

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (March 5 Edition)!

Welcome to the Fellowship of Christ: On Friday afternoon, March 5, at 1 p.m., we welcomed Jonas Bear Burneikis to the family of Christ through the Rite of Holy Baptism.

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

Adult Information Class to be held Saturday, March 13 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) and Sunday, March 14 (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!

We are in need of a Facebook Administrator! If you are interested in keeping our Facebook page up to date or if you have questions about what this would entail, please contact the Church Office!

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 have moved 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.

Much appreciation and thanks to Dana Niederbrach who has agreed to be our new Wedding Coordinator.

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

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 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.

Flowers for March 6 & 7 were given by the Millie Fitzpatrick in loving memory of Gil.

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 Sherry Hitztaler and her family, following the death of Dave Hitztaler, on March 4; 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 just days away from delivery (March 17), For Megan Harvey, daughter of Kathie, following successful surgery on February 23 for a fracture in her knee as she returns to work; For Dianne Backhus, awaiting additional tests; For Ted Lemke; For Nadine Ginkel; For Jacqueline Warren, for life issues; For Jenna Harvey-Kabelman, granddaughter of Kathie Harvey, for life issues; For Carol Zeller with Interstitial Lung Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis and

cardiac issues. **Thanksgiving:** For Millie Reeves, who celebrated her 96th birthday on March 3.

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 (March 6-March 12):

Saturday (3-6): **5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion**
Sunday (3-7): **Third 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 (3-8): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool
Tuesday (3-9): 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)
 6:30 p.m. Church Council
Wednesday (3-10): 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
 5:30 p.m. Agape Rehearsal
 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship
Thursday (3-11): **6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study**
Friday (3-12): 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Extended Day Preschool

Attendance (February 27 & 28, March 3):

Saturday: 5 p.m.	52	Sunday: 8 a.m.	64	10:30 a.m.	77	Total: 193
Sunday School:	25					
Wednesday:		11:30 a.m.	41	7 p.m.	26	Total: 67
Online Views (as of February 24)		Sunday, 2/21:	130	Midweek (2/24):	63	

Stewardship:

Budgeted Amount/Year to date:	\$ 113,764 (\$12,733/week)
Received Amount/Year to date:	\$ 119,583
Renovation Funds (Project Peter):	\$ 323,205
Virus Fund/Received to date:	\$ 49,115 (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..."

March 7	"The God Who Corrects Us"	Ephesians 4:17-32
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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. 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 10 is Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Hash Browns, Fruit Cups, Carrots, and Brownies!

KOINONIA Bible Study will next meet on March 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 March 11 & 25! If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna (jenna.lindeman@cune.org).

Psalms 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: "And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant-yielding seed that is on the face of all the Earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food." - Genesis 1:29

Our Preschool students learned all about seeds last week with a multitude of activities stimulating our fine and gross motor skills, math, counting, and sorting, and literacy. We are now advancing that concept to the plants that result from the planting and cultivating of the seeds, including how they can create food for us to eat and enjoy!!! We are going to plant some Marigolds, Snap Dragons, and even some beans to engage our "green thumbs" and exercise our comprehension of cause and effect!! We are moving on to the letter "U" and doing a repeat of the numbers 1 - 9 (last of the single digits)." 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: "The construction work that has been completed these past few weeks 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 within the next few weeks. The construction phase of the project is moving along to the point that Pastor has now moved to an office in the Sacristy.

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 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"

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)

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!

Teaching Sunday school or volunteering for an outreach event at church are activities easily connected with our Christian faith. But in your daily life, are there mundane tasks you do that seem to have nothing to do with faith (e.g., changing a diaper, doing a load of laundry, or weeding the garden)? Among those disconnected tasks can be the management of money or the planning of your estate. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you start reconnecting again. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at 970-988-0305.

The Messenger: "You see an ad asking for volunteers to deliver to needy families some coats, hats, and gloves that have been purchased by a local charity. You volunteer to make six deliveries. At each home, the families shower you with praise for

these thoughtful gifts. All day long you keep reminding them that you are only the messenger, and that the gifts really came from the charity.

In a way, this story is a true parallel to our lives as we dispense God's gifts, whether that be caring for our families, supporting ministries that share Jesus or sharing something with a neighbor who lives next door.

Since all the gifts in our lives are God's gifts, we find ourselves constantly reminding those who thank us that we are simply sharing God's things with them. We are not really being generous. We are not leaving a personal legacy. We are simply being faithful stewards with God's gifts, following through on the good works He prepared in advance for us to do, for which He prepared us with His gifts.

St. Paul wrote in Galatians 3, "So whatever you do, whether in word or deed, DO IT ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." That perspective reflects a heart captured by God's grace, intent on sharing that grace with everyone. Through His gifts God's saves with His Gospel." Jason Jones, CGP, CDE; Gift Planning Counselor - LCMS Foundation; 970-988-0305 – Cell; Jason.Jones@LFND.org

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 kfu.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), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).

This week on KFUO.org, begin the book of Philippians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT), hear Midweek Lenten service and organ recital on 3/10 at 11 a.m. CT, and hear practical application of our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (3/9 at 2 p.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Do you have faith? Do you have that "confidence in what we hope for and that assurance in what we do not see?" That is asking a lot, isn't it? Thomas thought that it was...until Jesus appeared and showed him the scars.

It is hard to be confident and certain of what you have not seen, and yet...We have faith not because of what we have seen but because we trust His word. We have faith because of the Spirit within us. We have faith because, while we might not have seen Jesus face-to-face yet, we have seen that God is faithful and He keeps His promises.

Be blessed this week because of your faith. (Kathie Harvey)