

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (February 2)! *Happy Groundhog Day!*



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!"

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 ~\$46,930.30. 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.

Announcing the new and exciting Faith Book, 2023! Today we begin to develop the 11th edition of our devotional book, by asking each of you to join us in praying that God will bring to mind how much a part of your life HE really is. We collect these stories and publish them to read between Easter and the Ascension. Please listen carefully to the Lord's leading, as you write a 400-500-word story that tells of a time or situation that God used to bless or heal you, answered prayers, give you hope. Sign up begins now by emailing me at Heyjude264@aol.com. We will need all of you to help fill the pages. Please email that you will write a story NOW, then plan to send your FAITH Story to me by **March 1**. I will be glad to interview you and help you write if you like. Call me to discuss it at 303 972 0873. With God's help and yours, this booklet can bless us and glorify God. Thank you for your prayers and stories, Jude Donovan,
Heyjude264@aol.com

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 Night on Wednesday, February 22nd! On Ash Wednesday, join us to make resurrection gardens, pretzels, and crafts to help explain and observe the start of Lent for children. Come for dinner at 5:30pm followed by activities from 6-6:45pm. **Sign-up** on the youth and family bulletin board or contact Stephanie. Thank you!

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 Eagles and the Chiefs ... who is excited?!? While you are getting ready for the Superbowl, 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 February 5 and 12. IFCS appreciates your generosity!!

Severe Weather Shelter Network On February 1, Immanuel Lutheran became the shelter site. All sheltering activities will take place there from now on. The church is located at 3695 S. Acoma St. in Englewood. It is on the corner of Kenyon and Acoma, just a couple of blocks west of Broadway. After the very cold weather we've had, SWSN is in need of some supplies:

- Hot chocolate (single serve packets)
- Creamer – large container
- Paper/plastic bowls and utensils
- Paper plates
- Hot and Cold drink cups (no lids)

Items may be left in the kitchen. Mark them for SWSN. I will deliver them. If you have any questions, please call or email me. Ann Kaneko, kanekoa@comcast.net, 720.289.6782 (cell)

From Integrated Family Community Services

Join IFCS from 5:00 pm -9:00 pm on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center to help build a stronger community. Nibbles and Sips, An Evening to Help Us Alleviate Hunger, is a fine food and beverage tasting gala event that brings the community together to raise money in support of IFCS' One Can Feed Hunger Alleviation Campaign.

At this event, you can **sample more than 300 wines, spirits and beers from around the world**, coupled with **wonderful offerings from local restaurants** such as Alamo Draft House, Bad Daddy Burger, Polidori Sausage, Blue Bell Ice Cream, Los Dos Portillos, Corner Bakery, Root 25, The Melting Pot, Piccolo's, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Red Bird Farms, Romano's Restaurant, Tico's Mexican, Torchies Tacos, Seasons 52 Fresh Grill with more joining in. *Non-alcoholic beverages are also available.* This is truly one of the feel-good charity events where the community comes together to have a lively casual evening to support our struggling neighbors.

The evening includes **inspirational speakers, live music, interactive games, local celebrities and many "feel-good moments" plus a large variety of silent and live auction items.** The last in-person Nibbles and Sips raised \$225,000 through sponsorships, games of skill, auctions and a paddle raiser. **With your help, we can reach our goal of \$250,000 and provide an immediate, positive impact on our many families and individuals seeking vital resources.**

Don't Delay - [Buy your tickets now!](#)

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 Ascension Foundation has funds available for our college students' Book and Material Reimbursement program so if you are a college student and member at Ascension, please get a form (located in the office or under our bulletin board in the

narthex) and submit for your reimbursement. The program allows for \$375.00 per semester (\$750.00 per school year) and covers not only books and materials, but laptop computers, too, if they are necessary for your educational pursuits.

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)." Warm Regards, Kelly Lafferty, Director

Gifts on a Mission Visit us anytime during our regularly scheduled Craft "Gatherings," if you are interested in purchasing or ordering any of our hand-crafted items, some 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.

It is important to involve family in your gifting plan from your estate. It is true that most often, the biggest gifts from an estate are aimed at the family, blessing with inheritance. However, families often grant inheritance without any conversation about how to use it well. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you articulate your family plan. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Prayers: For Pastor Greg Michel, son of Arvin and Athenia Michel, who will be installed as Pastor of Shepherd of the Coast Lutheran Church in Palm Coast, Florida on Sunday, February 12. He concluded his ministry at Peace Lutheran Church in New Berlin, Wisconsin, a congregation he has served since 2017, in these past weeks. We pray God's great blessings on him and his wife, Sue.

We pray for Matthew Loptien, for restoration of his hearing in his left ear; For Irene Abosch, friend of Nancy Lugton, who had hip replacement on January 30; For Mike Regan, at the death of his mother, Marilyn, on January 27; For Jackie Warren; For Charlene Dierking's granddaughter, Brilene, who is in the hospital at Cedar City, Utah,

following a car accident. Her right arm is badly injured, she has many bruises and a sprained ankle; 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 did not happen as they had hoped; For Norm Fringer, who broke the T10 vertebrae in his back, and has been fitted with a brace; For Terry Fringer, who is awaiting a liver transplant; For Corinne Carlevato; For Kathy Valdez, Lee's wife, for renewed health; For Lois Brandhorst; For Crystal Sundet and Athenia Michel, who are being treated for breast cancer; For increased strength for Alvera Sturgeon, now home from rehab; For Tom Zehnder, Mike's brother; For Lorine Grau; For Nadine Ginkel; 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.

Flowers on the Altar are given by Janet Parrot, in memory of loved ones and for the glory of God.

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, 1/28	4:00 pm	59	
Sunday, 1/29	8:00 am	63	
	10:30 am	43	Total: 165

Online Views (as of January 29) for January 22: 133 views

Calendar At-a-Glance (Saturday, February 4 – Sunday, February 12):

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
Mon. (2-6)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (2-7)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
Weds. (2-8)	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. (2-9)	9:00 a.m.	Foundation Board Mtg.
	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (2-10)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 p.m.	Quilters Group
	6:30 p.m.	Young Adult Group
Sat. (2-11)	10:00 a.m.	Confirmation Instruction (extra session)
	4:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (2-12)		SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
	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	Sat/Sun, January 28-29	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,000.00	\$60,000.00
Received Amount	\$5,563.00	\$50,382.00
Project Peter Receipts	\$250.00	\$10,445.00

Project Peter Loan Balance: \$46,930.30

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Dive into a curious theological topic on Cross Defense (2/11 at 11:00 a.m. CT), study John 6-7 on Sharper Iron's "The Word Made Flesh" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and finish the book and Esther and begin the book of 1 Timothy on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org, the KFUE Radio app, or wherever you get podcasts!

Church Library Corner:

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

4. Thus it does not help the soul if the body puts on sacred vestments as the priests and clergy do. It does not help even when the body is in church or in holy places, or when busy with sacred affairs; nor when the body is offering prayers, keeping fasts, or making pilgrimages, and doing other good works, which are performed only in and through the body. It must surely be something quite different which brings religion and freedom to the soul. For even a sinful man, or a hypocrite and pretender, may have all the afore-named things, do these works, and follow these

ways. Also this is the way to make men nothing but sheer hypocrites. Further it does no harm to the soul if the body wears worldly clothes, tarries in worldly places, eats, drinks, does not go on pilgrimages, nor keep the appointed hours of prayer; and if it neglects all the works that hypocrites perform, as already said.

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