

GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (March 16)!

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.

Lenten Midweek Services are every Wednesday at 11:30 am and 7:00 pm, through March 29. There will be a Lenten Meal beginning at 5:30 pm each Wednesday in Lent. Next Wednesday's meal is sponsored by Life Enrichment.

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

St. Patrick's Day – Tomorrow Night - Bunco Night!! Ascension will be hosting Bunco Night on Friday, March 17th at 6:30 p.m. Don't know how to play Bunco? No problem ... we will teach you! Please bring your favorite snack to share, and don't forget to wear GREEN! Childcare will be available! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

This Saturday - Please Come & Join Ascension Ladies Guild and Pastor Larson (Guest Caller)! Saturday, March 18, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. BRING YOUR MITE BOXES ALONG WITH PLENTY OF DIMES, NICKLES AND PENNIES! Between games we will be reviewing the District Mission Projects for the current Biennium (2022-2024).

There was a group, who had a mission, and Mites was its name-o!

M-I-T-E-S! M-I-T-E-S! M-I-T-E-S! And MITES was its name-o!

From Ascension's Extended Day Preschool "Happy St. Patrick's Day!! We have all created our own versions of a Leprechaun trap at home to bring in tomorrow!! That silly Leprechaun keeps visiting our school every year and causing such mischief - we hope to catch him this year!!

This week we have been covering Zoo Animals, which is also a beloved lesson for our students. We are developing our fine motor skills and hand strength by forming zoo animals out of playdough, we working on number recognition by counting/matching the zoo animals to their matching numerals, and we getting extremely creative by making zebras and kangaroos with paint and markers - so many fun activities.

We having a spirit week this week to show our school spirit!! So fun and such an amazing community experience for our families, students, and teachers to participate in!!! We're having a sports day, a hat day, a crazy hair day, a silly sock day, and a backwards day to ring in our last week before Spring Break!!!"

Warm Regards, Kelly Lafferty, Director

Parent / Youth Meeting this Sunday, March 19th at noon! We're going to discuss the summer mission trip to Mescalero, New Mexico, and our Easter breakfast fundraiser! Don't miss out on this opportunity to receive more information and get your questions answered. See you there!

Pre-filled Easter Eggs Needed for our Easter Egg Hunt for church, preschool, and neighborhood families! This year will look a little different...we're asking for donations of **pre-filled** eggs. We'll have empty eggs available for you to take home, fill with wrapped candy, and return. Or you can just buy already pre-filled eggs from the store. We appreciate your generosity and support! Thank you for your help!

Canto Deo Chamber & Festival Choirs present "Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs: Love Divine" for the season of Lent. There will be two concert dates and locations: Sunday, March 26 at 3:00pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Ave., Cherry Hills; and Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 1060 St. Francis Way, Denver (Auraria Campus). **Tickets are not required.** Please visit www.cantodeo.org for more information.

Severe Weather Shelter Network SWSN currently has no supplies needs, and they are very thankful for your generous donations. This season ends on April 30. There were many changes and more are coming starting with a new outreach program. They will host scheduled hours in their partners' locations and in libraries to connect guests with available resources and help them get registered in their computer system. This also provides an opportunity to build closer relationships with them. As supply needs arise for the program, I will let you know. Ann Kaneko, kanekoa@comcast.net, 720.289.6782 (cell).



New Way of Giving! *We're excited to share a new way to give to Ascension instead of worrying about a check on Sunday morning. You may recognize QR codes from restaurant menus.*

If you use your cell phone to "take a picture" of the QR code you see on the left, you can click on the pop-up which will take you our Vanco electronic giving application on our Ascension website. You will see a list of programs at Ascension to which you can contribute.

Save the Date! Exciting news – Hands All Around, a charity sewing group based here in Littleton, will be moving their popular annual sewing craft sale from its longtime location at Buck Recreation Center here to Ascension on Thursday, September 7 through Saturday, September 9. Stay tuned for more information!

Join Boy Scout Troop 361 - Camping, Leadership & Adventure!

We invite all 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade boys to join us on MONDAY, MARCH 20th 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. No scouting experience necessary! We meet in the hall beneath the church.

Troop 361 is a Scout-led troop focused on leadership skills, scouting skills, camping, service to community, summer camp, high adventures, outdoor activities, rank advancement to Eagle Scout, and more!

Our scouts are friendly, studious, athletes, school leaders and well rounded citizens. Upcoming campouts include snowshoeing at Camp Ben Delatour, hiking and biking in Moab, and summer camp at Camp Alexander.

RSVP: troop361co@gmail.com. Visit www.troop-361.com to learn more.

From the Ascension Foundation: The Foundation has received a good letter from Gary Thies, of Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, who writes that our gifts to MC are "helping send missionaries into lands of darkness where people have NEVER heard the name of our dear Jesus". Our funding has helped in Uruguay, where the Sharp family of missionaries is shedding the light of our Lord in the darkest country of South America, and the Hoech family is educating the Dungan people in Central Asia. One by one, these brave and committed people are bringing the Good News to peoples in secular and Muslim nations.

Your support for the Foundation makes these gifts possible!

Young Adult Group will next meet on Friday, April 14th at 6:30 pm. Please contact Jenna Lawrenz at jenna.lindeman@cune.org.

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!*

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 studying "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.

We can discover great joy by thinking of the benefit that will come from the gifts we give from our estates. Your emotional connection with a current mission activity of your favorite ministry may blind you to the practicality of providing financially for it in the future. A typewriter repair fund set up thirty years ago would no longer make sense. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you work through your thoughts to make gifts that will be sound for the future. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfn.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Prayers: For Becky Clausen's sister, Susan, who has entered hospice care; For Janet Parrott, who is undergoing tests; For Alvera Sturgeon, who is at U.C. Health – Highlands Ranch, and has been diagnosed with bone marrow cancer; For Gina Utecht (Sean's wife and Terry and Cathy's daughter-in-law), who had a fall and broke three ribs; For Patti Zeggert's daughter, Sarah, who will be having out-patient surgery on Wednesday, March 22nd; For David Kaiser's mother, Becky Kaiser - she has had a condition called Aplastic Anemia and was hospitalized last weekend for treatment; For Linda Nedry and her husband, who had a fire at their home and will not be able to stay there for nine months; and for Linda Nedry's son, Ty, who has cancer of the tonsils and will have surgery on March 20th; For Lee Valdez' wife, Kathy; For Bob Stamp, who will have surgery for melanoma on March 30th; For Ethan Nelson, as he is treated for

cancer; For Michael Paradise, friend of Jan Burmeister, who has brain cancer and may have only 6–12 months to live; For Dave and Carol Zeller’s granddaughter, Sarah; For Kenny Shiflet, Bob and Deb’s son; For Athenia Michel and Crystal Sundet; For Lynn Hendrickson; For Lorine Grau; For Nadine Ginkel; For all of the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and for those who are injured and displaced; For peace in Ukraine; For our country; For God to send His Holy Spirit on all believers for strengthening of faith and witness.

To just say ‘thank you’ seems so little, but in terms of gratitude I can’t thank my Ascension friends enough for all the cards, best wishes, phone calls, food, and especially prayers sent my way during my surgery and on-going recovery. Only radiation - no chemo - is in the future. Thanks be to God! – Athenia Michel

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and calls I have received as I recover from knee replacement surgery...they help me feel stronger each day. They are very much appreciated! - Cathy Utecht

A Big Thank You from Crystal Sundet, for your prayers, cards and well wishes during her successful cancer surgery. As she says, “God is walking with us.”

Flowers on the Altar for this weekend are given by Nancy Lugton in joyful celebration of her daughter Emilie Muldoon’s 30th Birthday, and by Susan Anderson, in loving memory of her husband, Steve.

Ascension’s Prayer Group

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Son who confronted the powers of darkness. Help us to use these days of Lent to grow in wisdom and prayer, so that we may witness to that saving love proclaimed in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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, 3/11	4:00 pm	60	
Sunday, 3/12	8:00 am	70	
	10:30 am	73	Total: 203
Midweek Service, 3/15	11:30 am	30	
	7:00 pm	42	Total: 72

Online Views (as of March 14) for March 5: 164 views

Calendar At-a-Glance (Saturday, March 18 – Sunday, March 26):

Sat. (3-18)	1:00 p.m.	Ladies Guild – Bingo for Mites
	4:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (3-19)		FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
	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.	Parent / Youth Mission Trip Meeting
Mon. (3-20)	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (3-21)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
Weds. (3-22)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 a.m.	Weekday Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	11:30 a.m.	Midweek Lenten Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Bible Study with Pastor John
	5:30 p.m.	Lenten Meal – Life Enrichment
	5:45 p.m.	Gloria Dei Ringers
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Instruction
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Worship
	7:50 p.m.	Ascension Chorale
Thurs. (3-23)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (3-24)	9:30-2:30	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 p.m.	Quilters Group - TENTATIVE
Sat. (3-25)	10:00 a.m.	Confirmation Instruction
	4:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (3-26)		FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
	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, Mar. 11-12	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,000.00	\$132,000.00
Received Amount	\$8,148.00	\$137,191.00
Project Peter Receipts	\$375.00	\$19,634.00

Project Peter Loan Balance: \$38,002.37

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Study John 14-16 on Sharper Iron's "The Word Became Flesh" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Hosea 11-14 on Thy Strong

Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study Christ's Words in the Sacrament of the Altar on Concord Matters (3/25 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or on the KFUE Radio app!

Church Library Corner:

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

9. Now these, and all God's words, are holy, true, right, peace-giving, free, and entirely good. The soul of the man who cleaves to them with a true faith will be so completely united with God that all the virtues of the word will become the qualities of his soul. Through faith and by God's word, the soul will become holy, righteous, true, peaceful, free, and entirely good, and he will become a true child of God. Thus it says in John 1: "He gave power to all them that believe in His name to become children of God."

From this standpoint it is easy to see why faith can do so much, and why good works can never be equivalent to it. For works of merit are not such as to depend on the divine word as in the case of faith, nor can they live in the soul. Only the word and faith exercise sway in the soul. Just as iron becomes red like fire through its union with the fire, so does the soul become like the word through its union with the word. Thus we see that a Christian has sufficient in his faith. Works are not needed to make him become acceptable to God. And if such works are no longer a prerequisite, then assuredly all the commandments and laws are like broken chains; and if his chains are broken, he is assuredly free. That is Christian freedom, gained by faith alone. It is wrong to think this means that we can either be idle or do evil; rather it means that we have no need to perform works of merit in order to attain godliness and salvation. But we shall deal further with this matter later on.

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