

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 29 Edition)!

Welcome to the Fellowship of Christ: Sunday Morning, January 31, in the 10:30 a.m. Worship, we welcome Ellie Alise and Norah René Lawrenz to our family through the Rite of Holy Baptism.

Voters' Meeting Update: About 40 members of Ascension Lutheran Church met on Sunday, January 24, 2021 for a regular, one hour-long, Voter's Meeting. Edna Achziger provided and served the meal for the Voters. Tom Munson, the newly elected President, chaired the meeting. Most of the time of the meeting was spent in a report from Pastor, the Treasurer's report provided by Margo Pasha, the Renovation Report given by Roger Koester and an update on the funding of the renovation by Larry Nisbet.

Margo gave us the good news that we received more money than we had expected, and spent less money than we had budgeted, during 2020. Such good fiscal action will allow the Elders to send an additional \$2,500 to mission projects, over and above the mission partners selected for this previous year. Roger Koester told us about the progress that the renovation has made since November. When the contractor found asbestos in the floor tile, an abatement team had to be hired, slowing down the project and costing about \$50,000. Due to this, a special Voter's meeting will be held on Sunday, February 14, at noon, for the purpose of receiving approval to increase the amount of our loan.

The assembly elected Margo Pasha as treasurer for 2021 and Ian Kirschner as youth board chair for 2021-2022. The assembly also elected Jim Finnessy as the alternate lay delegate to the District Convention. (Arvin Michel was elected as the lay delegate in the fall of 2020, Jim will serve if Arvin cannot attend). Also, the assembly nominated Pastor Jared Melius from Mt. Zion in Denver to serve as Regional Vice-President of the District.

The next Special Voter's Meeting will be on February 14. The next Regular Voter's Meeting will be on April 25.

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 this coming Sunday, 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.¹ 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.

Support Ascension at no extra cost when you shop at smile.amazon.com. In order for Ascension to receive your support, you must use this link:
<https://smile.amazon.com>.

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!

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

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 50,199 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 52,644
Payroll Protection Program Loan:	\$ 89,000
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 285,720
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 43,810 (Distributed: \$ 37,300)

Attendance (January 23 & 24):

Saturday: 5 p.m.	41	Sunday: 8 a.m.	60	10:30 a.m.	53	Total: 154
Sunday School:	21					

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 Judy Mihok and her family, following the death of her sister, Mary Beth Stallcup; 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 Joyce Lord, for healing and recovery from her pinched nerve; For Walter Auten, results on testing for health issues; For Jody Chipman, awaiting work on her hip; For Bob Shiflet, following 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 Russell Proue, 43 year old great nephew of Charlotte Wilkinson, recently diagnosed with Stage 4 Esophageal cancer; For Michael, son of Jim & Judy Finnessy, who has been ill since about New Years, and so far, the doctors have not been able to determine why as all tests have been normal or negative (not COVID related); For John Hendrickson, friend of Del Grau, hospitalized with collapsed lung; For Jenna Harvey-Kabelman, granddaughter of Kathie Harvey, for life issues; For Joyce Gallagher, awaiting knee surgery on February 18, also diagnosed with COPD

(awaiting pulmonary test); 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 Hugh Heggen - the oldest member of Ascension will be 102 on February 2. Hugh lives at Libby Bortz Assisted Living and does quite amazingly well for 102 years of age; Brian McGregor has pretty much recovered from Covid 19, still uses oxygen.

Calendar At-a-Glance (January 30-February 5):

Saturday (1-30): **5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion**
Sunday (1-31): **8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour (No Adult Class)
 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
Monday (2-1): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
Tuesday (2-2): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. Small Group Bible Study
Wednesday (2-3): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
 10:00 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study (Pastor Ginkel)
 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live
 5:00 p.m. Music Worship & Arts Program (Art – Kathleen)
 5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal
 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry
 7:00 p.m. Youth Band
Thursday (2-4): 1:30 p.m. Koinonia Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Denver Society of Creation: Featuring Barbara Helmkamp (at Mt. Zion, Denver)
Friday (2-5): 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 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 February 3 is Italian Sub Sandwiches, Chips, Peppers, Clementines, Cookies!

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 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month.

The Young Adult Group will be meeting at Ascension at 6:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Thursday): Our next meetings will be held on February 11 & 25! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna (jenna.lindeman@cune.org).

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) “*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.*”

Come join us to pray for all of the Lord’s people. On February 10 at 2 p.m., we will meet as a group on Zoom to pray together 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

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.

Extended Day Preschool! 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 Kelly with questions)!

News from Ascension Extended Day Preschool: “The preschool students are completing the month of January bustling and flourishing with learning. We will be celebrating the Denver Stock Show event (yes, we will still be celebrating even though the actual event has been postponed until 2022). We have a fun-filled Rodeo day planned for this Friday - the children and the teachers get to play dress-up while

wearing their best Cowboy or Cowgirl outfit to school, we have adventurous "horse play" and a delicious "Chuck Wagon" lunch around a campfire planned, and we all get to take home a Rodeo letter/ number packet to work on with our families over the weekend. Yee-haw!!!

Moving forward into next week, our Preschool class will be continuing their letter recognition by working on the letter "P" all week through a variety of activities. Our Prekindergarten class will continue their Stock Show lessons in addition to learning about the letter "K", the number seven, counting and opposites. The students will also complete their annual Winter testing to ensure they are all ready for their next education journey into Kindergarten." 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. 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: "While flooring "abatement" work was finished last week, we unfortunately found asbestos in the window caulk and glazing which may complicate window removal. We are currently running additional tests before bidding a more involved removal of the windows. We will keep you updated on this new issue.

Construction has begun with the old low "R" value insulation in much of the upstairs ceiling being removed. It will be replaced with thicker, more energy efficient insulation. Framing the new walls is ongoing on both floors and plumbing work has begun in the lower-level children's bathrooms.

A Special Voter's Meeting is being planned for Sunday, February 14. As reported in the Voter's Meeting last Sunday, we've been forced to use 50% of our Contingency Budget at this early stage of the project to cover increased permitting costs and the extensive asbestos abatement work. At the Special Voters Meeting, we will request an increase in the approved total project cost. The increase will be needed to cover the abatement associated with the window removal and other planned expenses that were to be funded out of the contingency budget. To this date the Invoices paid total: \$119,797. The approved budget now stands at \$911,500.

We are trying to keep the additional costs as low as possible. Many little problems have come and gone with the help of your prayers. We are endeavoring to meet all your expectations with wisdom – we pray for that wisdom." 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 \$ 37,300. 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, 623-680-9510"

What's Next for Littleton Family Services? If 2020 taught us anything, it's how to roll with the punches. The pandemic has greatly altered life for people everywhere.

Families that have never needed help have had to ask for it; those who've struggled before may have found their lives even more uncertain. As large groups have been unable to gather indoors, Littleton Family Services has switched from food banks to grocery delivery. We recently learned that we will be unable to get back into the space the church has graciously shared with us as they are undergoing a major renovation.

The goal is to find a forever home in the Littleton area so that we may welcome our beloved clients in on a more regular basis. Our vision includes a client choice pantry with the potential to offer more fresh food, a space to offer gently used clothing again as well as valuable services such as resource navigation, personal finance classes, healthy eating on a budget courses, and so much more! It will be a welcoming place in the community for volunteers to serve their neighbors in need with great love. We are hopeful and optimistic about the future of Littleton Family Services.

We are in the running for a grant with the City of Littleton and have expressed our desire to grow and continue to serve. Thank you for joining us on this journey! Check

us out at <https://www.littletonfamilyservices.org/> if you'd like to help LFS "Build the Future."

Denver Society of Creation: Upcoming speakers are Dr. Barbara Helmkamp, this coming Wednesday, February 4 at Mt. Zion Lutheran (500 Drake St. in Denver) and Mr. Dan Kreft (March 2021). Please see the Bulletin Board or check out our website www.denversocietyofcreation.org for additional details!

If I have never been married or have no children as direct heirs, am I required to give a family portion of my estate to siblings, nieces, and nephews, etc.? Once again, the gifts out of your estate are not required, but are expressions of God's grace. If you want to bless those family members, give them gifts, but do not be compelled by guilt. You will want to think through this in preparation for working with your attorney. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at 970-988-0305.

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Ephesians 1:8 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Grace. **God's Riches At Christ's Expense.**

Salvation, through God's Grace, is a gift for everyone. Shout it out, sing it out, let everyone know that God's Amazing Grace belongs to them. A gift beyond all gifts. Your sin? Gone! Grace took care of it. An eternity separated from God? No worries, Grace took care of that for us and now we get eternal life with Him instead. And, if you are expecting a big bill at the end of this life...Grace picked up that tab. Paid in full on the cross.

Thank you, Lord for your Amazing Grace! Blessings to you all! Kathie Harvey