

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (February 12 Edition)!

Special Voter's Meeting TODAY, February 14. We will be voting on the following motion: "The Building Committee moves to increase the budget for the West Wing Renovation Project from \$911,500 to \$1,034,000, an increase of \$122,500, to cover the cost of additional permitting fees by the City of Littleton, unplanned abatement expenses associated with the flooring and windows, and to replenish the contingency budget for the remainder of the project."

Ascension's Extended Day Preschool is currently looking for a qualified Preschool Lead Teacher. Contact our Director, Kelly Lafferty, (303-794-4636, ext. 106 or email to director@alcpreschool.com) if you are aware of any interested candidates.

Please note that our Mid-week Lenten Worship begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. We will have a morning Worship at 11:30 a.m. and an evening Worship at 7 p.m. Due to COVID, we will **NOT** be serving meals this year, either lunch or dinner.

In the Elder's Meeting a number of topics and dates were discussed that have an impact on worship at Ascension in the coming months. The decisions were reached due to the concern of all our worshippers, our members, and guests, during the time of this pandemic.

We will not be imposing ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 17, this year. The physical contact from Pastor to recipient and then to the next recipient was a concern to Pastor.

In order to allow maximum participation, as well as proper social distancing, a number of services will be added during Holy Week: Maundy Thursday (April 1) services at 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Good Friday (April 2) services at 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Saturday (April 3) service at 5 p.m. (This will be an Easter service); Easter Sunday (April 4) services will be at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

We will also be having a Good Friday Prayer Vigil. Please continue checking here for details!

Last year we were not able to meet during most of Lent nor for Holy Week, including Easter. Though different this year, it will be meaningful and joyous.

Thank you for making Soup-Er-Bowl Sunday a great success! Ascension was able to collect a total of 478 cans of soup, 42 of which will stay in-house for Virus Fund distribution.

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>.

Flowers for February 13 & 14 were given by Bob Shiflet in celebration of Deb's birthday (2/14) and their 43rd Anniversary (2/18).

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

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 Lee Valdez and his family following the death of his oldest brother, Chris, only 61, who died of a heart attack this past week; For Joyce Gallagher and her family following the death of her sister-in-law, Sharon, on February 8; For Dave Hitztaler, currently in Home Hospice Care, and his family, as he struggles with his lethal lung disease, IPF - Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis; For Dianne Backhus, awaiting additional tests; For Ted Lemke; For Patti Zeggert and her mother, both with COVID; For Marilyn Asche, in Rehab at Powerback after a fall; For Nadine Ginkel; For Jacqueline Warren, for life issues; For Megan Harvey, daughter of Kathie, with knee issues from a fall down the stairs; For Jenna Harvey-Kabelman, granddaughter of Kathie Harvey, for life issues; For Joyce Gallagher, awaiting knee surgery on February 18, also diagnosed with COPD (following pulmonary test); 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 John Hendrickson, friend of Del Grau, recovered from a collapsed lung & back home!

Calendar At-a-Glance (February 13-19):

Saturday (2-13): **5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion**
Sunday (2-14): **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
 11:45 a.m. Special Voters' Meeting
Monday (2-15): **Presidents' Day**
Tuesday (2-16): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. Small Group Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday (2-17): **Ash Wednesday**
 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
 9:45 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study (Pastor Ginkel)
 11:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion
 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live
 5:00 p.m. Music Worship & Arts Program (Drama – Anita)
 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal
 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion
 7:45 p.m. Youth Band Rehearsal
Thursday (2-18): 1:30 p.m. Koinonia Small Group Bible Study
Friday (2-19): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

Attendance (February 6 & 7):

Saturday: 5 p.m. 52 Sunday: 8 a.m. 57 10:30 a.m. 53 Total: 162
Sunday School: 16

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date: \$ 75,565 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date: \$ 89,872
Renovation Funds (Project Peter): \$ 319,225
Virus Fund/Received to date: \$ 44,410 (Distributed: \$ 38,400)

Pastor is continuing a series on Ephesians that he started on January 17. The theme is "The God Who..."

February 14 "The God Who Makes the Two, One" Ephesians 3:1-13
February 21 "The God Who Prays For Us" Ephesians 3:14-20
February 28 "The God Who Brings Us Together" Ephesians 4:1-16
March 7 "The God Who Corrects Us" Ephesians 4:17-32
March 14 "The God Who Changes Us" Ephesians 5:1-20
March 21 "The God Who Loves Marriage" Ephesians 5:21-33
March 28 Palm Sunday Sermon
April 4 Easter Sermon
April 11 "The God Who Lives In Our Homes And At Work" Ephesians 6:1-9
April 18 "The God Who Makes Us Strong" Ephesians 6:10-23

We will once again celebrate Lent with a Pulpit Rotation as follows:

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17: Pastor John Larson - Prayer & Fasting: Matt. 6:5-18
Mid-week Worship, Feb. 24: Pastor Chris Matthis - Blessed Are You: Matt. 5:1-11
Mid-week Worship, Mar. 03: Pastor John Larson - Do Not Worry: Matt. 6:25-34
Mid-week Worship, Mar. 10: Pastor Chris Matthis - Salt & Light: Matt. 5:13-16
Mid-week Worship, Mar. 17: Pastor John Larson - Build on the Rock: Matt. 7:24-27
Mid-week Worship, Mar. 24: Pastor Chris Matthis - Judge Not: Matt. 7:1-5

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 take a break until April 7.

MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) will be meeting in-person next on Tuesday, March 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 9:45 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 17 is Sloppy Joes, French Fries, Apple Slices, and Brownie Bites!

KOINONIA Bible Study will next meet on February 18, 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 meeting will be held on February 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 as we pray the blessings of God upon all His believers. On February 24 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 in the Spirit for our church, our Pastor, and our members. If interested, please send me your email address so you can be included in the Zoom invite.” Margo Pasha

MargoALPasha@yahoo.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: 303-794-4636, ext. 106 or email to director@alcpreschool.com)!

News from Ascension Extended Day Preschool: “Even though we have a short week ahead of us, the students in our Preschool program will be reaching for the stars. We are also going to celebrate Black History Month by reading a story dedicated to the purpose and importance of this month and why it originated. We are also going to start our week out by using our imagination and creativity while creating pictures surrounding our dreams - we will be listening to our teachers explain how Martin Luther King Jr. once had a dream and how our dreams can come true with dedication and passion. We are going to end our week by having a special visitor come in and discuss tactics on how to keep our teeth healthy. The students will be taking a special gift home to help continue our lesson on Dental Awareness Month with their parents.

We are continuing our progress through the alphabet and both classrooms will be working on the next two letters (R & S). Since we wrapped up number 7 last week, we are going to continue onto number 8, including lessons on addition, subtraction, and sequencing. We can't wait to see what great projects they will create using these letters and numbers.” Warm Regards, Kelly Lafferty, Director

Faith Book 2021 - “Greetings in the name of Christ, You and your faith story have inspired us in the past and I am still grateful for your witness, even now.

This year due to COVID-19, I do not have the option to appeal to you directly at church. We are trying to develop the booklet in the safest way possible, so I am collecting sign ups via my email.

Please listen carefully, as you pray, because I'm also praying that you will share a glimpse of your journey with us again.

The guidelines are the same, 450-500 words, with a topic that tells of a time or situation that God used to deepen your faith, give you hope, answer a prayer. In this

season of COVID-19 restrictions, life changes and restlessness, I hope you have turned to the Lord for help. Please tell us about it.

I would really like to hear a big YES from you today...or maybe a small no, if this isn't the right season for you.

Stories are due to me, via email by **February 21** or before." Pax Christi, Jude Donovan, 303 972 0873, Heyjude264@aol.com

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: "The West wing Committee is requesting the Congregation to increase the limit of the cost for the Project. The cost of abatement is an expense for which we cannot find alternatives. The materials and common building practices used at the time of the original construction have given us very little flexibility with this issue.

Please note that this request is not asking to increase the amount authorized for the loan. We do not plan to borrow any more money than the present authorization. In fact, we plan and pray that we will need to borrow less than the authorization. The already generous donations that you have provided have greatly encouraged us and given us hope that we may need to borrow less than originally anticipated.

The Special Voters Assembly meeting on Sunday, February 14, will address the cost question and provide additional details concerning the increased costs.

Please pray for wise decisions and patience." West Wing Committee: Bob Hea, Roger Koester, and Chuck Mielke

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 \$ 38,400. 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. Currently, we have served 9 sheltering nights!

Also, I have a reminder for everyone: 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”

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Denver (About Alameda and Federal) will be concluding their 83 years of ministry at the end of February. The congregation was organized in 1938 and served their community faithfully for many years. For many years it had a strong connection with Denver Lutheran High School when Denver Lutheran was located at Federal and Arizona. The building has been sold and the property will be used as a Community Center. We thank God for all that happened through that congregation for these decades of ministry and pray that the members of Redeemer are able to find new congregations where they can serve and grow and be richly blessed.

Denver Society of Creation: Upcoming speaker is Mr. Dan Kreft (March 2021). Please check out our website www.denversocietyofcreation.org for additional details!

The Federal Estate Tax Exemption is currently \$11.7 million for an individual and \$23.4 million for a married couple. Under those rules, most of us will not pay a federal estate tax. However, there can be state estate taxes. Predictions are that federal estate exemptions will go down drastically soon. Do you know what impact that would have on the gifts you plan to give from your estate to family and ministry? Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at 970-988-0305.

Frugality: “Frank and Katherine were raised to be thrifty, hard-working, God-fearing, children of God. They raised their children in the faith as well and enjoyed sharing Bible stories with their grandchildren.

Frank and Katherine were known to not waste a thing, washing, and reusing disposable items, ripping off the bottom half of a piece of mail that came, to use for scrap paper. They had been diligent savers, putting a portion of weekly income into an investment account.

Years ago, their advisor had directed them to put investments in annuities. Since that time, all growth on their investments had grown tax deferred. They never planned on spending any of it. They planned on giving it all to their children as inheritance. Little did they know that a large portion of that inheritance would simply be paid in taxes.

An LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor had presented at their church and raised the topic of wise tax planning. They brushed it off. They did not see the value. This couple that rejoiced about saving pennies at a time by reusing old things, threw away tens of thousands of dollars in taxes that could have enriched their children's inheritance or created a nice bequest to their Church, enabling more people to hear about Jesus.

We often put off such work, because it intimidates us, as we venture into topics that we have never discussed before. Yet the story of Frank and Katherine illustrates for all of us, that a few hours of conversation and planning could potentially magnify the effect of a lifetime of careful stewardship of God's gifts." Jason Jones, CGP, CDE; Gift Planning Counselor - LCMS Foundation, 970-988-0305 – Cell, Jason.Jones@LFND.org

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This week on KFUO.org, hear Midweek Lenten Service from Peace Lutheran in St. Louis on 2/17 at 11 a.m. CT, study a curious theological topic on Cross Defense with Rev. Tyrel Bramwell 2/15 at 2 p.m. CT, and hear a variety of topics and sacred music weekdays during Midday Moments at 12 p.m. CT. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or on your podcast app!

Ephesians 4-2 – *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

This is not the way of the world around us, is it? It seems that the way of the world is, "Be completely self-serving and overbearing; and don't let anyone get to the head of the line before you, even if they have a greater need." The world would not hold it against you if this were the way you behaved and, sadly, many a church would turn a blind eye to this behavior.

Because relationships these days are generally formed and solidified through social media, we do not talk anymore, we text...sometimes even while sitting in the same room! Even before "Social Distancing" this was the way it was being done. You are a "Profile Pic", an "Avatar", a "Meme" ...you are not really a person anymore, and neither is anyone you "relate" to.

Humility gets you left behind and gentleness will get you trampled by the crowd; why be patient when instant gratification has become the way of the world and why bear with one another in love? If they irritate you, just unfriend them...

But remember, *we are in this world, but not of it*. We can be self-serving and overbearing...I know that I have been! Or we can be humble, gentle, patient, and we can bear with one another in love...and we can be the face of Jesus to someone who really needs to see Him. In person or, yes, even over the internet.

Blessings to you all! Kathie Harvey