

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (March 12 Edition)!

Just a quick note! Remember, if weather is inclement, you can catch us online!

Don't Forget to SPRING FORWARD!!! TOMORROW, March 13, before you go to bed, be sure to set your clock **FORWARD** 1 hour!

Adult Information Class to be held Saturday, March 20 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) and Sunday, March 21 (1-5 p.m.) Have you been interested in joining Ascension? Are you a current member but would like a "refresher" course? Talk to Pastor John about attending this 2-day informational class! ***Please note the change in dates!***

Photographer needed! Looking for someone who is available on Sunday, May 16 from 11:45-12:15 for confirmation pictures. If you take family photos, we could use your camera skills! (A good camera with digital capacity is the only requirement.). Please call Kathie Harvey at church or Pastor Larson, if you are able to take group pictures and individual pictures, to celebrate this very special day!

We need someone who is able to climb up on a tall ladder to drape the Cross. This will just be needed following Worship on Maundy Thursday, April 1, and again on Friday, April 2, following Good Friday Worship. Please let Pastor John or Kathie Harvey know if you can help with this!

Michael Zehnder has agreed to become the Ascension Facebook Administrator. He would appreciate any comments, suggestions, or assistance from the congregation! Thank you, Mike!

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 at 5:30 p.m. 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.

This past Monday, March 7, our congregation hit a milestone. On that day we received notice that since the inception of the designation of the Thrivent Choice Dollars program our congregation has passed the \$100,000 plateau. We thank the many Thrivent members who selected Ascension to receive this benefit. The projects of support are long and worthy. Much good has happened in the last 15 years with the

use of these funds. Thank you, Thrivent. Thank you, those who have designated your Choice Dollars to Ascension.

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.

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 Edna Achziger and her family, following the death of her sister, Hazel; For Sherry Hitztaler and her family, following the death of Dave Hitztaler, on March 4; For Mike Zehnder, with throat cancer, scheduled for surgery with biopsy on March 16; For Margaret Kent, currently in St. Anthony's recovering from surgery on March 11 for a broken pelvis; For John Oldefest, awaiting surgery on March 24; For Marilyn Asche, in Swedish with Covid; For Lois Kreye, with serious eye issues; For Cheryl Olson, now just days away from delivery (March 17); For Megan Harvey, daughter of Kathie, as she awaits additional surgery on her knee to remove the screws; For Dianne Backhus, following a procedure on March 10; For David & Bri Fort, with COVID; For Nadine Ginkel; For Carol Zeller with Interstitial Lung Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis and cardiac issues.

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

- Saturday (3-13): 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 p.m. Spring Forward!
- Sunday (3-14): **Fourth 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 (3-15): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
- Tuesday (3-16): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Ladies Small Group Bible Study
- Wednesday (3-17): 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 Praise Team
- Thursday (3-18): **10:30 p.m. Ladies Guild Special Event (Erica Dubeau will be speaking)**
- Friday (3-19): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

Attendance (March 6 & 7, March 10):

Saturday: 5 p.m. 48 Sunday: 8 a.m. 69 10:30 a.m. 80 Total: 197
Sunday School: 27
Wednesday: 11:30 a.m. 29 7 p.m. 18 Total: 47
Online Views (as of March 10) Sunday, 2/28: 99 Midweek (3/3): 41

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date: \$ 126,497 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date: \$ 134,568
Renovation Funds (Project Peter): \$ 329,405
Virus Fund/Received to date: \$ 50,315 (Distributed: \$ 42,200)

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

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. 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, April 13, 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.

Psalm 91:15-16 - The Passion Translation: I will answer your cry for help every time you pray, and you will feel my presence in your time of trouble. I will deliver you and bring you honor. I will satisfy you with a full life and with all that I do for you. For you will enjoy the fullness of my salvation!

The Ascension Prayer Group will meet on **March 24** at 2 p.m. to pray together for our church, our Pastor, and our members. Using the ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication) format, we will call out to Him trusting He will answer. He will be with those in trouble, rescue them, give them honor and show them His salvation. If interested, please send me your email address so you can be included in the Zoom invite. MargoALPasha@yahoo.com

Wednesday Night Live! Menu for March 17 is Chef's Choice!

You are Invited to Join the Ascension Ladies Guild for a Special Event on Thursday March 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall! We will hear about coming to America from Nazi Germany from our own Ascension member Erika Dubeau. Please bring Your Mite Box. Coffee and Doughnuts will be provided by the Host: Circle IV.

KOINONIA Bible Study will next meet on March 18, from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Koinonia 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 March 25! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna (jenna.lindeman@cune.org).

Youth Adult Leaders Needed: Hello Ascension Lutheran members! As we continue to plan events and trips for the youth group, we are finding a need for more adult volunteers. You already support us financially and for that we are so appreciative! However, often an integral part of offering these events is having adequate adult supervision. The youth love meeting new members and developing meaningful relationships with other Christians. Volunteer opportunities range from simply supervising events, being a driver for events, or even diving in and joining the youth on a mission trip. If you pray and feel that you might be able to help in any way, send a quick email to Christa at christa.lindeman@cune.org and she can get you on a contact list. She will then be able to reach out as events are planned and see if they may fit around your schedule. As always, we appreciate any support that you can give, whether it is through your time or through keeping the youth of Ascension in your prayers. Thank you!

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 students had such a great ending to our week by planting our flowers and vegetables to celebrate National Plant a Flower Day!! We will have fun discussing responsibility as we provide the necessary water and sunlight for our plants to help them grow and develop healthily, just like our bodies.

We have an extremely busy schedule this coming week!!! Monday, we will have a photography company coming in to take our Spring photos (individual and class) and graduation photos for our students who will be moving onto Kindergarten next year. Wednesday will be jam-packed with St. Patrick's Day shenanigans - we may even have a visit from a sneaky leprechaun, and he might even leave us a special green snack!!!

We will be moving onto the letter "V" while we talk about if anyone is taking VACATIONS over the Holiday week. And, we are going to move onto number 10!!! Yay

- double digits. We will be practicing recognizing and reading two digit numbers and using floor puzzles to match numbers with their appropriate objects, sequencing of objects, and counting. We will start counting in Spanish, too!!! The Fellowship hall will be quiet the week of March 22nd while we are on Spring Break, but we are already getting excited to come back the final week of March to talk about all of our adventures!!” Warm Regards, Kelly Lafferty, Director

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.

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: March 10, 2021: “The construction work that has been completed this past week includes the completion of several inspections. The inspections that are now complete so work can continue are the rough electrical inspection, rough plumbing inspection, and framing inspection. The contract to remove the windows has been awarded. This process is complicated and includes the construction of security walls on both sides of the building, removal and disposal of the window units and preparation for the installation of the new windows. We are scheduled to start the removal of the windows on Monday, March 22.

As the project continues please remember that your prayers are appreciated and needed.” 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 \$ 42,200. 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 15 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, 623-680-9510”

From the Ladies Guild: This week we will feature the Altar Circle; probably the busiest circle these days! The Altar Circle is dedicated to keeping the altar of the House of the Lord in proper order and maintaining the beauty of it. In addition to serving communion for three services a week, they are researching the purchase of new altar linens. They have found beautifully embroidered items, in a blended fabric, which makes care and maintenance easier. There are memorial funds available. Be watching for these lovely additions when we once again commune at the altar railing.

This just in from the LWML! The goal for Mites and donations was set at \$2,100,000 for the biennium 2019-2021. Praise the Lord - not only was the goal met, but it was also over and above: \$2,137,742! Thanks to all for filling your Mite boxes! Even without conventions and rallies, your support was blessed; all the mission projects paid for.

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>.

Denver Society of Creation: Upcoming speaker is Dr. Barb Helmkamp, “The Mysteries of Earth’s Age – Part 2” (April 8, 2021) at Christ Our Savior in Elizabeth, CO. Catch Part 1 here: <http://denversocietyofcreation.org/helmkamp2021.htm>. Please check out the bulletin board & our website www.denversocietyofcreation.org for additional details!

In keeping the work with your estate plans connected with your life in Jesus, a starting point is to consider whether inheritance to family is an entitlement or is a plan with which to grace family members with God’s gifts. That clear vision is a

key point in keeping your gift plans connected with your faith. How do you see each gift conveying blessing? Your Ascension Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you answer these 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, complete Philippians and begin Colossians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT), study Mark 12-13 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), and worship in Midweek Lenten Service and organ recital on 3/17 at 11 a.m. CT. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

Psalm 33:22 - *May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.*

In this world of ours...all things fail at some point. From batteries and lightbulbs to knees and hearts. Nothing lasts forever. I read...somewhere on the internet, so it must be true...that, at some point, even the oxygen we breath will fail. And, most certainly, the sun itself will burn out. Nothing lasts forever.

However, we need to remember that *this* is *not* our world. In the coming world...God's love is unfailing and our hope in Him is well placed and secure, as are we. When we are finally with Him, our bodies will no longer fail but will be made perfect. And if the sun no longer shines, the Son will be our light and His light will never go out.

In this world we will be afraid, we will be insecure and sorrowful. We will lose those we love, we will grow ill, we will grow old, we will be plagued by sin and by guilt. But, also in this world, *even in this world*, we will know incredible joy, security, and love...even with loss, the love will not fade or grow dim. Because of the love and sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus, we will walk secure in our hope and in His unfailing love. We will know beyond any doubt that we are forgiven, and we are always blessed. (Kathie Harvey)