

GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (May 4)!

Worship Services are at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, with Sunday School and Bible Classes for Youth, Young Adults and Adults from 9:15-10:15 a.m on Sundays.

The Regular Voter's Meeting for Ascension Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, April 23 in the Fellowship Hall. 53 members were in attendance for the meeting which was about 2 hours in length. Bob Hea, the Congregational Vice-President conducted the meeting in the absence of Tim McClaren, the President of the Congregation.

Margo Pasha reported that the congregation received \$11,000 more than we spent during the first quarter of the year. The preschool received \$2,000 more than its expenditures. The congregation has been able to place \$260,000 into interest bearing Certificate of Deposits with the Lutheran Church-Extension Fund and with Chase. Through strong contributions into Project Peter (our Building Project debt), the remaining balance to eliminate the west-wing remodeling project is \$15,000.

Pastor reported that the question of having one service on Sunday morning at 9:00 beginning in the fall has been discussed at the Elder's Meetings and the Church Council. A survey of the congregation will be conducted in the summer to receive thoughts from the congregation. The 4:00 service on Saturday will continue to be held at the same time.

The majority of the meeting was held for an explanation and discussion concerning the newly composed Constitution and By-Laws. Arvin Michel spoke about the changes and additions to the document. **A special meeting for the congregation to offer amendments and to seek approval will be on Sunday, June 11 at 11:00 a.m.**

Substitute Teacher Needed! Confirmation Class Next Wednesday, May 10, from 6:00-7:00 pm. Please contact the church office at 303-794-4636, thank you.

Great news! The Bethesda Auxiliary is back with their handmade items! We will be at Ascension this Sunday, May 7, 2023. The sale of these items continues to support the clients of Bethesda (now AbleLight) living with developmental disabilities. Please help support the Auxiliary and the work that they do by stopping by and shopping if you have need for any of our items. Please remember that we only accept cash or check. Thank you in advance for allowing us to share our ministry with you. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Items Needed for Orphanage at Mission Experience Haiti: From Pastor Mike Paulison: "Please help us collect toiletries for our orphanage this month - we are trying to collect as many as possible as it will allow staff to limit their trips to markets for safety reasons. Here is a list of what we are collecting if you all can help:
Ivory soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant (no perfume), baby powder, shampoo (as natural as possible), towels, and washcloths."

Please bring the items to the church office by Monday, May 22, and Pastor Mike will pick them up. Thank you in advance!

Mother's Day is Just Around the Corner! We will be honoring mothers with flowers and muffins on their special day, Sunday, May 14!

Ushers needed! Are you looking for a way to become involved and help at Ascension? Please consider becoming an usher! The time commitment is minimal, but provides an excellent service to the church. Please contact Jim Wert, 720-300-2347, or any of the elders, or the church office at 303-794-4636 to be added to our usher list.

High school parents - May 14th is the last day to register for our summer youth mission trip to Mescalero, NM! Please see Stephanie with questions or email at stephanieroettjer@gmail.com. Thanks!

Young Adult Group will meet on Friday, May 12th at 6:30 pm. Please contact Jenna Lawrenz at jenna.lindeman@cune.org.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)! Our next meeting will be this coming Monday, May 8 at 9:30 a.m. Our kiddos are supervised by trusted adults while we enjoy some mommy time! Come check us out! Contact Jenna Lawrenz at 303-913-3512 with any questions.

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 *Spread the word!*

Extended Day Preschool " After completing our PLANTS theme for April, we are transitioning into our last month of school (how is that possible). We are going to introduce transportation units each week, beginning with Air and Space. We are going to talk about forms of transportation used while in the air and space, and use this opportunity to discuss planets and other space items. We are going to incorporate a science activity using rockets blasted into space using a burst of air - how high do you think we will get them?"

-- Kelly Lafferty, Director, Ascension Lutheran Extended Day Preschool

Prison Ministry Opportunity: This year our Faith Book included several stories about prisoners and prison ministry. I hope that these gave you a clearer picture of why we at Ascension have a Prison Ministry and how we are blessed and are blessing others. One way we support the incarcerated is through our annual Angel Tree drive in September. Another way is that we just donated 500 copies of the Gospel of John to the mens' Federal prison at the request of the Chaplain. Bob Estes and Dave Zeller also take the Prison Bible into the Douglas County jail as part of their ministries. At this point we have spent most of our 2023 budget on those booklets and Bibles. Please ask the Lord to guide you to donate to support Prison Ministry outreach. If you choose, you may write the check or cash to Ascension and place prison ministry/social ministry on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity. Please join us in prayer to lift up these

men and women and their families. God works in all our hearts. For more info, contact Jude Donovan at Heyjude264@aol.com or 303-972-0873.

The Denver Society of Creation is sponsoring a conference from May 18-20, 2023 at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 500 Drake Street, Denver, Colorado, which is intended to challenge the LCMS to commit to an age for the earth based on the Bible.

The conference, entitled "Getting Back to the Bible on the Age of the Earth" features several knowledgeable speakers: Dr. Robert Carter, Pastor Brian Flamme, Rev. Dr. Joel Heck, Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz, Pastor Jared Melius and Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller.

Topics to be discussed include the following:

- Is the Age of the Earth Important?
- Creation in the New Testament
- Hermeneutical Humility
- The Genesis Genealogies
- Were the Pyramids Built Before the Flood?
- The Biblical Minimum and Maximum Age of the Earth
- The History of the Earth's Age in the Missouri Synod

Please join us for the conference. All are welcome! **Cost will be \$25.00. For more information and to Register, visit www.denversocietyofcreation.org.**

The Lutheran Chorale presents its May concert, "Something Old, Something New, Something Tried, All Are True" this Sunday, May 7. The concert includes a wide range of music, from Bach to Handel to inspiring anthems, fun spirituals, and more. You won't want to miss it!

The afternoon concert will be at 2:30 p.m. at Atonement Lutheran Church, 6281 W. Yale Avenue, Lakewood. The evening concert will be at 6:30 p.m. at Shepherd of the Rockies Lutheran Church, 106 Rosalie Road, Bailey, CO. There is no cost to attend, but a free will offering will be collected.

Concordia Nebraska's Vocal Jazz Choir is in Colorado! The choir is holding a concert at the Schoolhouse Theater at 19650 Mainstreet in Parker at 7:30 p.m. this Sunday, May 7th. The concert is free and open to the public.

Ascension Life Enrichment Event – June 3!

The Life Enrichment Series is excited to announce that Forté Handbells will be performing at Ascension on Saturday, June 3rd at 7:00 pm! Forté is an advanced handbell quartet that uses artistry and energy to glorify God through music. *Not only do they produce beautiful music, but they are truly innovative and exciting to watch.*

Tickets are not required. There will be a freewill offering taken at the door, with proceeds going to the group to cover travel expenses, pay for equipment maintenance, etc. Don't miss out!

SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER NETWORK: THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed time and effort toward making this sheltering season a success! The season ends on April 30, and the new spring and summer program will begin soon. We will let you know as needs arise. – Ann Kaneko

Publisher's Note: A big **THANK YOU** to Ann for her cheerful dedication and work on behalf of unsheltered people in our community over the last several years!

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.

Can my estate plans change over time? The answer is yes! The family to whom you choose to share God's gifts in inheritance and the ministries you look to support with God's gifts are always evolving. It is best practice to look over your plan for gifting regularly, at least every five years, to see how your intent may have changed. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Prayers: For Rose and Anna Kahler and their family, at the death of Vernon Kahler on Wednesday, May 3; For Lorine Grau, who has entered hospice, and for Del and their family; For Jim Bame, who is in the hospital, For Beth (Bible) Miller's husband, Stephen, seriously ill and hospitalized at Swedish; For increased strength for Gayla Buethe, now home from the hospital after treatment for an ulcer; For Carolyn Helstrom, who will have surgery on her foot on May 9; For Candace Uyeda and her family, at the death of her father, Francis Uyeda, on May 1; For Judy Lesch, sister of Joan Antonnen; For Reverend Bob Seible, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer, and for his wife Sharon. Rev. Bob will have surgery to remove the cancerous lobe on May 9 at Aurora Medical Center. For Doris Kuhlmann, who is receiving treatment for skin cancer; For Lawrence Brown, who is recovering at home after having the toes on his right foot amputated; For Brian Wilson, who will have surgery to treat cancer on his leg; For Mavis Slifka, who has advanced bladder cancer; For Barb and Wayne Bader's grandson, Ryan O'Byrne, who has medical issues; For Lila Loots' brother, Gordon; 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.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for Susan Estes' successful mouth surgery on April 18! Susan is the daughter of Del and Lorine Grau. For Graham Nielsen (Larisa's husband), who was in a terrible car accident a few weeks ago on I-225. Graham was not injured in the crash!! Thank God.

Happy Anniversary to Del and Lorine Grau, celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 12!

Flowers on the Altar are given by Marilyn Larson, in joyful thanksgiving to our mighty Lord for His gracious saving of her husband and our beloved Pastor John's life, after his car accident in New Mexico one year ago today, May 4!

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 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, 4/29	4:00 pm	58	
Sunday, 4/30	8:00 am	101	
	10:30 am	83	Total: 242

Online Views (as of May 2) for April 23: 182 views

Calendar At-a-Glance (Saturday, May 6 – Sunday, May 14):

Sat. (5-6)	10:00 a.m.	Renaud Memorial
	4:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (5-7)	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Education Hour / Sunday School and Bethesda Craft Sale!
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
Mon. (5-8)	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Mothers of Preschools (MOPS)
Tues. (5-9)	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
Weds. (5-10)	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 a.m.	Weekday Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Instruction
	6:00 p.m.	Gloria Dei Ringers
	7:00 p.m.	Ascension Chorale
Thurs. (5-11)	9:00 a.m.	Ascension Foundation Meeting
	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (5-12)	9:30-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 p.m.	Quilters Group
	6:30 p.m.	Young Adult Group
Sat. (5-13)	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Guild Board Meeting
	9:30 a.m.	Social Ministry
	4:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (5-14)		MOTHER'S DAY
	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Education Hour / Sunday School End-of-Year Party
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Stewardship:

2023	Sat/Sun, April 29-30	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,000.00	\$216,000.00
Received Amount	\$16,129.00	\$229,923.00
Project Peter Receipts	\$643.00	\$44,070.00

Project Peter Loan Balance: \$13,352.13

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Begin studying the book of Revelation on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), continue studying 1 Samuel 8-12 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study the history of the Book of Concord on Concord Matters (5/13 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org and the KFUO Radio app!

Church Library Corner:

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

16. In addition, we are priests, and thus greater than mere kings, the reason being that priesthood makes us worthy to stand before God, and to pray for others. For to stand and pray before God's face is the prerogative of none except priests. Christ redeemed us that we might be able spiritually to act and pray on behalf of one another just as, in fact, a priest acts and prays on behalf of the people. But nothing avails to the benefit of a person who does not believe in Christ. He is nought but a slave; he is always worried; it is hard for him to pray, and his prayers do not come under God's eye. By contrast, who can fully conceive the honor and the elevation of a Christian? By virtue of his kingship he exercises authority over all things, and by virtue of his priesthood he exercises power with God, for God does what he asks and desires. Thus it is written in the book of Psalms: "God does the will of those that fear Him, and hears their prayers." This is an honor to which Christians attain through faith alone and not through any works. Thereby it becomes clear that a Christian always enjoys freedom, and is always master. He requires no good works to make him godly or to save him; faith brings everything in abundance to him. If he were so foolish as to think that by good works he would become godly, free, blessed, or a Christian, he would lose both faith and all else. He would be like the dog which, while carrying a piece of meat in its mouth, snapped at its reflection in the water, and thereby lost the meat and spoiled the reflection.

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