

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 8 Edition)!

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 9 starting at 8:30 a.m. If you are able to help, please join us!

Don't Forget our Quarterly Voter's Meeting on 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.

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!

Extended Day Preschool News! Our new Director, Kelly Lafferty, started with the Preschool on Tuesday, January 5! Watch for information from Kelly in next week's 'What's Happening!' 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)!

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!

We would like to welcome our in-coming Board Chairpersons and Officers and Thank those who have served these past years! We give thanks for those who so faithfully served: Arvin Michel, President; Dennis Lord. Vice-President; Allen Brookshire, Treasurer; Tim McClaren, Secretary; Brian & Marion Wilson with Life Enrichment & Collin Brinkman with the Youth Board.

New Officers & Board Chairperson are: 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; & Anita Baresel as Chair of Social Ministry. Continuing in their current positions are Linda Achziger (Stewardship), Norm & Connie Fringer (Chairs of the Columbarium); Sherry Hitztaler (Education Board); Joyce Lord (Outreach); Roger Koester & Chuck Mielke (Trustees); & Carol Stamp (Ladies Guild). We currently have 2 areas in need of leadership, Life Enrichment and Youth. If you might be interested, please contact Pastor with questions regarding the responsibilities and the joys you would be taking on!

Thank you to the following for donating Poinsettias for our Sanctuary! Joyce Dowdy, Valorie Flickinger, Norm & Connie Fringer, Bill & Gloria Gaudreault, Ed & Gwen Geisler, Troy and Shelly Gray, Kathie Harvey, Roger & Judy Koester, John & Marilyn Larson, Don & Marilyn Loptien, Dennis & Joyce Lord (for Angelina Torito), Chuck & Gloria Mielke, Andy & Mavis Slifka, Patti Zeggert (in memory of Mel Raddeman).

Flowers for January 9 & 10 were donated by Tricia McCulley in loving memory of her niece, Tracey Pablo.

Stewardship – For a New Year! :

Budgeted Amount/Year to date: \$ 12,733 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date: \$ 20,326
Payroll Protection Program Loan: \$ 89,000
Renovation Funds (Project Peter): \$ 271,010
Virus Fund/Received to date: \$ 43,110 (Distributed: \$ 34,800)
2020 End of Year (no adjustments): \$ 620,893 (Final amt. determined after close)

Attendance (December 31, January 2 & 3):

New Year's Eve: 33 Saturday: 38 Sunday: 8 a.m. 59 10:30 a.m. 41 Total: 171
Sunday School: 18

Calendar At-a-Glance (January 9-January 15):

Saturday (1-9): **8:30 a.m. Volunteers to Remove Christmas Decorations**
8:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry Leaders
9:30 a.m. Social Ministry
5 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday (1-10): **8 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 (1-11): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
Tuesday (1-12): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Mothers of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS)
6:30 p.m. Church Council
Wednesday (1-13): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
10 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study (Pastor Ginkel)
5 p.m. Wednesday Night Live
5 p.m. Music Worship & Arts Program (Art with Lilly)
5 p.m. Adult Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal
7:30 p.m. Youth Band Rehearsal
Thursday (1-14): **11:30 a.m. Ladies Guild Brown Bag Lunch & Bible Study**
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study
Friday (1-15): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

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, January 12, 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 13 is Chicken Patty on a bun, Coleslaw (Jim's Homemade!), Grapes, Cookies!

You are invited to join the Ladies Guild and Pastor Larson for a Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study on Thursday, January 14, at 11:30 a.m. This event will be hosted by Circle III who will provide dessert, coffee & tea. Please remember to bring your mites, nickel bags/socks, your Bible, a friend, and most importantly do not forget your Brown Bag Lunch!

The Young Adult Group will be meeting at Ascension at 6:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Thursday): Our next meetings will be held on January 14 & 28! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna (jenna.lindeman@cune.org).

A big "Thank You" for all the people who contributed with donations and for all of the volunteers that helped with the Christmas Families this year!!! You are very much appreciated. You really came through for us in a big way!

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 Troy Brown and his family, following the death of his step-mother on Christmas Eve; For the friends and family of Sandee Thieme, who died January 3; For Dave Hitztaler, currently in Home Hospice Care, and his family, as he struggles with his lethal lung disease, IPF - Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis; For Lawrence Brown, currently in Swedish with an infection in his leg; For Joyce Mangum, Jim Bame's former wife, with Stage 4 cancer; For Joyce Gallagher, recovering at home from an infection; For Jenna Lawrenz, in her final month of pregnancy, we pray for a safe delivery of the twins and good health for mother and daughters; For Jenna Harvey-Kabelman, granddaughter of Kathie Harvey, for life issues; For Ted Lemke; For Lisa, daughter of Millie Cox, with a recurrence of cancer; For Barb Lone, following hip-replacement revision surgery on December 30; For Deb Shiflet, for answers in the next steps as she deals with autoimmune issues that are causing her great misery; For Kathy, sister-in-law of Marilyn Loptien, with breast cancer; For Susie Weideman, sister of Lorine Grau, with COVID; For Brian McGregor, friend of Del & Lorine Grau, with COVID; For Karen, sister of Ellen Thompson, beginning treatment for ovarian cancer; For Carol Zeller with Interstitial Lung Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis and cardiac issues.

Ascension Prayer Group: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: The Passion Translation*
Let joy be your continual feast. Make your life a prayer. And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.

Come join us in the New Year to pray for Ascension Lutheran Church, Pastor Larson & staff, and our members. On **January 13 at 2 p.m.**, we will meet as a group on Zoom to pray for 30 minutes. 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

Many Thanks!

"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're 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

"Thank you to Pastor for the flowers before Christmas and to the Ladies Guild for the lovely goodie bag. Everything was much appreciated and enjoyed!" Viola Raasch

"Many thanks to the Ladies Guild for the wonderful bag of fun goodies in December. Lots of delicious snacks, puzzle book, practical items, notebook, etc. - all made Dave's Day. It is so wonderful to be thought of! Most of all, thank you for your prayers!" Sherry Hitztaler

"Just wanted to say thanks for all the prayers and good wishes from my Ascension family. My back surgery went well, and I'm looking forward to a smooth recovery. God is good - always!" Dianne Backhus

ALC Foundation Update: "The Foundation has received news from the Scheiwe family in Hong Kong, who report on the light of the Gospel throughout this year of protests and pandemics. They experienced a graduation, COVID, weeks of isolation, and joy in learning piano and drama. We also heard from John Wolf, in Africa, who could not return to the US this year but stays active with his family in building housing for the seminaries in Kenya. He was able to attend a meeting with church leaders from central Africa in Togo in February, was shut down through September and is now active again helping educate and feed God's people. Mission Experience reports that the school is now welcoming the community children with 20 new enrollees from the neighborhood of Bonswa! They are bursting at the seams and almost in the black financially.

Finally, we want to give thanks for Jerry Gerdes, who so faithfully served the Foundation for many years and has moved on from the board, Lisa Riebling, who has kept our books and made sure we were reporting our finances properly, and Arvin Michel, husband of board member Athenia, who helped us get our organizational bylaws in current and correct condition."

West Wing Project Update: Blessed New Year to all.

Last week the demolition portion of the project was interrupted with issues relating to the original tile flooring laid in the early '60's. The tile and associated glue contain low amounts of asbestos. The Building Committee made the decision to hire a licensed contractor to remove the original tile and glue in the West Wing to eliminate any health

concerns and avoid problems during upcoming work. This “abatement” work is currently ongoing but should finish by the end of this week. Regular construction will resume on Monday. The Committee is very thankful for your understanding and prayers as we attempt to update God’s house while minimizing the impact on Church programs. Praise the Lord! In your service: Ascension West Wing Committee.
West Wing Committee: Bob Hea, Roger Koester, Chuck Mielke and Jim Riebling

Capital Committee Update: “The Capital Campaign Committee would like to thank everyone for the prayers, the Pledge commitments and the donations for the West Wing remodel project. The whole effort came together late in this year’s calendar and we can feel so blessed that so much has materialized in support of this renewal of our aging facility wing.

The move ahead was overwhelmingly given through the results of a membership survey and finally by a positive vote through the voters meeting giving the Church Council direction to empower the Board of Trustees to move forward with enthusiasm. Professionals were brought in to study the dynamics of the facility and to pull together a comprehensive plan. Architects and engineers were identified, and the west wing design and costs were drafted. The LCEF was contacted and they said they would support the project if the Church membership could show that they would financially support the work. The Capital Campaign Committee was formed, and the return of support was such that LCEF said they would be happy to underwrite the effort and the formal papers were signed. The project is now engaged and moving forward with vigor.

Pledges were made for 2020, 2021, 2022 and money has regularly been coming in. Your Committee would like to encourage everyone in the last weeks of this year to get the 2020 Pledge in. Even if you were not able to make a pledge any amount of money donated is significant in helping to complete the project; pennies, nickels, dimes add up and any amount will help to complete the project. The more we can pay up front the less we will have to borrow for the work. It is also never too late to enter a Pledge if your circumstances permit. Please continue to pray for the successful completion of this significant project, which supports our many ministries.” Your Capital Campaign Committee: Jim Adams, Art Gordon, Bob Hea, Kim McCormick, Chuck Mielke, Dawn Munson, and Kathleen Wucherpfenning

An Update from Littleton Family Services: Currently, there are no scheduled events due to the resurgence of COVID.

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 \$ 34,800. 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 continues 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, briby@gmail.com, 623-680-9510.

Denver Society of Creation: Upcoming speakers are Dr. Barbara Helmkamp (February 2021) and Mr. Dan Kreft (March 2021). Please check out our website for additional details!

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.

One family member is highly responsible with money; another is not. The one who has not demonstrated good stewardship might be best served with inheritance that is spread over time. This discussion of your wishes for timing of distribution of gifts from your estate is an important one. 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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This week on KFUO.org, study the Gospel of Mark on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), continue in 2 Corinthians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT), and take a moment in creation, scripture, faith, and family on Midday Moments (weekdays at 12 p.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at kfu.org or your favorite podcasting 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.

Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Are you as absolutely certain as I am that You know God’s thoughts and ways? I tend to be quite sure of it...which probably explains the stress and sleeplessness I frequently feel! Why is it that we cannot trust that the God that created the universe and all within it is going to, somehow, miss the small stuff and that we will have to handle it ourselves? I can do it sometimes...let go and let God and when I do there is such a peace. I guess I must not like peace all that much...because I sure do worry and lose sleep over way too many things. Things that I don’t know the “why” of, but He does.

Resolve in this New Year, to try to let go of at least one more thing that you have been trying to take from God’s hands.

Blessings in the New Year! (Kathie Harvey)