

GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 26)!

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.

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

Pastor John and Marilyn will be in Phoenix visiting with Pastor's mom and seeing other family from Monday, January 30 until Wednesday, February 1st.

Recent Text and Email scams: *Unfortunately there are many text and email scams out there from bad actors pretending to be Pastor or a church staff member, asking for money, gift cards or donations.*

*Please know that we will **NEVER** text, call or email you asking you to purchase gift cards, or send money or information to a phone number or a link. Please watch out for these scams!*

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting for Ascension Lutheran Church met on Sunday, January 22. Forty-five members met for the 40-minute meeting led by newly elected President Tim McClaren. Here are some of the things we learned at the meeting:

Our congregation has 533 baptized members, 483 of them are confirmed / communicant members. This is ten less than we had in 2021. Our average attendance for our weekend services is 195, three more than the previous year.

Our on-line service attendance has grown. In 2022 we had about 8,000 views, an average of about 150 per weekend.

The congregation contributed \$100,000 more than we had budgeted. The Elders will make an additional distribution of a little more than \$10,000 to our mission partners and various mission projects. (Ascension distributes 10% of all general fund contributions to missions.)

We began the year with a debt of about \$300,000 for the renovation of the west-wing. We concluded the year with a debt of about \$66,000. Since year-end, we have paid down the debt to ~\$48,500. We hope to eliminate that debt in the first half of 2023.

The printed annual report was made available to all at the meeting. Additional copies are available in the church office for all who would like to see the review of the past year.

The Constitution and Bylaws have been rewritten by the committee of Arvin Michel, Tim McClaren, Ed Geisler and Pastor John. These documents will be presented to the Council in February for questions and revisions. In a specially called Voter's Meeting the Voter's will review and vote on the new documents.

The next regular Voter's Meeting will be on Sunday, April 23, at noon.

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! Tomorrow 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!*

Souper-bowl Sunday! The 49ers, the Bengals, the Eagles or the Chiefs?!? While you are rooting for your (second) favorite football team in the playoffs, you can support your local food bank, Integrated Family Community Services, by bringing as many cans of soup as possible to the narthex over the next few weekends! We will collect soup on January 29, February 5 and 12. IFCS appreciates your generosity!!

Severe Weather Shelter Network – from Ann Kaneko Thanks to all who donated to SWSN earlier this week. I am always amazed and very appreciate your generosity. Weather forecasts for next week show frigid temperatures for the entire week, so the shelter needs continue. This week, the SWSN has served an about 30 guests each shelter night. Faith Community Center continues to be our shelter site until February 1, when Immanuel Lutheran will become the shelter site. If you are available to help with the move, please call or email me. Ann Kaneko, kanekoa@comcast.net, 720.289.6782 (cell)

45th Annual Paint-a-Thon In partnership with Arapahoe County, Brothers Redevelopment Inc. provides FREE exterior painting, minor exterior repairs and yardwork for age- and income-eligible residents of Arapahoe County. Qualifications include: homeownership, over 59 or disabled, fixed income, 1 or 1.5 story home, plan to stay in your home for two years, need for exterior paint. Applications are in the church office, or call to apply now, 720-339-5864. www.BrothersRedevelopment.org

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!

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 Ascension's Extended Day Preschool "After completing our theme on Kindness (inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr.), we transitioned into our Chinese New Year celebrations. As we enter into the Year of the Rabbit, we have been discussing the origin of this Holiday - we looked at a globe to discover where China is located, and explained how Chinese New Year starts on the 1st new moon of the year. We expanded our knowledge on further attributes of the Holiday - red and gold are considered lucky colors, what all of the animals mean (rabbit symbolizes luck), and we explored with how they celebrate in their households (clean house, feast with family, decorate in red, make lots of noise with fireworks, wear new red clothes on the New Year Day).

This week is always filled with fun and creative artwork. The Preschool class started the week off by creating Dragon Puppets while the Prekindergarten class made Chinese noodle bowls with yarn. We finished the week by making Chinese flags. So fun being creative and expanding our knowledge on other celebrations."

Warm Regards, Kelly Lafferty, Director

Gifts on a Mission See our display in the Narthex this Saturday, January 28th & Sunday, January 29th. Visit us anytime during our regularly scheduled Craft "Gatherings," if you are interested in purchasing or ordering any of our hand-crafted items, some items are available to be purchased or ordered during our Gathering time on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month beginning at 1:00 PM in the church Fellowship Hall. Watch our Bulletin Board for info, news, updates about Crafted with Love by GOAM for Missions.

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: We are beginning a new study on “The End Times.” 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. One of the greatest joys of life God gives us is to give away His gifts and to be able to see the joyful response of those receiving. Through it all, we aim to share Jesus, with the families we love and the ministries we support. Putting a plan together to bless both family and ministry is an honor. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Prayers: For Charlene Dierking's granddaughter, Brilene, who is in the hospital at Cedar City, Utah, following a car accident yesterday. Her right arm is badly injured, she has many bruises and a sprained ankle. She will have surgery later today; For Darlene Papaj, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer; For Lynn Hendrickson, long-time former member, who has Stage 4 cancer; For Gerideane Tracey and her daughter, Carly, whose adoption of a newborn daughter will not happen as they had hoped; For Norm Fringer, who broke the T10 vertebrae in his back a few days ago. He did not need surgery but has been fitted with a brace; For Terry Fringer, who is awaiting a liver transplant; For Ellen Thompson and her family, at the death of her nephew, Brian, 48, on January 19. He leaves behind his wife, Rhonda and 2 sons, 14 and 16; For Sherrie Shelton; For Dennis and Joyce Lord's cousin, Robin Moore, that she find peace after the loss of her son Patrick, who died suddenly from an enlarged heart; For Corinne Carlevato, with heart and breathing issues; For Janet Parrott; For Ken Herman, friend of Dawn Munson, awaiting test results; For Kathy Valdez, Lee's wife, for renewed health; For Mike Eman, surgery on his back on Monday, January 23; 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 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 Sean and Gina Utecht, whose baby daughter, Haley Lynn, was born on January 25! 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 have started the next phase of treatment.

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

Ascension's Prayer Group

Ephesians 6:18 (AMP)

With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all God's people.

Please join the Ascension Prayer Group as 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, 1/21	4:00 pm	53	
Sunday, 1/22	8:00 am	75	
	10:30 am	67	Total: 195

Online Views (as of January 23) for January 15: 211 views

Calendar At-a-Glance (Saturday, January 28 – Sunday, February 5):

Sat. (1-28)	4:00 p.m.	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
Mon. (1-30)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (1-31)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
Weds. (2-1)	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 Bob
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Instruction
	6:00 p.m.	Gloria Dei Ringers
	7:00 p.m.	Ascension Chorale
Thurs. (2-2)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	1:00 p.m.	Gifts on a Mission
Fri. (2-3)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 p.m.	Quilters Group
Sat. (2-4)	9:00 a.m.	Special Council Mtg.
	4:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (2-5)	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

Stewardship:

2023	Sunday, January 22	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,000.00	\$48,000.00
Received Amount	\$5,738.00	\$44,819.00
Project Peter Receipts	\$2,125.00	\$10,195.00

Project Peter Loan Balance: \$48,577.69

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Study John 6 on Sharper Iron's "Word Made Flesh" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), finish studying Esther and hear about Funeral Texts on Free-Text-Friday on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and hear about the benefits of Baptism on Concord Matters (2/4 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org and the KFUE Radio app!

Church Library Corner:

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

3. When we consider the inner, spiritual man and see what belongs to him if he is to be a free and devout Christian, in fact and in name, it is evident that, whatever the name, no outer thing can make him either free or religious. For his religion and his freedom, and, moreover, his sinfulness and servitude, are neither bodily nor outward. What avail is it to the soul if the body is free, active, and healthy; or eats, drinks, and lives as it likes? Again, what harm does it do to the soul if the body is imprisoned, ill and weakly; or is hungry, thirsty, and in pain, even if one does not bear it gladly? This sort of thing never touches the soul a little bit, nor makes it free or captive, religious or sinful.

<https://lutheranreformation.org/theology/on-the-freedom-of-a-christian/> for more information.