m. Pre-confirmation & Confirmation Classes 7:00 p.m. Youth Band Rehearsal
Thursday (11-12):	10:00 p.m. Ladies Guild Meeting (Judy Finnessy Presenter) 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study
Friday (11-13):	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

"Many thanks for the kind words, prayers, and notes of condolence from you, the wonderful family of Ascension, to us at the passing of Brian's brother David Wilson. Blessings to you all." Marion and Brian

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!”

Thank You! — Stephanie Stasny has been our head chef for Wednesday Night Live dinners for several years, often assisted by Collin Brinkman (her dad) and Lilly Brinkman (her daughter). At this time, Stephanie needs to step back from that position, although we hope she will be able to return in the future! We want to express a huge “thanks” to Stephanie, Collin, and Lilly for all the delicious dinners and hours they have spent throughout the years, and we will miss their cooking until they return again. In the meantime, Laurie and Jim Mullane will be our head chefs on Wednesday, beginning this week. We thank them for their interest and willingness to step up and fill this need. Welcome, and we look forward to your cooking!

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: 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) PO Box 20424, 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.)

Join us for a Baby Shower for Jenna and Michael Lawrenz! We will have a baby shower for Jenna and Michael Lawrenz on **Sunday, November 15**, during the

Education Hour at 9:15 a.m. In case you did not know, they are expecting TWIN GIRLS to add to their two adorable sons, Tobin and Jensen. Jenna is the Young Adult Coordinator at Ascension. To help Jenna and Michael celebrate, we will have a baby shower in the Fellowship Hall at Church on November 15. Join us if you are able! They are registered at both Target and Walmart; in case you want to get them a gift. If you are interested, we are also setting up a monetary fund that they will be able to access for many diapers, clothes, and other necessities. If you would like to contribute to this fund, feel free to make out a check to Ascension Lutheran Church, but be sure to clearly mark it "Lawrenz Shower." If you would prefer, feel free to give this to Pastor or Kathy Johnson. Likewise, if you have any questions, contact Pastor or Kathy Johnson. Hope you can join us, either in person or in spirit! Congrats, Jenna and Michael!

Ascension Ladies Guild invites everyone to come and learn more about the Genesis flood – destruction and redemption. What was the flood really like? How did it start? Was it worldwide? Could the people of Noah's time have really constructed a boat that large? What does our DNA have to do with the flood?

On Thursday November 12 at 10 a.m. come and get the answers! You might be surprised how much evidence of Noah's flood there is still remaining in our world today! Judy Finnessy, president of Denver Society of Creation, will be answering all of your questions.

Ladies do not forget to bring a friend(s), your Mites, and most importantly your inquiring minds! Circle II will be providing coffee and assorted breakfast goodies.

International Children's Choir at Ascension Lutheran Church: On the weekend of November 21 & 22 we are blessed to have **His Little Feet** perform in song and movement at Ascension. This group of 18 children, **His Little Feet International Children's Choir**, is made up of hand-selected children, ages 6-12, from around the globe. Over the years the choir has consisted of orphaned children from China, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, South Korea, Rwanda, and the United States. All of the children in the choir have lost or been abandoned by one or both of their biological parents due to preventable disease, extreme poverty, lack of clean water, HIV/AIDS, tribal warfare or even death. Today, all of the children are in a loving environment based near Fort Collins where they are nurtured, fed, sheltered, clothed, educated and taught about Christ. Although these children have faced tremendous challenges in their young lives, each one of these children has a powerful testimony of being rescued and given hope which they will share through song, testimony, and video. Good weekend to bring a friend!

Wednesday Night Live MENU for November 11: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Fruit Cups, Brownie Bites (Menu is subject to change!)

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 continues a study on II Timothy.

We begin a verse-on-verse study of Revelation on Wednesday, November 11 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 November 12: 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 Monday, November 9, at 9:30 a.m.! We will continue to meet every second Monday 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!

MOPS is collecting boys' and girls' items for Operation Christmas Child! We could use your help! If you would like to contribute new toys, underwear, socks, school items, and other non-perishable or non-liquid items, please bring them to church by November 8! Thank you!

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. We need volunteers to help!!! We need donations and/or gifts, we need shoppers, and we need wrappers. ***Please contact Dana Niederbrach at 303-886-7860 to offer your help this Fall and leading up towards 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 Reid Clausen and his family, following the death of Ann on October 27; For Ryan O'Byrne, grandson of Barb Bader, undergoing testing for possible digestive issues; For Elle Lambert, awaiting back surgery on November 10; For Julie Woods, daughter of Judy Bress, awaiting surgery on her colon on November 9; For Rev. Dr. George Naeem, following a stroke; For Harvey Atchison, following removal of a kidney stone on November 4; For Jeff Dunker, following 2 kidney surgeries that appear to have been successful,

awaiting post-operative visit; 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 Bev Kistler, at home awaiting surgery; For Rick Eastridge, following surgery on October 29; For Sherrie Shelton, in rehab, for multiple issues; For healing and strength for Dave Hitztaler; For Eric Craig, brother of Kathie Harvey, following additional surgery on November 3- also pray for employment issues.

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 551,272 (\$12,582/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 516,438
Payroll Protection Program Loan:	\$ 89,000
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 132,332
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 36,660 (Distributed: \$ 26,900)

Attendance (October 31 & November 1):

Saturday: 31	Sunday: 8 a.m. 65	10:30 a.m. 65	Total: 161
Sunday School: 63			

Flowers for November 7 & 8 were donated by Janet Parrott in thankfulness for God's gift of this nation.

West Wing Committee Update: "There is a time for every matter under heaven." The Ascension West Wing Committee has finally reached the point where a contract can be signed in the next few days and the work on the West Wing Remodel can now start.

There were several difficult and sequential hurdles that needed to be jumped before we could act. First, the required level of funding needed to be pledged or donated. We thank the wonderful committee under the stellar leadership of Larry Nisbet for assuming this difficult task and completing it in these challenging circumstances. Second, we needed to have the approval of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund before they would grant a loan. Lastly, The Contractor needed to rebid the project with all of the subcontractors because of the delay in the project. We are pleased to report that these bids remained essentially the same.

So, now that we have completed these tasks, we are thankful that the project can move forward. We want everyone to know that the Contract that we will sign has a contingency clause that voids the contract if the funding from LCEF is not available.

We thank Pastor Larson, the staff and of course the entire Congregation for helping us through this process. We need your continual prayers and encouragement. The next several months will be exciting as we upgrade the West Wing of our building and bring it up to 21st Century standards.

An Update from Littleton Family Services: "We have scheduled our foodbanks through November and are hoping to be able to hold them inside as the weather starts to cool down! ***Our next scheduled date is November 14 from 9-11!*** 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!

Have you ever wanted to help someone in need over the Holiday Season? Now is your chance to make this Christmas a little sweeter for a local family. Simply complete the Google Form and we will help connect you with an individual or family that could use some support. There is no required amount to spend, we just ask that you fulfill all of their gift requests. You may adopt anywhere from one individual to multiple families. 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. Together we can make this Christmas brighter for our neighbors in need! Please use this link to sign-up to sponsor an individual or family in need:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SeDtFPfH6C09lq80bGFqvGiZy553bafbUXfhJkX-XP4/edit>

The Ladies Small Group Study will next meet on November 17, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month.

KOINONIA Bible Study will next meet on November 19, from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They will continue meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month.

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 \$ 26,900. 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.

Your Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation has supported the Concordia Adopt A Student program for several years, as a result of your generous donations. The Adopt A Student program assists students with expenses during their years at seminary. This year, the Foundation supported Harold Stevens. Harold is attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. His home church is St. John's Lutheran Church, in Denver, CO. He is married, with children, and was formerly employed in the corporate world. One quote from a letter received from Harold that demonstrates his experience at seminary is, "I am truly content when I am interacting with others of faith, and that helps remind me of why I want to become a Pastor." How blessed we are to be able to support his journey!

Denver Society of Creation: 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.

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.

Come join Mission Experience for their 2020 virtual banquet!!! When? Saturday evening Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. All you need to do is click/or type in the following Zoom link- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87982681832?pwd=UUVNZTI2Z2FhaVVJckxGTXFuVEd0Zz09> or use Meeting ID: 879 8268 1832 Passcode: 019049 **(The Zoom address will be posted on our website www.missionexperience.org. You can go there or Facebook and just click on the link)**. Join people from all over the country to hear and see how God is blessing and moving through Mission Experience. There will be auction items available such as a week at a ski in/ski out Condo in Vail, four days at a large cabin near Fairplay, CO and a Lakehouse in WI. To view the items and bid please go to <https://www.32auctions.com/MEAuction2020> starting Nov. 9. The banquet will include a video of our kids, an interview with Kerby, a message from Pastor Mike as well as fun and games. There will be prizes such as an Alexa Echo show with screen (runs all smart devices), Bose bar TV speaker, and Apple iPad tablet. Come join the fun and help ME!!! ALSO: Feel free to share our newest video - "From field to orphanage in four years!!!!"

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=U4IBlhR7IE>

The 2020 Lutheran High School Auction will be a global event! "Mark your calendars for **Friday night, November 20!** That is the night of the 21st Annual Lutheran High School Auction! This year it is a "Global Event" as we will have people in attendance on campus AND parties in homes as we celebrate and support the ministry of Lutheran High School! Tickets for the on-campus event went on sale October 16. Tickets are not needed to host or attend a LuHi Home Auction Party. We are looking

for 50+ hosts to gather people in their homes on that night to celebrate and support Lutheran High School. You can sign up to host a party and find all of the details at www.lhsparker.org/auction. Everyone is invited to become a part of this amazing night of support for the ministry of Lutheran High School! Thank you!" Kristin Gehrke & Cheryl Cattau - Auction Coordinators

The first visit with your Ascension Gift Planning counselor in the Lifetime Plan for Giving journey is called "Discovery." You share your family story and a survey of your goals that will dictate what your plan looks like with the gifts God has given you to manage. To schedule your discovery visit, 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 Timothy on Sharper Iron's "The Word is Trustworthy" series (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), continue in 2 Samuel on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT), consider a curious theological topic on Cross Defense (11/9 at 2 p.m. CT), and study the practicality of our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (11/10 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.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

As we stress, worry, and lose sleep about events in this world we frequently forget the most important thing... **God IS in control.** He has not stepped away and He has not turned His back on us and departed for calmer and saner climes. He sees us and He hears our prayers. And He always answers. Not always as we would wish, but always within His will and (so very importantly) always *"in all things God works for the good of those who love Him."*

In this world, we do what we can to care for those around us and to honor Him. This world is an imperfect place and sin is all around us and, all too often, deep within us, as well. But God is able to take me, to take us, to take this sinful world and to make it work *"for the good of those who love Him."*

Be confident, then, that nothing can be done outside of His will and be at peace as you know that He is at work for our good in even this sinful world.

Blessings! (Kathie Harvey)