

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (Thanksgiving Edition)!

Please join us for Thanksgiving Worship this evening at 7 p.m.

As of the 29th of November the Nursery will not be available until the Construction is done.

Voters' Meeting - November 22: "On Sunday, 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 and Connie Fringer as Chairs of the Columbarium and 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 and 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 and Marion Wilson with Life Enrichment and Collin Brinkman with the Youth Board.

The next Voter's Meeting will be on Sunday, January 24, 2021." Pastor Larson

Christmas Decorating!! Yes, it is almost that time! We will be decorating the sanctuary **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 28-December 4):

Saturday (11-28):	8:30 a.m. Christmas Decorating 5 p.m. Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion
Sunday (11-29):	First 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 (11-30):	9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
Tuesday (12-1):	9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Ladies Small Group Study
Wednesday (12-2):	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) 7 p.m. Advent Midweek Worship 7:45 p.m. Youth Band Rehearsal
Thursday (12-3):	7:00 p.m. Denver Society of Creation @ Mt. Zion Lutheran
Friday (12-4):	9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

Wednesday Night Live MENU for December 2: Ground Beef & Veggie Casserole, carrots & snow peas, apples, cookies! (Menu is subject to change!)

Address and Phone Updates: 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!

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: 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 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 (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) will be meeting in-person on Monday, December 14, 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!

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 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 as she decides to proceed with palliative care (Cards and FaceBook contacts are welcome, but Sandee has requested no visits or phone calls as she currently has little energy); For Ruth Wiggins, for recovery following a mini-stroke on November 20; For Glenn Rousch, currently in Littleton Hospital with heart & kidney issues; For Linda Nedry, awaiting

knee surgery on December 7; 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 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, in rehab, for multiple issues; For healing and strength for Dave Hitztaler; For Amanda Craig, niece of Kathie Harvey, still recovering from 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 (dependent on release from quarantine for Covid exposure).

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 589,018 (\$12,582/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 548,489
Payroll Protection Program Loan:	\$ 89,000
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 150,782
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 36,860 (Distributed: \$ 29,100)

Attendance (November 21 & 22):

Saturday: 32	Sunday: 8 a.m. 42	10:30 a.m. 43	Total: 117
Sunday School: 48			

Flowers for November 28 & 29 were donated by Patti Zeggert in celebration of Mel Raddeman, Leo and Patti Zeggert's Anniversary and in loving memory of Eileen Raddeman.

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 hope the disruptions will be smooth and of course, we realize 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

"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 \$ 29,100. 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, 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 fourth stage of the Ascension Gift Planning counselor is "Implementation."

This is where the counselor helps to make sure that all the pieces are in place, all documents are signed, and beneficiary designation changes have been made. The counselor will not quit until your plan really is in place and is your helper throughout the process. 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, study "Advent with the Prophets" on Sharper Iron during Advent (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), begin studying Identity on Mental Health Monday with Deaconess Heidi Goehmann (11/30 at 9 a.m. CT), and enjoy Midday Moments on creation, family, faith, scripture and the lighter side of life with Gary Duncan and special guests on weekdays at 12 p.m. CT. Find these programs on demand at kfu.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 100:4 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

"Happy Thanksgiving and may this be a time of blessing for you and your loved ones. Blessings." (Kathie Harvey)