

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (March 26 Edition- Early Delivery)!

Please welcome Lilly Erickson to our family through adult confirmation at the 10:30 a.m. Worship on Sunday, March 28.

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!

Flowers for March 27 & 28 were given by Susan Anderson in loving memory of her husband, Steven.

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 the family and friends of Reid Clausen, who died March 23; For Mike Zehnder, with throat cancer, following a successful surgery on March 16, awaiting test results soon; For Randy Lone, awaiting surgery for prostate cancer on April 9; For Jim Wendelken, with a broken tibia (2 places), currently in rehab at Powerack; For John Oldefest, following surgery on March 24; For Lisa O'Neal, 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 Sonia Gilbertson & Fraser Topley, as they prepare for their wedding on April 5 in Beijing, China.

Thank You! "I would like to say thank you for all the cards, prayers, and visits from Pastor Larson and above all for our wonderful Lord for seeing me through my stroke. Thank you again to my Ascension Family. You have uplifted me through this hard time. God bless you all!" Gloria Gaudreault

Blessed Passion Week and Easter! Once again Shepherd of the Hills will have a Tre Ore on Good Friday (with Pastors Stoltenow and Zillinger). Please access it live in person or live-streamed with these links: <https://www.shepherdhills-church.org/easter> or directly at <https://vimeo.com/event/802199>. May the Lord bless you next week! Live in Resurrection joy!

Calling All Construction Professionals! "Resurrection in the City Lutheran Church is a mission congregation in North East Denver going through an exciting revitalization

process. Their first full-time pastor in over a decade is now leading the church in a Ministry within their community that includes big plans for the complete renovation of two of their buildings. If you are a licensed professional (e.g. Electric, Plumbing, HVAC) interested in learning more about this Ministry and potential opportunities for partnering with your time and expertise, please reach out to Pastor Duane Meissner at 346-616-8090 or duanepaulmeissner@gmail.com"

Calendar At-a-Glance (March 27-April 2):

Saturday (3-27): 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 Sunday (3-28): **Palm Sunday**
 8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 Monday (3-29): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
 Tuesday (3-30): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
 Wednesday (3-31): **10:00 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study (Pastor Ginkel)**
 Thursday (4-01): **Maundy Thursday**
11:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion
 Friday (4-02): **Good Friday**
11:30 a.m. Good Friday Worship
5:30 p.m. Good Friday Prayer Vigil
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship

Attendance (March 20 & 21, March 24):

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| Saturday: 5 p.m. | 45 | Sunday: 8 a.m. | 54 | 10:30 a.m. | 60 | Total: 159 |
| Sunday School: | 21 | | | | | |
| Wednesday: | | 11:30 a.m. | 38 | 7 p.m. | 19 | Total: 57 |
| Online Views (as of March 17) | | Sunday, 3/14: | 174 | Midweek (3/17): | 29 | |

Stewardship:

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| Budgeted Amount/Year to date: | \$ 151,963 (\$12,733/week) |
| Received Amount/Year to date: | \$ 150,462 (Incl. Previous Week) |
| Renovation Funds (Project Peter): | \$ 332,070 (Incl. Previous Week) |
| Virus Fund/Received to date: | \$ 50,741 (Distributed: \$ 43,600) |

Ephesians Sermon Series:

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| 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 |

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 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.

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 meetings will be held on April 8 & 22! 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: "Wow, what an amazing week off. We all discussed the importance of giving ourselves grace and allowing time to rejuvenate our bodies, our minds, and our dedication to God. This past week has been a great opportunity to complete all of those!!!"

We are blasting off into our next week of school with an interesting topic surrounding Space. We are going to introduce the concepts of space including the stars, the moon, the sun, and the planets. We are even going to make a planet book!!!! All of the students are going to practice our "moon walking" skills and blasting off like a spaceship to enrich our gross motor skills and making paper airplanes to develop our fine motor skills.

In addition to our new weekly theme, we are going to introduce the letter "W" and discuss the sounds it makes in words. We will be using our letter puzzle again to reinforce our knowledge of the alphabet (we are almost all the way through!!!). We are going to continue our lessons on the number "10" - it's a big number and deserves two weeks." 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 24, 2021: "The completion of plumbing in the children's bathrooms is continuing. Both the North and South side temporary exterior walls are complete. These walls are needed to provide security and protection from the weather as the windows are removed and replaced. Window removal began Monday and should take about 2-1/2 weeks to complete. We have paid \$270,695 for work completed. Thanks to the successful Capital Campaign we have not yet borrowed against our LCEF Construction Loan capacity – praise the Lord! 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”

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 are first of all God’s gifts, distribution of estate gifts begins with prayer, asking for God’s direction for proper understanding of where His gifts are intended to go. Part of that questioning will be consideration of support of ministries that have become woven into your life as you have been blessed through them and as you serve through them. Your Ascension Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can ask you these direct questions, so that you may pray and decide. 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, join us for Tre Ore service from 12 - 3 p.m. CT on Good Friday 4/2, hear special Maundy Thursday edition of Joy! on 4/1 and Good Friday edition on 4/2 at 1 p.m. CT, and begin studying 1 Thessalonians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT). Find programs on demand at kfu.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

Ephesians 5:22 - Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

I saw an advertisement on HULU for a special celebrating women. I didn’t really pay much attention until, at the end, they stressed the fact that women “**do it all.**” But that is so far from what God intended for us.

The verse from Ephesians 5:22, *by itself*, has been an offense to many women for quite some time. Just a few decades ago, I would have found it highly offensive. Now “out of context” springs to mind, because when placed in context, Ephesians 5:21-33

sets up an incredible relationship. It becomes obvious that God's intent was not to weaken or demean women, but to make obvious their value within the relationship and to strengthen the couple in the relationship. The partnership of marriage...with Christ at the center. No one does it all.

Have a blessed week as we enter Holy Week! (Kathie Harvey)