

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (February 5 Edition)!

Welcome to the Fellowship of Christ: Sunday afternoon, January 31, at 12:30 p.m., we welcomed Kendyl Rayne Doughty (daughter of Cori Goff, granddaughter of Kristina Goff, and great granddaughter of Joyce Dowdy) 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 that 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 Regular Voter's Meeting will be on April 25.

The next Special Voter's Meeting will be on 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."

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.

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.

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 coming Sunday, 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!

Flowers for February 5 & 6 were given by the Aguilar & Rolling Families in loving memory of Frank Aguilar.

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

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 62,932 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 59,926
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 287,365
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 44,110 (Distributed: \$ 37,800)

Attendance (January 30 & 31):

Saturday: 5 p.m. 38 Sunday: 8 a.m. 57 10:30 a.m. 89 Total: 184
Sunday School: 22

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 Dave Hitztaler, currently in Home Hospice Care, and his family, as he struggles with his lethal lung disease, IPF - Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis; For Marilyn Asche, in Rehab at Powerback after a fall; For Gloria Gaudreault, currently recovering at home from a minor stroke; 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 Dana Thom, just released from the hospital, recovering at home from COVID; For Nadine Ginkel; For Jacqueline Warren, for life issues; 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 Eric, son of Roger & Judy Koester, for continued healing (at home) from pericarditis; For John Hendrickson, friend of Del Grau, hospitalized with collapsed lung; 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 (awaiting 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 Jaclyn Warren who celebrates her 35th birthday, on Wednesday, February 10.

Calendar At-a-Glance (February 6-12):

Saturday (2-6): **5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion**
Sunday (2-7): **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 (2-8): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
Tuesday (2-9): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)
Wednesday (2-10): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
 10:00 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study (Pastor Ginkel)
 2:00 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting
 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
 6:00 p.m. Agape Praise Team
Thursday (2-11): **6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study**
Friday (2-12): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

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

February 7	"The God Who Builds His Church" Ephesians 2:11-22
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 continue.

MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) will be meeting in-person this coming 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 10 is Pepperoni Pizza, Fruit Cup, Carrots & Celery, and Valentines Cookies!

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 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

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: "Well, we have officially made it through the first month of 2021. As we turn the page of the calendar into the month of February, we are delighted to delve into this time of LOVE and compassion. We are all preparing for one of the most exciting events throughout the school year: Valentine's Day parties, and this year will not fail to provide fun, curriculum-based games and activities and some yummy treats!!

This month we will be learning about Healthy Habits. We began this lesson this week by discussing options of healthy foods to make our bodies grow big and strong. We will continue throughout the month by exploring ways to take care of our bodies. To help us celebrate this concept, we will discuss how February is National Dental Hygiene Awareness Month; a special visitor will stop by from a local children's dentistry to reinforce healthy choices for our bodies and teeth.

Looking towards next week, both classrooms will be discussing the letter "Q". They will be working on letter formation and the sound that it makes." 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--February 3, 2021: "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.

Construction Update – The framing for new walls continues upstairs and downstairs. It should be finished by the end of next week when we will be ready for our first inspection. Wiring for our new fire alarm system has begun.

Please pray for wise decisions and patience." 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 \$ 37,800. 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 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 speaker is Mr. Dan Kreft (March 2021). Please check out our website www.denversocietyofcreation.org for additional details!

Very few of us enjoy paying taxes. Yet Jesus, speaking to this topic once said, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” That takes deliberate thought and careful planning. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you begin to ask the right questions. 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 Galatians on Thy Strong Word with host Rev. Brady Finner (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT), continue in Mark 6-7 on Sharper Iron with host Rev. Timothy Appel (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), and worship with us in Daily Chapel weekdays at 10 a.m. CT. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or on your podcast app.

John 16:31-33 – “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.”
“I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Jesus was speaking to His Disciples, but He could easily be speaking to us today. We know that He was speaking to them of His death on the cross...but a time has come when **we** are “scattered, each to your own home.” The Disciples has left Jesus alone...but sometimes we feel that, maybe, He has left us alone. Alone in this pandemic. Separated from His Church (for, as we know, the building is not the true Church, His people are). Unable to gather as we are accustomed to do so. Unable to share His peace with the touch of a hand or a hug. Unable to eat together except in small groups...6 feet apart. Yet He also told His Disciples that He was not alone, for His Father was with Him. And so is our God with us.

Keep His words in mind and in heart. Have peace because, although this world might be filled with trouble, we can “take heart” for, truly, He has “overcome the world.”

Blessings to you all! Kathie Harvey