

**GOOD AFTERNOON!**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 22 Edition)!**

**Don't Forget our Quarterly Voter's Meeting this coming Sunday, January 24, at noon.** Luncheon will be provided by our Ladies Guild, we will hear an update on the Renovation Project, a number of additional business matters, and a year-end financial report.

**Lutherans for Life:** "This weekend, we celebrate *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday*. Thank you for signing our proposition 115 this past summer; thank you for voting for passage of 115 in November. Now, let us again renew our efforts to protect LIFE from conception to natural death. Pastor John's sermon this Saturday and Sunday will recognize Life Sunday and you will find information in your mailbox and a LFL display in the narthex this weekend. We need you to be a partner in prayers for LIFE every day, and part of our efforts to speak up for LIFE as the Holy Spirit gives you opportunities. Contact Jude Donovan, for more information at [Heyjude264@aol.com](mailto:Heyjude264@aol.com)"

**Time Once Again to Celebrate Soup-Er-Bowl Sunday!** Bring your cans of soup for the Integrated Family Community Services food bank. Social Ministry will be collecting soup in the narthex from January 31-February 7.

**Thrivent Choice.** Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

**Eligibility requirements:** To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership.<sup>1</sup> Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following: Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products; having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products. Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis.

**Minimum and maximum Choice Dollars designations:** Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

**Choice Dollars expiration date:** Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year.

**The 2021 Calendars are ready to be picked up!** If you ordered a calendar and haven't been able to pick it up yet, you may do so on Sunday morning or by stopping by the front office at church (now in the nursery during construction.) We thank you for your support of the youth group! Have a blessed New Year!

**Flowers for January 23 & 24 were given by Edna & Linda Achziger in loving memory of Roy Walker, Edna's younger brother & Linda's uncle.**

**Please check the Flower Chart, we have a number of upcoming openings!**

**At the Church Council meeting on Tuesday, January 12, this good news about the finances of the church during 2020 was shared:** We received \$641,000 in offerings, above budget by \$26,000; We spent \$619,000, under budget by \$52,000; We had a surplus of \$22,000 in 2020. Praise God. Thank Him, and you, for such good news.

**Stewardship – For a New Year! :**

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 38,199 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 41,445
Payroll Protection Program Loan:	\$ 89,000
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 285,300
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 43,210 (Distributed: \$ 35,900)

**Attendance (January 16 & 17):**

Saturday: 5 p.m.	41	Sunday: 8 a.m.	57	10:30 a.m.	50	Total:	148
Sunday School:	12						

**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 Dave Hitztaler, currently in Home Hospice Care, and his family, as he struggles with his lethal lung disease, IPF - Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis; For Gloria Gaudreault, currently recovering at home from a minor stroke; For Bob Shiflet, awaiting foot surgery on 1/27; For Lawrence Brown, currently at home looking at a long recovering time from successful surgery for a serious infection on his leg; For Joyce Mangum, Jim Bame's former wife, with Stage 4 cancer; For Nadine Ginkel; For Jacqueline Warren, for life issues; For Mary Bet Stallcup, sister of Judy Mihok, very ill with numerous issues and Covid; For Russell Proue, 43 year old great nephew of Charlotte Wilkinson, recently diagnosed with Stage 4 Esophageal cancer; For Jenna Harvey-Kabelman, granddaughter of Kathie Harvey, for life issues; For Carissa Andrus and her daughters as the struggle with life issues after moving to South Dakota; For Ted Lemke; For Lisa, daughter of Millie Cox, with a recurrence of cancer; For Kathy, sister-in-law of Marilyn Loptien, for recovery from surgery for breast cancer; For Carol Zeller with Interstitial Lung Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis and cardiac issues.

**Thanksgiving:** For the Lawrenz family, now increased to 6, following the birth of Ellie (5 lb. 11 oz.) and Norah (6 lb. 8 oz.) at 2:18 p.m. and 2:22 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19...all are healthy and at home! Happy birthday, little ones!

**Paint-A-Thon:** If you are in need of assistance to paint the exterior of your home and meet the qualifications (homeowner on a fixed income, aged 60+ or disabled, living in a 1-1.5 story home) please ask for an application from the Church Office or go to this link: <https://brothersredevelopment.org/volunteer-apply-paint-a-thon/volunteer-program-overview/become-a-volunteer/>.

**Calendar At-a-Glance (January 23-January 29):**

Saturday (1-23):	<b>5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion</b>
Sunday (1-24):	<b>8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</b> <b>9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour (No Adult Class)</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</b> <b>12:00 p.m. Voters' Meeting</b>
Monday (1-25):	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
Tuesday (1-26):	9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting
Wednesday (1-27):	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool <b>10:00 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study (Pastor Ginkel)</b> 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live 5:00 p.m. Music Worship & Arts Program (Art - Kathie) 5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal 7:00 p.m. Youth Band
Thursday (1-28):	6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study
Friday (1-29):	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

**Pastor started a series on Ephesians on January 17.** The theme is "The God Who..."

January 24.....Ephesians 1:15-23 - "The God Who Opens Hearts"  
January 31.....Ephesians 2:1-10 - "The God Whose Name is Grace"  
February 7.....Ephesians 2:11-22 - "The God Who Builds His Church"  
February 14.....Ephesians 3:1-13 - "The God Who Makes the Two, One"

**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.

**MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) will be meeting in-person on Tuesday, February 9, 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!

**We continue a verse-on-verse study of Revelation, meeting 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.

**Wednesday Night Live!** Menu for January 27 is Breakfast Casserole, Butter Braids, Apples, & Peas & Carrots!

**KOINONIA Bible Study will next meet on February 4, from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** They will continue meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays each month.

**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 January 28! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna ([jenna.lindeman@cune.org](mailto:jenna.lindeman@cune.org)).

**Ascension Prayer Group:** *Psalm 46:10 - The Passion Translation: Surrender your anxiety! Be silent and stop your striving and you will see that I am God. I am the God above all the nations, and I will be exalted throughout the whole earth.*

Come join us to pray for Ascension Lutheran Church, Pastor Larson & staff, and our members. On *January 27 at 2 p.m.*, we will meet as a group on Zoom to pray for about an hour. 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](mailto:MargoALPasha@yahoo.com)

**Ascension Lutheran Church Columbarium Memorial Garden:** What do you know or remember about Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) Columbarium Memorial Garden (CMG)? It is the history of the "small home churches or the little white country churches" that were within the communities dotting the "plains and prairies of the mid-west". They were often outside of the hustle and bustle of larger communities. Church cemeteries were often a bonding place for the small communities. "It was a powerful witness to the "one-ness" with God of the living and dead".

As the time moved on, several members of ALC looked at a new concept of church cemeteries but in the new form, "The Columbarium". They worked on the design and construction of "The ALC CMG" started in December 2004 and were dedicated in August 2005". It has been written, "The Columbarium is an integral part of our church property and is designed to conform to the architecture of the sanctuary, both uniting with the simple beauty of a garden".

There are a number of other features that make up the CMG. We invite you to visit it and discover the features, beauty, and serenity of the environment. If you would like additional information about inurnment or purchase of a niche, please contact Norm & Connie Fringer at 303-794-2775 or E-mail us at [fringerc@msn.com](mailto:fringerc@msn.com).

**Extended Day Preschool News!** Our new Director, Kelly Lafferty, started with the Preschool on Tuesday, January 5! Welcome, Kelly, we are glad to have you join Ascension in our Ministry to the community!

Our Extended Day Preschool continue classes in person. **The Preschool is currently accepting registration for 2021** and we have openings available in both classrooms (Contact the Preschool with questions)!

**New Beginnings at Ascension Extended Day Preschool:** Entering the first month of a new year is typically a time of clarity, of resolutions and new beginnings. The introduction of a new year provides an opportunity to make changes based on the hurdles of the previous year or maintain status quo due to the strides achieved in the preceding twelve months. But this January proves to be a bit different, a bit untold. The unknown, and very uncharted time we are living in has proven to provide us all with countless hurdles. This includes our children.

In our preschool program, we have been attempting to imagine what understanding a child may have of the concept of a "Worldwide pandemic" and how this "new normal" has impacted their daily lives. Even with my short time working with this program, I

revel in the ability to lay the groundwork for trust and security for the children in our care. As we would want to believe that this year will be the end of this mysterious time, it will be our stance to provide a clear and dedicated sense of normalcy and consistency for the students. And the start of that is commencing this month. With the grace and guidance of God, our Father, we will begin to bring back fun activities similar to past years (while still safely social distancing, of course), and hopefully a bit of normalcy.

Now, for more on what our smart students are currently learning!!!! Both classrooms are working on literacy concepts (letter recognition, name formation), math notions (counting), and as always, providing the word of the Lord throughout the day. We have the pleasure of recreating the Stock Show activities in our program (even though the state canceled the festivities, we will still be celebrating)!!! See more about how the students will learn about the animals, colors, and foods associated with the Rodeo in next week's edition.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)." Warm Regards, Kelly Lafferty, Director

**Are you in need of kid's items?** Andrea Winckler (720-317-9168) has toys and gear for either boys or girls ages 0-2. Call her if you are interested!

### **Many Thanks!**

"It is with great gratitude that I thank each person who has called, texted, sent cards and most of all prayed for me these recent months concerning my autoimmune disorder. I believe I may now be in remission; I am feeling better each day. Thank you so much! I continue to hope and pray that I am in remission, and that it will last a long time, preferably maybe even go away forever. I KNOW without a doubt it is all the prayers that have gotten me through this to this point. Love and blessings to each of you!" Deb Shiflet

"A HUGE THANK YOU!!—I'd like to thank the staff and congregation for the wonderful reception at the end of December, as well as for the many cards, gifts, and notes I received. I was truly touched by the sentiments, and they are greatly appreciated and cherished. Serving as the Education Director at Ascension has been such a privilege and honor, and I thank you for the opportunity to work with each of you. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for each of us, and I pray for many blessings in 2021!" Kathy Johnson

**Faith Book 2021** - "Are you looking forward to Spring, and to Easter in early April, oh, aren't we all? As we long for Easter, help us to prepare to publish Faith Book 9. Today we start **signing up** to write our page in the Ascension devotional booklet.

Do you have a **Faith Book** story that we need to hear? Powerful stories can encourage friends, witness to our faith, and deepen our sense of God's presence among us. We need your story to bring light and grace to one another. Tell us how Covid has changed your life...for the better or the worse. Share how you managed to

remain faithful this year, or in other tough places in your life. Share a special Scripture story or verse, a hymn or time that has become important to your faith walk.

Please **sign up quickly by email** and turn your story in quickly as well. Due to Covid restrictions, we will try to handle our sign up and delivery of stories through my email: [Heyjude264@aol.com](mailto:Heyjude264@aol.com). All stories must be in by February 21 to be formatted and inserted in time for distribution.

Each page will provide about half of a page for your story, about 500 words. I'll be glad to help you, to interview you, to develop your thoughts or just to chat about topics. Let me know how to help. 303-972-0873 Thanking you in advance and praying that the Lord leads you to share your heart." Pax Christi, Jude Donovan

**ALC Foundation Update:** "At its January meeting, the Foundation board heard a presentation from John Rinks, with Lutheran High School. He reported that the school continues to grow and will break ground on a \$6 million addition this year. Our funds are used for both tuition assistance and for the capital campaign.

Due to some flexibility in our budget, we were able to give an additional \$2000 to IFCS food bank, to help those facing "a new disaster and extended trauma". IFCS reports that their needs have never been greater, and the Foundation has made a real difference in helping those less fortunate. Their director of development, Todd McPherson's, letter is on our bulletin board for your review.

John Wolf's African ministry is going strong. He and his family have not been able to leave Kenya and the work continues to be both a challenge and a blessing.

The Board also agreed to continue to fund seminarian Harold Stevens at Concordia in St. Louis. This grant is funded through the Adopt-A-Student program. Harold is from the Littleton area and is a former corporate employee and atheist, who has come to Christ and is learning how to spread the Gospel through his studies."

**West Wing Project Update:** "We are pleased to report that the "abatement" work is completed and the flooring throughout the West Wing is now asbestos free. Regular demolition of the walls and ceilings has resumed and should continue for a few more days. The new windows and light fixtures have been ordered.

Some unanticipated costs have occurred. We've been forced to tap into our 15% Contingency Budget to cover a number of unexpected items. This includes higher than expected permitting costs from the City of Littleton, hiring a moving crew as opposed to using a largely volunteer work force to empty the building contents, and the extensive asbestos abatement work. On the plus side, we were thankful for the staff and volunteers who packed hundreds of boxes and we were pleased that we were able to reduce the number of windows that can be opened. A window that can be opened is more expensive. The invoices paid to date total \$69,448. The approved budget is \$911,500.

We thank all of you who have helped support the West Wing Project. We are very thankful that the funds received to date exceed the pledged amount for 2020. Keep us

in your prayers.” West Wing Committee: Bob Hea, Roger Koester, Chuck Mielke and Jim Riebling

**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 \$ 35,900. 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 continues at Ascension!** “We are just halfway through the season and have provided meals for 4 nights this season. We are still open to all volunteer help for food donation, food packaging, and food delivering, especially as we move into our coldest and snowiest months.

Also, I have two reminders for everyone: 1) This season is my final season as the Church Coordinator at Ascension for SWSN and the church will need a replacement coordinator. If you have any interest in this position, please let me know as I would love to talk to you further about it. This position can be filled by one person or it can be co-coordinated by 2 people; 2) Due to the construction we are VERY limited on space for food/supplies and must share space with other ministries. Ann and I ask that food/beverage donations not be dropped off at the church until we indicate that we are activated to serve. As always if you have any questions or interest in taking over as Church Coordinator, please let me know. Bri Fort, [bribly@gmail.com](mailto:bribly@gmail.com), 6236-680-9510”

**Denver Society of Creation:** Upcoming speakers are Dr. Barbara Helmkamp (February 2021) and Mr. Dan Kreft (March 2021). Please check out our website [www.denversocietyofcreation.org](http://www.denversocietyofcreation.org) for additional details!

**My congregation has been the greatest blessing to my life in Jesus.** But I am mildly interested in supporting the training of new church workers and missionaries in urban areas of this country. Is it okay to make ministry gifts that are of different proportions? Of course, it is! Guided by His Spirit you will apply them to where God’s hand of blessing is. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. 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.

**KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations,** shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org) via worship services, Bible and theology

studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social media at:

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**This week on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org)**, study Mark 3-4 on Sharper Iron's "The Gospel in Action" with Pastor Timothy Appel and guests (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), study 2 Corinthians 10-12 on Thy Strong Word with host Pastor Brady Finner and guests (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT), and worship with us in Daily Chapel at 10 a.m. CT. Find these programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or on your podcast app!

**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.

***Psalm 139:13-14 - For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.***

I have spoken of this scripture before, but it is just so appropriate for Sanctity of Life Sunday. I will let it speak for itself!

Blessings to you all! Kathie Harvey