

**GOOD AFTERNOON!**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING (Maundy Thursday – April 6)!**

**Holy Week is here!** The Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion will be at 7:00 p.m. this evening. Good Friday worship will begin with prayer time at 6:30 tomorrow, Friday, April 7, followed by a worship service at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, April 8, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt that begins at 10:00 a.m., and Easter worship at 4:00 p.m. Easter Sunday Festival Worship will be at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. and will feature the Ascension Chorale, Gloria Dei Bells, brass and timpani!

From 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on Easter morning, come and enjoy an Easter Breakfast served by our youth, including pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, ham, pastries, coffee and juice! There will a free will offering, funds to be matched by the Ascension Foundation.

**Ascension's Faith Book** Please pick up your copy of our 2023 Faith Book now in the narthex or by the downstairs door. Thank you to all our wonderful writers who shared their stories in an overwhelming and most generous number of ways.

Pax Christi, Jude Donovan

**Come to the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 am** for church, preschool, and neighborhood families! There will be face painting, a photo booth, songs, and LOTS of eggs!

**A big thank you** to all of you who donated and filled eggs for our Easter egg hunt! It was such a wonderful help to us and we appreciate your generosity!

**Easter Drama** Linda Olsen, organist and member of Ascension, will play J.S. Bach's *Toccatina and Fugue in D minor* on the weekend of April 15 and 16 – the weekend after Easter. This piece is very dramatic and complements the readings for the services which describe the experiences of the disciples after the crucifixion. It is about 15 minutes long, so plan to come at 3:45 pm on Saturday and 7:45 am on Sunday as we praise God through music.

**Good Friday Tre Ore Services** The Three Hours' Agony (also known as the Tre Ore) is a Christian service held in many churches on Good Friday, from noon till 3 o'clock, to commemorate the three hours of Christ's hanging on the cross. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (7691 S University Blvd, Centennial, CO 80122) will have a Tre Ore Service on Good Friday, April 7, from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. The theme is "In the Shadows." You are invited to come to one or more sections, or stay for all! There will be special music from the Shepherd of the Hills Chorale.

1. Pastor Zillinger - 12:00pm "The Shadow of the Law"  
Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Galatians 3:10, 13
2. Pastor Jim Tuell - 12:25pm "The Shadow of Inner Agony" Luke 22:39-44
3. Pastor Rick Langness - 12:50pm "The Shadow of Loneliness"  
Matthew 26:36, 40-41, 43

4. Pastor Goldhammer - 1:15pm “The Shadow of Betrayal, Denial, Desertion”  
Matthew 26:20-25, 55-56, 69-75
5. Pastor Roger Wohletz - 1:40pm “The Shadow of Accusation”  
Matthew 26:59-66
6. Pastor John Larson - 2:05pm “The Shadow of Mockery and Humiliation”  
Matthew 27:27-31, 35-44
7. Pastor Stoltenow - 2:30pm “The Shadow of Death”  
Matthew 27:45-54

### **Voters’ Meeting on April 23 –Your Vote is Requested!**

The Ascension Constitution Committee (Arvin Michel, Ed Geisler, Tim McClaren, and Pastor Larson) has completed its work for suggested revisions to our Constitution and Bylaws. The revised document has been presented to and reviewed with the Council. The Council, by unanimous vote, has approved that the revised Constitution and Bylaws be presented to the Voters’ Assembly at our regular April 23 meeting.

The Committee work to arrive at this point has taken several years due to various delays because of the Covid pandemic and other reasons. Your time and efforts to review and approve this document are greatly appreciated.

The revisions to the document are minor in some areas and extensive in others. The typical means for showing revisions such as highlighted additions and strike-throughs would have been extensive and incomprehensible and thus were not used. We suggest the document be read and studied in its entirety to get an overall understanding of its completeness and continuity.

Some of the revisions are requirements of Synod as outlined in their Guidelines for Constitutions and Bylaws of Lutheran Congregations. Some revisions were suggested at our recent congregational planning meetings. Other revisions, some of which are major, are recommendations of the Constitution Committee.

The basic system of governance of the congregation is not being changed, only some details of how our work here at Ascension is accomplished.

Some of the most significant changes are:

1. Constitution Article 2 - Mission. This Article was expanded to better reflect all that transpires within our congregation and in its outreach.
2. Constitution Article 5 - Membership. Voting membership is granted to all communicant members without regard to age.
3. Bylaws Section 5 - Terms of Office and Elections. The length of a term of office is changed to two years for all elected positions. The number of consecutive terms that can be served has been removed.
4. Bylaws Section 5 - Officers and Elected Boards and Section 8 - Duties of the Boards. A new Board for Congregational Life has been added and some of the other Boards were combined or better defined.

Two Voters' Assembly meetings are required to finalize this document. At the first meeting, which is our regular April meeting, the revised document will be presented, discussed, and declared open for modification. At the second meeting which cannot be held within fourteen days of the first meeting, proposed amendments may be presented in writing. After these are processed, implemented, or denied, the document will be voted on and must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the quorum present at the meeting.

The document is then sent to the Rocky Mountain District for review by their Constitution Committee which, after their approval, will forward it to the District Board of Directors for final approval.

The new Constitution and Bylaws can then be approved by the Voters' Assembly and implemented in a timely manner.

The text of the Proposed Constitution and Bylaws (as well as the current documents for comparison) is found [here](#) (click on the hypertext and scroll to the bottom).

Sincerely,

**Council and the Constitution & Bylaws Committee**

**Esther Langness, youngest daughter of Pastor Rick and Kim Langness**, will begin her internship as a Director of Christian Education at Zion Lutheran Church in Snohomish, Washington this summer. Snohomish is near Seattle, and is on the National Register of Historic Places! Esther has been preparing for this through her studies at Concordia University - Nebraska in Seward, Nebraska. We are thrilled that a daughter of this congregation will soon be on her internship!

**The Foundation** had its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 16. The slate of officers for 2023 consists of Michael Price, president and treasurer, Adam Wilson, vice president, and Bob Olsen, secretary. The board approved a matching funds grant to our youth, who will be providing the Easter breakfast on April 9. The youth will be heading to southern New Mexico for their mission trip this summer and we are glad to be able to help defray their expenses.

**Extended Day Preschool** - EDP will be closed Good Friday.

"Wow - we kicked off April with a bang. We learned the meaning of Holy Week and Easter, and even had Easter Egg Hunts!! We had a special visitor to explain Passover also.

And since April showers bring May flowers, next week we will begin our Plants curriculum by introducing the parts of a plant. This week will also commence the preparations of our Mother's Day gifts - hint, they are related to our theme shhhh!!!"  
-- Kelly Lafferty

Director, Ascension Lutheran Extended Day Preschool

**Young Adult Group** will meet on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Please contact Jenna Lawrenz at [jenna.lindeman@cune.org](mailto: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. You can register at this link: [vbspro.events/p/ascensionluth](https://vbspro.events/p/ascensionluth) *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](mailto: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.

**Prayers:** For Lisa O'Neal, who is at UC Health – Highlands Ranch with breathing issues; For Joyce Gallagher and her family, at the death of her brother Michael Stoddard's sisters, Jeanesta (28) and Jillian (24), in a car accident in Texas this week; For Bob and Deb Shiflet's son Walker, as he runs in the Boston Marathon on April 17<sup>th</sup>; For their friend Bee and her daughter Emily, who has a very rare lung cancer in her one remaining lung; and also for Bob and Deb's son, Kenny; For Lori Pickering, at the death of her father; For Norm and Connie Fringer's son, Terry, who has received a liver transplant; For Athenia Michel, who has begun 6 weeks of radiation treatments; For Marion Wilson's brother, Jerry Vahle, who is in rehab due to complications from chemo and radiation treatments; For Janet Parrott, who will have a procedure for her heart valve on April 10; For Elle Lambert, who will have a heart procedure on April 13; For Jimmy Anzai, who will have surgery on April 6; For Sue Calhoun, who had a knee replacement on March 29; For Lorine Grau and her family, for relief and peace as she is treated for cancer; For Aimee Dierking, who had outpatient surgery on Tuesday, March 28 at Littleton Hospital; For Nancy Harder's sister, Karen Hartman; For Joyce Gallagher, who had surgery on her knee on March 30<sup>th</sup>; For Bob Stamp, who had surgery for melanoma on March 30<sup>th</sup>; For Ethan Nelson, as he is treated for cancer; For Michael Paradise, friend of Jan Burmeister, who has brain cancer; For Lynn Hendrickson; For Nadine Ginkel; For peace in Ukraine; For our country; For God to send His Holy Spirit on all believers for strengthening of faith and witness.

**Can a gift from a future estate plan be converted into a gift for ministry today?** If you planned a charitable gift to ministry in your will or trust, changing that gift will require a visit to your attorney. To make sense, this would need to be a significant gift, to justify paying the attorney fees. Maybe you just want to add to the gift, some now, some in the future. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Jason Jones at [Jason.Jones@lfnd.org](mailto:Jason.Jones@lfnd.org) or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

**Flowers on the Altar** for this Easter weekend are given by Jude and Jim Donovan in joyful celebration of their 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on April 16, and by Joan Anttonen in joyful celebration of her daughter Laura's birthday!

**Ascension's Prayer Group**  
**1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

Please join the Ascension Prayer Group as we meet on Zoom every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2:30 pm. Contact: [MargoALPasha@yahoo.com](mailto:MargoALPasha@yahoo.com)

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Service Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	
Saturday, 4/1	4:00 pm	61	
Sunday, 4/2	8:00 am	112	
	10:30 am	97	Total: 270

**Online Views** (as of April 4) for March 26: 231 views

**Calendar At-a-Glance (Saturday, April 8 – Sunday, April 16):**

Sat. (4-8)	10:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
	4:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (4-9)		<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:00 a.m.	Easter Breakfast Provided by our Youth
	10:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Mon. (4-10)	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (4-11)	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
Weds. (4-12)	9:30-2:30 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
Thurs. (4-13)	9:00 a.m.	Ascension Foundation Meeting
	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (4-14)	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 p.m.	Quilters Group
	6:30 p.m.	Young Adult Group
Sat. (4-15)	10:00 a.m.	Confirmation Instruction
	3:45 p.m.	Bach's <i>Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor</i> – Linda Olsen
	4:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (4-16)	7:45 a.m.	Bach's <i>Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor</i> – Linda Olsen
	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:**

<b>2023</b>	Sat/Sun, April 1-2	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,000.00	\$168,000.00
Received Amount	\$17,298.00	\$169,549.00
Project Peter Receipts	\$645.00	\$22,076.00

Project Peter Loan Balance: \$35,092.82

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**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org):** Christ is risen! Alleluia! Study John 20-21 and 1 John 1 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Judges 9-13 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study Daily Prayer in Luther's Small Catechism on Concord Matters (4/15 at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or the KFUO Radio app!

### **Church Library Corner:**

From *The Freedom of a Christian*, by Martin Luther (continued from 2 weeks ago):

11. Faith not only gives the soul enough for her to become, like the divine word, gracious, free and blessed. It also unites the soul with Christ, like a bride with the bridegroom, and, from this marriage, Christ and the soul become one body, as St. Paul says. Then the possessions of both are in common, whether fortune, misfortune, or anything else; so that what Christ has, also belongs to the believing soul, and what the soul has, will belong to Christ. If Christ has all good things, including blessedness, these will also belong to the soul. If the soul is full of trespasses and sins, these will belong to Christ. At this point a contest of happy exchanges takes place. Because Christ is God and man, and has never sinned, and because His sanctity is unconquerable, eternal, and almighty, He takes possession of the sins and the believing soul by virtue of her wedding-ring, namely faith, and acts just as if He had committed those sins Himself. They are, of course, swallowed up and drowned in Him, for His unconquerable righteousness is stronger than any sin whatever... Paul speaks of this in I Corinthians 15: "Praise and thanks be to God, who has given us that victory in Christ Jesus, in which death is swallowed up together with sin."

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