

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (February 26 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.

"I AM MOVING from my office. Beginning Wednesday, March 3, I will be displaced from my office while remodeling takes over. If you would like to visit with me over the next number of weeks, call the church office 303-794-4636), and we'll find a place to meet." Pastor John

Interested in Vacation Bible School? So are we! Watch this spot as details develop and save the dates...June 14-17!

Not only do we have folks who worship in person in our building we have hundreds of people, all over the United States, who view us on-line. Each week we'll let you know what our on-line figures were for a few weeks ago (Please see the "Attendance" section in What's Happening for this information!). Though most of the folks watch us soon after going on-line, some will join us a week or so later. We thank Mike Zehnder for recording the music for the services and the folks who record the service and get it ready for viewing - Tim McClaren and Durwin Schmitt, and for Kathie Harvey for connecting us to our YouTube feed. If you haven't viewed us on-line you can go to alutheran.org and click on "resources", the first page that drops down is "worship services", click it and you can view the service or sermon.

Looking for a person to be the Wedding Coordinator at Ascension. If you can assist couples on the day of their rehearsal and on their wedding day please talk to Pastor about this. You are compensated for your work.

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

On 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.

Flowers for February 27 & 28 were given by the Terry Sandrin in loving memory of his mother, Lydia.

Palms and Lily ordering charts are on the landing Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Palms are \$20 each and Lilies are \$20 each. We have ordered **4 Palms and 6 Lilies for the Church.** Individuals can dedicate either a Palm or Lily. Lily plants can be taken home after the last service on Easter Sunday. Envelopes for payments are located below the ordering chart. Please make sure that you place a check mark next to Palm/Lily and note either Palm or Lily on your check.

Littleton Woodlawn Flower Shop has an additional 30 Lilies that can be delivered to you or you can pick-up. You will need to call Littleton Woodlawn Flower Shop at 303-794-0267 and **tell them you are from Ascension Lutheran Church.** The cost of the Lily will be \$20 plus the normal delivery charge and tax of approximately \$1.50. You can pre-order your Lily or Lilies now and either have it delivered to you or you can pick-up the week of March 28th – Holy Week, for you to enjoy for Easter.

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 Redeemer Lutheran Church in Denver with their final service (following 83 years) Sunday, February 28; For Dave Hitztaler, currently in Home Hospice Care, and his family, as he struggles with his lethal lung disease, IPF - Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis; For Ruby Sherwood recovering with a broken hip after a fall; For Marilyn Asche, in Swedish with Covid; For Lois Kreye, with serious eye issues; For Cheryl Olson, now weeks away from delivery (March 17), For Megan Harvey, daughter of Kathie, following successful surgery on February 23 for a fracture in her knee; For Dianne Backhus, awaiting additional tests; For Ted Lemke; For Nadine Ginkel; For Jacqueline Warren, for life

issues; For Bob Casady, ex-brother-in-law of Ed and Gwen Geisler, prayers for healing and recovery from hip surgery on February 12, and from pneumonia; For Jenna Harvey-Kabelman, granddaughter of Kathie Harvey, for life issues; For Carol Zeller with Interstitial Lung Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis and cardiac issues.

Thank You! “Dave and I want to thank our Church Family for the many prayers, cards, and calls that we have been so blessed to receive! Knowing that we have the love and spiritual support of friends, has made this difficult journey bearable. Thank you for your thoughtfulness- it is most appreciated!” Big Hugs from the Hitztalers

Calendar At-a-Glance (February 27-March 5):

Saturday (2-27): **5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion**
 Sunday (2-28): **Second Sunday in Lent**
 8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 Monday (3-1): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
 Tuesday (3-2): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. Small Group Bible Study
 Wednesday (3-3): 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. Mid-week Lenten Worship
 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live
 5:00 p.m. Music Worship & Arts Program (Drama – Michael)
 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal
 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship
 7:45 p.m. Youth Band Rehearsal
 Thursday (3-4): **7:00 p.m. Denver Society of Creation (Dan Kreft @ Mt. Zion)**
 Friday (3-5): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

Attendance (February 20 & 21, 24):

Saturday: 5 p.m.	41	Sunday: 8 a.m.	47	10:30 a.m.	60	Total: 148
Sunday School:	25					
Wednesday:		11:30 a.m.	27	7 p.m.	21	Total: 48
Online Views (as of Feb. 21)		Sunday, 2/14:	234	Midweek (2/17):	156	

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 101,031 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 106,403
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 320,340
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 46,630 (Distributed: \$ 40,100)

Change of Address: Virginia Downs: 5829 S Datura St, Apt 412, Littleton, CO 80120

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

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, 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

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 March 3 is Bacon Cheeseburger Tator-Tot Casserole, Clementines, and cookies!

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 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 March 11 & 25! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna (jenna.lindeman@cune.org).

Psalm 145:18 - The Passion Translation: You draw near to those who call out to you, listening closely, especially when their hearts are true.

"Please join our Ascension Prayer Group on **March 10** at 2 p.m. We will meet on Zoom to pray together for our church, our Pastor, and our members for about an hour. Using the ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication) format, we will call out to God with true hearts trusting He will be listening closely. 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: “Our preschoolers are going to be buzzing into March hoping for some beautiful Spring weather!!! We will be incorporating Springtime lessons throughout the month by focusing on seeds and plants - we will even use our "green thumbs" and cooperatively plant Marigolds, Snap Dragons, and bean pods in class (and take them home to enjoy with our families).

We will all be busy little bees gaining knowledge from every possible branch. Both classrooms will move on to the next letter, "T", and to the number 9. Next week we will be celebrating the well-renowned Dr. Suess' birthday. We will be adding some fun activities to show our appreciation for his dedication to children's literacy development, and of course, we will be reading a lot of his special books!!! - *"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!"...Dr. Suess*”

Warm Regards, Kelly Lafferty, Director

ALC Foundation Update: "The Foundation board met on February 11. We heard a presentation from Pastor Duane Meissner who has accepted the call at Resurrection in the City Church and has provided us with a stellar strategic plan as he ministers to the northeast Denver community. The church has big plans to use its existing properties and set up a community center, as well as expand its membership.

Officer elections were held. For the period February 2021 through January, 2022, Michael Price will continue as president, Athenia Michel as vice president, Bob Hea as secretary, and we are in need of a treasurer, as Lisa Riebling has decided to move on. We will miss her excellent reporting and her steady guidance as we move forward.

Bob Olsen reported on our Chikondi Malawi mission, where the pandemic had an impact on the people there and feeding them is still the primary focus.

We reviewed and approved funding for a mission in Uruguay, where the Reverend James Sharp and his family are working. Uruguay is a particularly atheistic country with a high suicide rate so we hope helping a mission there will bring more people to Christ, much like we have seen in Slovakia with our Josiah Venture mission there.

West Wing Project Update - February 24: “The construction work that has been completed this past week includes the completion of most of the drywall sheets on the walls and the rough electrical inspection. The plumbing for the youth restrooms needs to be inspected. The abatement bids to remove the windows are being considered and will be awarded next week. The construction phase of the project is moving along to the point that Pastor needs to abandon his office sometime next week.

We thank you for your prayers and we ask that you continue to pray for wisdom and guidance as the Committee works through the decisions that we must make concerning this project.” 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 \$ 40,100. 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, briby@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>.

"I am the owner of Ad Crucem, a Lutheran greeting card and church supply store, offering Chrismons, posters, church banners and much more. We've been operating for 7 years out of our home and have now opened an office close to your church, in Front Range Christian's complex. We would love to have you come and see our wares. We are now open to the public! Our address is Ad Crucem, 6657 W. Ottawa Ave., Suite B4, Littleton. To see what we offer, please visit our website, www.adcrucem.com." Wanita Wood (owner of Ad Crucem)

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. (Copies are also available in the Church Office). To apply send cover letter, resume, and references to Pastor Chris Matthis at pastorchrist@epiphanylc.org.

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

Surveys indicate that most people who give to support ministry are not highly motivated by tax issues. They are motivated by God's grace. Yet those who support the Lord's work want to be wise about the management of God's gifts and this means paying attention to the impact of taxation on the use of those gifts. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you begin that consideration. 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, hear sacred music for Lent on Joy! with Ron Klemm on 3/3 at 1 p.m. CT, worship with us in Midweek Lenten Service and organ recital on 3/3 at 11 p.m. CT, study Mark 10-11 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), and study Ephesians 4-6 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

Psalm 3: 3-4: But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy mountain.

A shield. You have seen them...right? Big, clunky metal things that you hold out in front of you? Heavy, difficult to manipulate, and they only protect you from the side where you are holding it? You can move it, but let down your guard and...

Even better are the science fiction type that surround the spaceships. But sometimes they get knocked out and the protection is gone. The shield provided by our Lord is better. It never stops and it never confines you. It is always there, surrounding you, but you can reach out and share it with others. And it is GLORIOUS!

Better yet, He does more than cover and protect you with His shield...He "lifts your head high." Head held high. No longer any need to be downcast in fear or shame or doubt because He lifts your head *and* shields you.

And just keeps getting better! When you call out to Him, He answers, "He answers from His holy mountain." We have a God who not only listens, *He answers*.

What more can we ask? A God who shields us, becomes our glory, lifts our heads high, listens when we call out, and answers. We are truly so very blessed! (Kathie Harvey)