

**GOOD AFTERNOON!**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING (February 19 Edition)!**

**Please note: While Pre-school is in session NO ONE is allowed in the Men's or Women's downstairs restrooms, due to liability issues to protect the Preschool, Ascension, and especially the children. The restroom upstairs and also the family restroom is available for use at these times.**

**The 2020 Annual Report is in the narthex. Please pick up a copy.**

**This past Sunday, February 14, a Special Voters' Meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall.** 21 members of the congregation met to discuss the motion to increase the budget of the renovation project of the West Wing from \$911,500 to \$1,034,000, an increase of \$122,500. The increase was requested due to the cost of the removal of asbestos that has been found in the flooring and around the windows. This removal has a cost of about \$100,000. In addition to this, the disposal of the windows that have lead paint, and some additional fees charged by the City of Littleton, depleted our contingency reserve. After hearing from Roger Koester, who serves on the Building Committee, that even with that increase our contingency reserve would be about \$25,000, Pastor Larson made a motion to add an additional \$30,000 to the contingency fund, increasing the approved budget of the project to \$1,064,000. After discussion, the amended motion passed unanimously.

**Please note that our Mid-week Lenten Worship began on February 17 and continues through March 24.** 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.

**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.

**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 Susan Winkler and her family at the death of her mother on Saturday, February 13; For Wayne Beu and his family, following the death of his cousin, Roger Beu, on February 14; For Lee Valdez and his family following the death of his oldest brother, Chris, only 61, who died of a heart attack recently; For Dave Hitztaler, currently in Home Hospice Care, and his family, as he struggles with his lethal lung disease, IPF - Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis; For Cheryl Olson, now a month away from delivery (March 17), this daughter will join their other three; For Megan Harvey, daughter of Kathie, awaiting surgery on February 23 for a fracture in her knee; For Dianne Backhus, awaiting additional tests; For Ted Lemke; For Marilyn Asche, in Rehab at Life Care Center after a fall; For Nadine Ginkel; For Jacqueline Warren, for life issues; For Jenna Harvey-Kabelman, granddaughter of Kathie Harvey, for life issues; For Carol Zeller with Interstitial Lung Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis and cardiac issues. **Thanksgiving:** For Wayne & Shelia Beu, who celebrated their 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary on February 19!

**Thank You!** "Thanks to everyone for your cards and prayers. It is very much appreciated." Nadine Ginkel

**Calendar At-a-Glance (February 20-26):**

Saturday (2-20):	<b>5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion</b>
Sunday (2-21):	<b>First Sunday in Lent</b> <b>8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</b> <b>9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</b>
Monday (2-22):	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
Tuesday (2-23):	9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study <b>7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting</b>
Wednesday (2-24):	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool <b>9:45 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study (Pastor Ginkel)</b> <b>11:30 a.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship</b> 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 5:30 p.m. Agape Rehearsal <b>7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship</b>
Thursday (2-25):	<b>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</b>
Friday (2-26):	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

**Attendance (February 13 & 14, 17):**

Saturday: 5 p.m.	24	Sunday: 8 a.m.	33	10:30 a.m.	41	Total: 98
Sunday School:	10					
Ash Wednesday:		11:30 a.m.	54	7 p.m.	40	Total: 94

**Stewardship:**

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 88,298 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 94,374
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 319,395
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 44,410 (Distributed: \$ 38,600)

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

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:**

Mid-week Worship, Feb. 24:	Pastor Chris Matthis - Blessed Are You:	Matt. 5:1-11
Mid-week Worship, Mar. 3:	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 Rock:	Matt. 7:24-27
Mid-week Worship, Mar. 24:	Pastor Chris Matthis - Judge Not:	Matt. 7:1-5

**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](mailto:director@alcpreschool.com)) if you are aware of any interested candidates.

**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 24 is Pancakes, Sausage, and Grapes!

**KOINONIA Bible Study will next meet on March 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 February 25! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna ([jenna.lindeman@cune.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:director@alcpreschool.com))!

**News from Ascension Extended Day Preschool:** “As we say farewell to the month of February, we will complete our lessons celebrating Black History Month. Our students will be busy becoming engineers, chefs, gardeners, educators, or whatever they dream they can be when they grow up. Everyone can have a dream; we are just motivating the children to maintain the passion and dedication to follow through with it. We will be moving onto our letter "S" and practice writing the uppercase and lowercase versions. We will be discussing all of the words we can think of that start with our letter of the week. Since we have mastered counting and sequencing up to the number 7, we are now moving onto number 8. We will be adding in some Spanish counting as soon as we get up to the number 10!!

It's amazing to think we are already heading into the month of March. We are excited to show you what we are going to learn in the coming months.” 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](mailto: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 construction work that has been completed this past week includes the completion of the rough plumbing in the youth bathroom and rough electrical in the new walls. This next week partial replacement of some of the ceiling insulation and the "hanging" of drywall on the upstairs hall and new walls is scheduled. We are pleased to have the construction phase of the project moving along.

Currently, we are taking bids to remove the windows. This abatement effort will remove the windows as a unit and then wrap them and dispose of them. There will be a temporary wall constructed four feet from the building to provide safety for the building before the windows are removed. It will be several weeks until the window project will begin.

The Committee thanks the Congregation for your patience and understanding in approving the increase in Project Budget. This will give us a contingency that we hope will be used only partially. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as the Committee works through the decisions that we must make this next week." 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 \$ 38,600. 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 over halfway through the season and have provided meals for 9 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 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](mailto:bribly@gmail.com), 623-680-9510"

**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>.

**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.

**Epiphany Seeks Candidates for Sound, Video, and Web Production:** Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS) of Castle Rock, Colorado, seeks qualified candidates for the part-time paid positions of Sound Engineer and Director of Video and Digital Media. Full job descriptions can be found at [www.epiphanylc.org/jobs](http://www.epiphanylc.org/jobs). (Copies are also available in the Church Office). To apply send cover letter, resume, and references to Pastor Chris Matthis at [pastorchris@epiphanylc.org](mailto:pastorchris@epiphanylc.org).

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

**Certain assets we hold, things like 401(k)s, IRAs, or even annuities can carry a tax burden not related to a federal estate tax.** These special accounts have never been taxed, and so when money is withdrawn, either in life or through inheritance, there will not be an estate tax but an income tax event. If you have never discussed the taxation of your assets, you may be missing an opportunity to maximize your gifts 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.

**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 [@KFUOradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).

**This week on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org)**, join us for Midweek Lent Worship and Organ Concert on 2/24 at 11 a.m. CT, continue studying Ephesians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT), and continue studying the Gospel of Mark on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or on your podcast app.

**Jonah 2:2 - He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry."**

Prayer. Calling out to the Lord. Either in distress or in anger or in joy or in thanksgiving. Or maybe just to talk. One thing that you can count on, He *always* answers. We might not like the answer He gives us; we might not understand why He answers the way He does; we might wonder at the timing. Sometimes we do not think so, but His answers are *always* for our good.

I wonder, do you ever just talk to Him? Like you would talk to a parent? Would you just pray to tell Him about your day, to work through an idea or an issue you might have... just talk? He already knows, of course, our sorrows, joys, and fears. But think on this...all prayer builds and strengthens relationships, and our Lord is, above all, a God of relationship. He wants us to come to Him in all occasions like we would a parent. Even simply to talk about our day.

So, spend some time this week just talking to God. Step close to Him. Spend time in His presence. What comfort, what peace, what a blessing.