

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (March 19 Edition)!

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

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!

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!

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.

On 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 11 years with the use of these funds. Thank you, Thrivent. Thank you, those who have designated your Choice Dollars to Ascension.

Flowers for March 20 & 21 were given by Nancy Lugton in joyful celebration of her daughter, Emilie Muldoon's, 28th birthday (March 25)!

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 Greg Asche and his family following the death of his mother, Marilyn, on March 14; For Edna Achziger and her family, following the death of her sister-in-law, Hazel; For Mike Zehnder, with throat cancer, following a successful surgery on March 16, awaiting test results in approximately 2 weeks; For Reid Clausen, with serious heart issues requiring surgery; For Jim Wendelken, with a broken tibia (2 places), currently in Swedish; For Margaret Kent, recovering at home from a broken pelvis; For John Oldefest, awaiting surgery on March 24; For Lisa O'Neil, awaiting knee surgery on March 30; For Lois Kreye, with serious eye issues; For Diane, daughter of Alvera Sturgeon, with stage 4 brain cancer; For Robert (36), grandson of Alvera, with blood clots, digestive issues, kidney failure, following 5 surgeries in the last 2 weeks; For Sharon, mother of Terry Utecht, for healing following knee replacement on March 18; Kathy Brakenhoff, sister-in-law of Marilyn Loptien, for healing from cancer; 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 17; For Nadine Ginkel; For Carol Zeller with Interstitial Lung Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis and cardiac issues. **Thanksgiving:** For Adaleigh Ember Olson, born March 18 to Cheryl & Dustin Olson; For Larry Buethe, celebrating his 84th birthday today, March 19.

Calendar At-a-Glance (March 20-March 26):

Saturday (3-20): **9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Adult Information Class**
 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday (3-21): **Fifth 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
 1:00-5:00 p.m. Adult Information Class

Monday (3-22): **Spring Break - No Extended Day Preschool**

Tuesday (3-23): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Elders

Wednesday (3-24): **Spring Break - No Extended Day Preschool**
 9:45 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study (Pastor Ginkel)
 11:30 a.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship
 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship

Thursday (3-25): 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study

Friday (3-26): **Spring Break - No Extended Day Preschool**

Attendance (March 13 & 14, March 17):

Saturday: 5 p.m.	0	Sunday: 8 a.m.	0	10:30 a.m.	0	Total: 0 (Major snow)
Sunday School:	0 (Major snow)					
Wednesday:		11:30 a.m.	26	7 p.m.	23	Total: 49
Online Views (as of March 10)		Sunday, 3/7:	113	Midweek (3/10):	45	

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date: \$ 139,230 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date: \$ 134,568 (No change-Snow)
Renovation Funds (Project Peter): \$ 329,405 (No change-Snow)
Virus Fund/Received to date: \$ 50,315 (Distributed: \$ 43,600)

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

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. 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

KOINONIA Bible Study will next meet on April 4, 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: *“My soul find rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.”* We are all using this time of rest and relaxation (Next week, March 22 through March 26, is Spring Break!) to rejuvenate and rebuild our connection with God!! Enjoy your week.” 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 19, 2021: “Sheetrocking is complete, and we are now in the finishing stage (taping joints and covering screws). Plumbing in the children’s bathrooms is proceeding. The North side exterior temporary wall is in place and the South side wall construction will begin today. These walls are needed to provide security and protection from the weather as the windows are removed and replaced. Window removal begins Monday and should take 2-1/2 weeks to complete. To date we have paid \$270,695 of invoices. Thanks to the successful Capital Campaign we have not yet borrowed against our LCEF Construction Loan capacity. Please pray for our continued progress and the safety of our workers.” 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 \$ 43,600. 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 well 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”

This 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.

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!

Since all gifts in your life are really God's gifts, it is crucial to use advisors (legal, financial, tax) who will respect that connection and help you to grace the people and ministries closest to your heart. Your Ascension Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you formulate your gifting desires and the questions to discuss with your professional advisors so that they can help you. 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 via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on-demand at 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/KFUORadio), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KFUORadio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/KFUORadio).

This week on KFUO.org, study Mark 14 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), dig into Colossians 1-3 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT), and worship in Midweek Lenten Service and organ recital on 3/24 at 11 a.m. CT. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

Matthew 16:2-3 - He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

Last weekend was interesting! Michelle and I hit Walmart in the early afternoon to pick up a few items before the storm hit hard, milk, bread...Oreos. They had the few items we needed but, as we were loading the bags in the car...I just had to say it, "Looks like we intend to hunker down and eat *junk* all weekend!" Fortunately, we got the good stuff, too! Ground Elk (thanks to a friend!) Chili and Cornbread on Saturday and, for Jamie's 6th birthday on Sunday, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and Orange Bundt Birthday Cake. (Hard to believe the little guy turned 6 already!)

But I seriously wondered on Saturday if the climatologists (is that what the weathermen want to be called now-a-days?) knew what they were talking about because I expected to be at least ankle deep by noon and it wasn't doing much more than spitting! Then I woke up Sunday and thought, "Well, we might at least get a foot". By 10 p.m., we had right around 2 feet. Looked out Monday morning and it was well over that. Our neighbor measured 31". And we still have most of the junk food in the pantry!

So, maybe we can put *some* trust in those who interpret the weather...but I will keep my faith in God for everything! Have a blessed week! (Kathie Harvey)