

**GOOD AFTERNOON!**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING (September 1)! Happy Labor Day Weekend!**

**Worship Services** are at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday this weekend. Following the 9:00 service, you are invited to join us for Coffee Under the Trees, hosted this week by the Stewardship committee. The Adult Bible Class will follow at 10:30. The nursery is available during the worship services on Sunday and also during the Adult Bible class.

A big “*Thank You!*” to all the families and committees who hosted Coffees Under the Trees this summer, what a terrific opportunity for fellowship!

Beginning next Sunday, September 11, we will return to our regular 8:00 am Traditional and 10:30 am Contemporary Worship Services. The Saturday Traditional worship service will be at 4:00 pm.

**Please note** that the church office and EDP (Extended Day Preschool) will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day.

The next issue of Happenings will be sent out on Thursday, September 15, as the Administrative Assistant will be out of town next week.

**The annual All-Church Education Sunday Picnic will be held SUNDAY, September 11th, following the second service!**

Come and celebrate with us the start of a brand new year of sharing Christ’s love through teaching and learning! There will be tasty food like fried chicken, potato salad, fruit, and dessert. Also, games and fellowship will add some fun to our wonderful morning!

Also at the picnic will be tables set up with information about the various Ascension Boards (Outreach, Social Ministry, Stewardship, etc.) and their work. See you there!

**At our August 27 “Next Steps” Church Planning meeting**, about 30 members were there to share their thoughts. Some of these folks had not been able to attend the August 6 meeting; everyone’s attendance was appreciated!

Pastor opened with a prayer.

During the discussion, Congregation President Tom Munson helped to capture some of the items that were discussed at the first meeting, organizing ideas by area or person of responsibility. Please note that the following duties are in addition to, not replacing, these individuals’ current duties.

Tom will:

- Forward the ideas captured in both meetings (those notes were posted in the last several Happenings newsletters) to the appropriate board chairs, inviting them to adopt as many as they feel they can;
- Review the meeting takeaways with Council at their next meeting;
  - Review the demographic study that was shared at the 8/27 meeting;
  - Take extra care to communicate what we do, both internally and externally;

- Consider a quarterly report that tells what is happening on each board.

Tom and Stephanie Roettjer, Christian Education Director, will:

- Coordinate tables at the church picnic to publicize the various boards, who is serving on them, what they are doing, answer questions and enlist new volunteers. This can be more than just boards, it could be clubs, home groups, choirs, etc.

Dawn Munson, Administrative Assistant, will:

- Consider new methods of communication, such as
  - Social media
  - Website upgrades
  - Newspaper advertisements
  - Adding QR codes to existing materials

Pastor and/or Elders will:

- Consider taking on a new "big idea" such as Divorce Care or Grief Share;
- Consider bringing back the Lifelines publication;
- Consider adding a guest book in the narthex and/or bringing back the pew cards.

Trustees will:

- Investigate opportunities for new sign on the corner

Kelly Lafferty, EDP Director, will:

- Ensure preschool families are aware of church events and know they are welcome

Council will:

- Consider creating a new board for Congregational Life. This board would focus on involving members and coordinating our internal events. We would revisit the responsibilities of the Life Enrichment, Stewardship, Community Outreach and Social Ministry boards to ensure there is no overlap.

As always, your feedback is welcome, please contact the church office at [alutheran@aol.com](mailto:alutheran@aol.com), or 303-794-4636. Thank you.

**Get ready to kick-off our Christian Education Program on September 11th from 9:15-10:15 AM!** Bible study for all ages, wonderful teachers, fun and engaging lessons about Jesus, music, and crafts! Our theme for the year is "Shine" based on Psalm 27:1. And, find out more about our ministry teams here at ALC and how to serve! Information tables will be set up during the picnic so stop by and take a look!

**Youth Nights are starting up the 4th Sunday of every month!** First one will be on **September 25th** from 4-5:30 pm, in the Youth Room. Games (like sardines), creative Bible study, and pizza! Friends are invited! Questions, contact Stephanie.

**Starting Sept. 11th,** children will be able to take a "Jesus Bag" into the worship services with them. These bags will contain faith-based coloring sheets, twistables (crayons), a book on what you see in church, little puzzles, stickers, and other

supplies. Parents, you'll find them hanging outside the church nursery where the coloring books currently are located.

**Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is starting up again on Monday, September 12,** from 9:30-11:30 am! This is a group for moms who have children ages newborn to kindergarten! We get together in the Youth Room at Ascension for some mommy time while our kids are watched by trusted adults! Our theme this year is "We Go Together." So, come walk through mommyhood with us!

**Beginning on Wednesday, September 7, an Adult Bible Class will be held** in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 until 6:00. You are invited to a verse by verse, chapter by chapter study of the Gospel of Luke, led by Pastor John. We begin in Luke 10:25 - the Parable of the Good Samaritan - on that evening. Though a meal is not provided this year, we will look at our options for food and drink at our study. All are welcome. You are welcome. If you have ever said that you need to really study the Bible, this is the class for you!!

**IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS...** for the music ministry anyway. Won't be long and the Ascension Chorale, Gloria Dei Handbell Ringers and our two Praise Bands will not only be practicing music for fall, but also for Christmas. Come sing or ring the blues away and have yourself a merry little Christmas. This year we are also preparing for a hymn festival with Michael Burkhardt on September 30, Rehearsals start September 6 and 13 at 7 pm for Praise Band and September 7 at 6 pm for bells and 7 pm for choir. Questions or want to sign up? See our Director of Music Ministries, Michael Zehnder, or email him at [musicmikealc@gmail.com](mailto:musicmikealc@gmail.com). "There is no sorrow, when singing." - Lailah Gifty Akita.

### **MICHAEL BURKHARDT HYMN FESTIVAL AT ASCENSION LUTHERAN**

Prolific hymn improviser, composer and organist will give a hymn festival sponsored by the Rocky Mountain American Guild of Organists on Friday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church in Littleton Free to the public, the concert features hymns of many times, genres and places and includes organ, choir, bells, timpani and brass quartet. Individuals may sing in the choir if desired and child care is provided. To sing in the choir or for more information about the concert, contact Ascension's Director of Music Ministries, Michael Zehnder at [musicmikealc@gmail.com](mailto:musicmikealc@gmail.com).

**From Ascension's Extended Day Preschool:** "How is it already September?!? All of us have truly enjoyed the first two weeks of school - we had so much fun exploring our classrooms, getting introduced to our school rules, and learning essential skills to help our school community function at its best. For September, we are now going to transition into our "Getting to Know You and Me" theme. We learned all about our school, now we want to know ALL about our students. The first week we will discuss "All About ME" and introduce similarities and differences among all of us and how we together make the World unique and special. This is such a fun theme; the students really enjoy sharing all about themselves and the things they love the most."

**The Romans Bible study led by Curt and Karen Engle** The group meets Saturdays from 3:00-3:55 pm at the church before worship. If you are interested in joining the

Genesis study please join them in Room 201 on a Saturday, or email Curt at [Kengle0920@gmail.com](mailto:Kengle0920@gmail.com).

**Bible Study on Wednesdays - THE MANY WONDERS OF HEAVEN**. Written and taught by Pastor Don Ginkel. This is an in-depth study. We meet from 10:00 to 11:15 in Room 106 on Wednesdays, in the classroom to the right of the main entrance off the parking lot.

**Young Adult Group** Bible Study will meet on Friday, September 16 at 6:30 pm. If you would like to join us, please contact Jenna ([jenna.lindeman@cune.org](mailto:jenna.lindeman@cune.org)).

**Ascension Foundation Happenings**: Our August meeting consisted of reviewing past missions for 2022, consisting of some 16 support areas local and worldwide.

We are setting budgets for the coming year that will include approximately \$38,000 for our ongoing missions of support.

Our Goal and criteria are to ensure that we are involved in forwarding God's word in all our mission selections, that include a college student's study for full-time church work and a mission family studying to complete his studies for the full-time ministry in the near future.

Additionally, we are supporting God's word and work in several world missions fields, along with local support to a growing Denver mission church and projects in need. We will continue with an update sharing our final funding selections later this fall.

For the Foundation, Jim Shelton

**Gifts on a Mission** is a group of people who gather together twice a month to do a little crafting and have a lot of fun! Why are we called "Gifts on a Mission?" Because the things we make are sold for mission projects near and far! Come join us! We meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month, "open house," 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Come and learn a new craft!

**Fall days are approaching, and it's time to think "Craft and Bake Sale"**.

We all enjoyed wonderful goodies at coffee hour this summer. Would you consider baking some more for the Bake sale? Or go through your favorite recipes. Crafts take time, so let's get started! Think: Fall decorations, Christmas items and ornaments, hand-made jewelry. Any woodworkers out there? We'd love your items, too! November 20 is our big day- - mark your calendars. And thanks so much from the Ladies Guild!

**Ascension Quilters** will begin meeting again on Friday afternoons in the Fellowship Hall beginning next Friday, September 9, from 12:30-3:00 p.m. For more information, please call Jackie Adams, 303-798-5161.

**Save the Date! Saturday, October 8, 2022, 2:30-9 PM | Denver Zoo**

You are invited to join **Alternatives Pregnancy Center** for an epic fundraising event at the Denver Zoo! Bring the whole family as we gather to celebrate this momentous anniversary.

Over 40 years, Alternatives has impacted over 100,000 lives in all Denver communities. Because of you, lives have been changed, families united, babies born, and women empowered to choose life. This is cause for celebration!

From daytime zoo admission, evening dancing and live music into the night, there is something for every member of your family. Enjoy a scavenger hunt, an animal encounter and place a bid through our silent and live auctions as we look ahead to the next 40 years. Join us for the afternoon, evening or the whole day! Get tickets today.

[Get Tickets](#)

**An entire estate gift plan is a testimony of life lived by faith in Jesus.** Sometimes when we engage in the process of putting an estate together, we can get caught up in checking off so many details that we actually forget to pray, think, and discuss our goals and intentions, which are meant to focus on lives of faithful stewardship, caring for family, supporting ministry, and sharing Jesus as Savior with the world. Your estate plan can include a Christian preamble or family blessing with which you state your faith. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnf.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

**Prayers:** For Pastor Don Ginkel, who has a fracture in his back; For Lynne Nelson, with abdomen issues; For Larry and Flo Westra, who have had Covid, and prayers of thanksgiving that Larry is doing better; For Dawn Munson's father, Jim Nichols, with fluid retention and heart and kidney issues; For Ann Kaneko's sister, Joan, who is in the hospital with an infection that has affected her kidney function; pray that doctors can diagnose her problem; For Dennis Anderson, brother of Judy Hermsmeyer, recovering from lung cancer surgery on September 6. For the Capparuccia family (Larisa Neilson's family); for Darlene Neilson, Larisa's mother-in-law; For Ellen Thompson's sister, Karen, whose cancer has returned; For Lila Loots, who has a mass near her kidney; and for Lila's brother, Gordon Loots; he has been diagnosed with a brain tumor and a blockage of an artery. For the Lord's blessing on our church planning efforts this month; For Mike Zehnder's brother, Tom; For Harriet Metz; For Gwen Geisler; For Lorine Grau; For Nadine Ginkel; For Carol Zeller; For members of our congregation who are having financial challenges; For world leaders, that they will pursue peace in Ukraine; For our country; For God's mighty hand to bring to an end this virus. For God to send His Holy Spirit on all believers for strengthening of faith and witness. For those who are homeless, that they may find safe places to live.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:** for Gayla and Larry Buethe, who are celebrating their 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, September 4!

**Blessings and Congratulations** to Mark and Kathryn Nelson, who welcomed Theodore Allen Steffen on August 27. The baby is doing great!

**The Funeral Service for Beau Wolfer** will be held here at Ascension on Monday, September 12, at 1:00 p.m.

**Ascension's Prayer Group:**

**James 5:16** (AMP) Therefore, confess your sins to one another [your false steps, your offenses], and pray for one another, that you may be healed *and* restored. The heartfelt *and* persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power].

Ascension's Prayer Group meets on Zoom every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2:30 pm. If you'd like to join us, contact [MargoALPasha@yahoo.com](mailto:MargoALPasha@yahoo.com)

**Help for Ukraine:** To support the people of Ukraine, please pray for them. If you desire to contribute to their needs, the link for Mission Advancement is: [Give online via LCMS Mission Advancement](#). By mail, you can make your check out to "The LCMS," and write "Ukraine Relief" in the memo line. Mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Service Time</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	
Saturday, 8/27	4:00 pm	64	
Sunday, 8/28	9:00 am	148	Total: 212

**Online Views** (as of August 29) for August 21: 111 views.

**Calendar At-a-Glance (Saturday, September 3 – Sunday, September 11):**

Sat. (9-3)	4:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (9-4)	9:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee Under the Trees – The Stewardship Committee
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
Mon. (9-5)		LABOR DAY – Church office and EDP closed
Tues. (9-6)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Agape Rehearsal
Weds. (9-7)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 a.m.	Mid-week Bible Study w/Pastor Ginkel
	5:00 p.m.	Study of the Book of Luke w/Pastor John
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Instruction
	6:00 p.m.	Gloria Dei Ringers
	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thurs. (9-8)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	10:30a.m.-12:00p.m.	Pastor Conference
Fri. (9-9)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Sat. (9-10)	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Guild Board Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (9-11)	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>EDUCATION SUNDAY (Note time changes)</b>

		Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	<b>9:15 a.m.</b>	Education Hour/Sunday School
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	Education Picnic

**Stewardship:**

2022	This Week	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Financial Needs	\$12,300.00	\$430,500.00
Received Amount	\$7,305.00	\$418,000.30
Project Peter Receipts	\$1,195.00	\$108,159.13

Project Peter Loan Balance: \$196,306.21

**Flowers for September 3-4 were given by Nancy Lugton in joyful celebration of her son Patrick Muldoon's 26<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

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**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on [KFUE.org](http://KFUE.org):** Study Deuteronomy 18-22 on Sharper Iron's "The Law of God is Good and Wise" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), finish the book of Romans and begin the book of 1 Corinthians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and hear conversations from fellow Lutherans from across our church body on The Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfue.org](http://kfue.org) or on the KFUE Radio app!

**Hymn Preview:** *In our worship together this week we will sing these lines from the hymn, "Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me" (LSB 722):*

*Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;  
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day,  
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.      - Julie von Hausmann, b. 1825*