

GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 19)!

Worship Services are at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class are at 9:15 – 10:15 am on Sundays. The nursery is available for Sunday worship services and during the Adult Bible class.

There will be a Voter's Meeting this Sunday, January 22 at noon. Annual reports will be presented. Luncheon provided.

Pastor John's Bible Study on Sunday mornings is entitled "Galatians - Solid Stuff!"

Thrivent Choice Dollars If you are a Thrivent member, you can designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to benefit Ascension missions by going to the Thrivent website and selecting Ascension to receive this benefit. Please contact the church office for assistance, 303-794-4636 or alutheran@aol.com. Thank you.

Family Game Night! Friday, January 27th, 6:00-7:30 pm. Whether you're young or young at heart, we've got a space for you. Bring your favorite game or come ready to learn a new one as we enjoy an evening of laughter and fun together. Come ready to play Bingo with everyone at the beginning of the evening. After that, feel free to play whatever sounds the most fun to you! And prizes! Also, gaga ball, human hungry hippos, cards, board games! *Pastor has even added a very civilized Cribbage match to the lineup of events!*

Pizza provided. Questions, contact Stephanie at stephanieroettjer@gmail.com

Save the Dates for Vacation Bible School! This year Vacation Bible School will return to its 5-day schedule ... and the out-of-this-world theme for 2023 is "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light!"

Dates for VBS will be Monday, June 5 through Friday, June 9. *Spread the word!*

Severe Weather Shelter Network – from Ann Kaneko Many thanks to those who helped with laundry last week! You are awesome and very much appreciated. SWSN has been quite busy during the last few weeks. So far this season in their 3 regions combined, they have had 22 shelter nights during which they served 1,138 guests with 1,408 volunteer hours. In a recent email, they asked for "volunteers to make and freeze meals (mains, side, veggies, and desserts) in advance and deliver them to us."

I've created a page at SignUp Genius for you to sign up to provide a dish. It will be available until January 20. [Foods to Freeze for SWSN](#)

If you need any help with this, please contact me.

Ann Kaneko, kanekoa@comcast.net, 720.289.6782 (cell)

The Ladies Guild says Thank You all for your loving support of the Craft and Bake sale. All you makers, bakers and shoppers- - here's what you did! With the Thrivent Dollars matching grant of \$1000, and proceeds from the Sale, the total given to mission outreach came to \$3300! The breakdown: Lutheran High: \$500; Lutheran

Braille Workers: \$200; LCMS Chaplains: \$200; University Chapel, Boulder: \$200; Orphan Grain Train: \$500; Ysleta Lutheran Mission: \$200; Messiah Lutheran Campus Ministry, Grand Junction: \$500; LCMS Life Ministries: \$300; Unity Lutheran School, East St. Louis: \$200; and Lutheran Valley Retreat: \$500. Many thanks to all; you have touched many lives!

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE DENVER: Good news! There will be **no** March for Life this year, because it is a time to rejoice and thank God. In June, 2022, the Supreme Court decision overturned Roe v Wade so, we need no longer march in protest. This weekend we will celebrate the Sanctity of Life. The liturgy and pastor's sermon will center on the preciousness of life, a true gift of God. LFL will have a display table in the narthex with various brochures you may be interested in, so stop by and take some. Also, we will have an insert in the Worship Bulletins. ***You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13***
For information about Life issues, contact Jude Donovan, 303-972-0873.

The Foundation is pleased to report that we are at 84% of our giving goal for the 2023 budget. Thanks to all of you who have donated to help us with our vital missions. We have a new mission that we have taken on, which is called Save the Seminary and is helping with the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society in Russia. The Lutheran Church has been returning to the country after the fall of communism. The board approved sending \$1000 for this important mission in another fraught part of the world.

Please check our bulletin board in the narthex for two very nice "thank you" letters from RuthAnn and Esther Langness as we continue to help them along their journey to become church workers.

From Lutherans for Life:

Blessed For Life is the [Life Sunday 2023](#) and [Life Week 2023](#) theme. Nightly sessions (see below) will take your eyes off the death and darkness viewpoint of the world.

Our **Life Sunday 2023** theme, **Blessed For Life**, comes from Psalm 41: 1-2 and can be celebrated on Life Sunday (January 22, 2023) or anytime throughout the year!

“Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; *he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.*” (ESV)

Make plans to participate in **Life Week 2023**, January 15-21, 2023. Lutherans For Life gathers the church in articulating the **Blessed For Life** theme, expanding on four specific aspects during our Sunday through Wednesday Life Week Zoom events:

- Sunday – Blessed as a Gift (our Gospel-motivation) – Rev. Michael Salemink
- Monday – Blessed in Longing – Rev. Steven and Stephanie Cholak
- Tuesday – Blessed Together – Delores Desemone
- Wednesday – Blessed with Healing – Deaconess Chrissie Gillet

Use this same Zoom ID and Password to connect each night beginning 7:00 p.m. CT/ 8:00 p.m. ET: Meeting ID: 845 7061 0394 | Passcode: 501680.

- January 20 | Special Presentation – Rev. Dr. Greg Schulz, Professor of Philosophy at Concordia University Wisconsin, 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET. | Meeting ID: 848 3529 5744 | Passcode: 864870

Find out more by searching our website. Hover over the “Resource” tab where you can connect: [Life Sunday 2023](#) | [Life Week 2023](#)

From the Capital Campaign Committee:

2 Corinthians 9:11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Despite many challenges over the last three years, the people of Ascension have committed to the West Wing upgrade. Through prayer and working together, we have achieved a beautiful, renovated facility we all can be proud of, one that advances our mission to "Gather around the Word and Sacrament for worship and nurture... to receive power to reach out in Christ's name..."

The cost of the project is nearly paid. The pennies and dollars you have generously provided have added up to \$952,749.28, of the total project cost of \$1,064,000.00. In this last month of the three-year project, additional contributions of \$48,577.69 would pay the project and loan off. Please prayerfully consider your support of this effort.

Your Capital Campaign committee thanks you for your contributions, your prayers and your commitment to Ascension and the West Wing Peter Project. - Jim Adams, Art Gordon, Bob Hea, Kim McCormick, Chuck Mielke, Dawn Munson, Kathleen Wucherpfennig. Past President Arvin Michel, President Tom Munson and Pastor John Larson.

From Ascension's Extended Day Preschool "January is packed with celebratory curricular themes and activities. We truly enjoyed participating in one of the fun-filled Colorado pastimes (Denver Stock Show) with our stick pony races and our Chuck Wagon lunch.

This week we move on to celebrating Martin Luther King Jr and the important dreams he had!! We will discuss kindness, what being kind looks like, and how we can make acts of kindness in our classroom and community. What FUN!!!!" Warm Regards, Kelly Lafferty, Director

Gifts on a Mission We get together at church to work on crafts on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 1:00 to 4:45 pm. Come and join us!

The Genesis 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 Saturdays or email Curt at Kengle0920@gmail.com.

Study on Wednesday Mornings: A Bible Introduction. When was it written? Inspiration and Languages. Overview of Old and New Testaments. And more. Taught by Pastor Don Ginkel. We meet from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. in Room 106 in classroom to the right of the main entrance off the parking lot. Join us if you can.

Our estates are full of God's gifts. Often, families are strained and torn by family members expressing a sense of entitlement to the gifts present in their parents' estates. This is hard to resolve when children are later in adult years themselves. The time to begin teaching about it is when the children are younger. However, your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can work with you to create your own way of communicating to family that the things they will receive from your estate will be gifts. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Prayers: For healing for Sherrie Shelton, she fell and broke her hip today, she had surgery and it went well; Gerideane Tracey and her daughter, Carly, as they head to Georgia this weekend. Carly's adoptive child may be born on Monday, January 23. For Corinne Carlevato, with heart and breathing issues; For Janet Parrott; For Ken Herman, friend of Dawn Munson, who is being treated for cancer; For Kathy Valdez, Lee's wife, for renewed health; For Mike Eman, surgery on his back on Monday, January 23; For Andrew and Kala Loptien, Don and Marilyn's son and daughter-in-law, whose adoption of a new-born on January 15 didn't occur as hoped; For Lois Brandhorst; For Crystal Sundet and Athenia Michel, who are being treated for breast cancer; For increased strength for Alvera Sturgeon; For Dave Clausen, who is recovering from a knee replacement; For Tom Snyder, Cynthia Snyder's husband, recovering from a broken hip; For Mike Lindstrom, friend of Lori Rolling. Mike is struggling with stage 4 emphysema; For John Klepetka, recovering from hand surgery; For Tom Zehnder, Mike's brother; For Lorine Grau; For Nadine Ginkel; For Carol Zeller; For world leaders, that they will pursue peace in Ukraine; For our country; For God to send His Holy Spirit on all believers for strengthening of faith and witness.

Prayers of Thanksgiving For Ethan Nelson, family member of Don and Jeanette Nelson. Ethan has completed the first phase of his cancer treatment, and the chemotherapy has killed a lot of the cancer! They will now start the next phase of treatment. It is a long journey, but it is looking promising!

From Joyce Reimnitz: Greetings from Mesa, Arizona! I have been praying for all of the members of Ascension, and am planning to make a visit back to Colorado once I am settled here. Mike is doing well too. Please keep praying for us, and may the coming year be filled with God's blessings.

Thank you for all the prayers, the flowers, the cards and calls as I am recovering from shoulder surgery. They are much appreciated! - Nancy Harder

Flowers on the Altar for January 21-22 are given by Dick and Joanne Castleman in loving memory of their mothers, Marie and Laura.

Ascension's Prayer Group

Are you making resolutions for the New Year? Have you selected a Word for 2023? Consider making both PRAYER!

Grant us grace, O God,
to begin this year in Your faith
and to continue it in Your favor,
that being guided in all our doings
and guarded all our days,
we may spend ourselves in Your service
and finally, by Your grace,
attain to the glory of eternal life;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ written by W E Orchard, 1877-1955

If you'd like to join the Ascension Prayer Group, we meet on Zoom every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2:30 pm. Contact MargoALPasha@yahoo.com

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Service Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	
Saturday, 1/14	4:00 pm	60	
Sunday, 1/15	8:00 am	81	
	10:30 am	59	Total: 200

Online Views (as of January 17) for January 8: 175 views

Calendar At-a-Glance (Saturday, January 21 – Sunday, January 29):

Sat. (1-21)	4:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (1-22)	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Education Hour / Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Voter's Meeting
Mon. (1-23)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (1-24)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Technology Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
Weds. (1-25)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 a.m.	Weekday Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	5:00 p.m.	Bible Study with Pastor John
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Instruction

	6:00 p.m.	Gloria Dei Ringers
	7:00 p.m.	Ascension Chorale
Thurs. (1-26)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (1-27)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 p.m.	Quilters Group
	6:00 p.m.	Family Game Night – Kids and Adults
Sat. (1-28)	4:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (1-29)	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Education Hour / Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Live - Youth Bible Study, Games, Pizza

Stewardship:

2023	Sunday, January 15	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,000.00	\$36,000.00
Received Amount	\$15,556.00	\$39,081.00
Project Peter Receipts	\$53.50	\$8,069.50

Project Peter Loan Balance: \$48,577.69

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Study John 4-5 on Sharper Iron's "The Word Made Flesh" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Ruth 2-4 and Esther 1-2 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study what Baptism is on Concord Matters (1/28 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUE Radio app!

Church Library Corner:

From *The Freedom of a Christian*, by Martin Luther (continued from last week):

2. In order to understand these two antithetic assertions concerning freedom and bondage, we ought to remember that in every Christian there are two natures, a spiritual and a bodily. In as far as he possesses a soul, a Christian is a spiritual person, an inward, regenerate self; and in as far as he possesses flesh and blood, he is a sensual person, an outward, unregenerate self. Because of this difference, the Scriptures, in passages which directly contradict each other, speak of his freedom and bondage in the way I have just said.