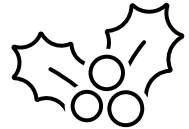


GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 7)! Blessed Advent!

The Festival of Lessons and Carols The bright season of Advent continues with worship services this Saturday, December 9 at 4:00 pm and Sunday, December 10 at 9:30 am! There will be only one Sunday morning service, featuring the Ascension Chorale, Agape, Youth Praise Band and Gloria Dei Ringers!



Next weekend, December 16-17, our normal service times will resume with worship on Saturday at 4:00 pm, Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 am, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study with Pastor John at 9:15 am.

Christmas Eve Services on Saturday, December 24:

3:45 p.m. Congregational Carols

4:00 p.m. Family Worship with Holy Communion and Children's Program

6:45 p.m. Congregational Carols

7:00 p.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

On Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day there will be a single worship service with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Three of our fellow members have passed away in recent days. We are sorry to relate that Jimmy Anzai passed away on November 24, Henry Kerluke died on December 5, and Bev Kistler died on December 6.

Services are pending for these dear brothers and sister in Christ, and we will let you know as soon as arrangements have been made. Please pray for comfort and hope for their families and friends.

A number of you have asked how you can help Sue Eastridge in these days. When I spoke with her recently, she spoke about something that brought her great anxiety - her family will be coming from out of town and staying at her house for a few days before her husband Rick's funeral service on January 13. She can't clean her house due to a number of physical ailments she struggles with. I'm going to put together a cleaning crew for January 8 and 9. I'll get instructions from Sue on what needs to be done and we'll work on those days. If you are available please let me know.

Pastor John

Thank you to everyone that helped make the Advent by Candlelight dinner so memorable! I appreciate all the help with cooking, set-up, serving, baking cookies and cleaning up. Thank you to Pastor for the special Christmas message and Mike for the wonderful music. A special thank you to my sous-chef, John Rolling, to Lisa Wert and our table decorators. Thank you! - Laurie Mullane

Note from Staff: and a Big THANK YOU to Laurie Mullane for all her hard work! It was a beautiful evening!!

Dear Congregation,

The Ladies Guild wants to extend a BIG Thank you to each and every person who donated items to the Bake and Craft sale, and a BIG Thank you to everyone who bought items at the sale! We had a couple baked items left and those were donated to the Severe Weather Shelter Sunday evening. Other items will be donated to the resale store, Renewed Treasures, a part of LOVE Inc.



Blessings to all!

The Voting Assembly at Ascension met on Sunday, December 3 from 12:00 until about 12:45. Thirty-six members were in attendance. We received a report from Margo Pasha, our treasurer, that we have received \$54,000 above what we had expected for the year and we have spent \$39,000 less than budgeted. We have a gain of about \$93,000 in 2023. The congregation set the budget for 2024 of \$658,000, (very close to the \$662,000 budget of this year). Elections of various officers and chairs were held. Bob Hea was elected president of the congregation; David Kaiser is the vice-president; Margo Pasha was re-elected as Treasurer, also re-elected was Christa Kirschner as chair for the Board of Education and Chuck Mielke and Terry Utecht as co-chairs for the Trustees. Shelia Beu was elected to chair the newly-formed Congregational Life Committee and Dawn Munson will head up the Evangelism Committee.

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the Bell Tower. The tower is in poor physical shape and the Voting Assembly heard of the options for the refurbishment or the demolition and removal of the tower. After discussion the Voter's decided to remove the tower. The removal could cost about \$165,000. A timeline for this project was not set. The next Voter's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, 2024.

Youth Progressive Dinner and Christmas party for 6th-12th graders!! Friday, Dec. 15th at 6:00pm. Enjoy meal courses as we travel to different homes! Bring a \$5 white elephant gift! Friends invited! Please RSVP with Stephanie.

Ascension Christmas Families Some of our wonderful Ascension families need our care and assistance in order to have presents under the Christmas tree and a Christmas meal.

If you would like to help with funding, please make out a check to Ascension and indicate that the gift is for Christmas Families. If you would like help shop for the adults, youth and children on our list, please contact Dana Niederbrach (303.886.7860), who is coordinating this effort. *Thank you and Merry Christmas!*



Congratulations to U.S. Navy Veteran John Rolling! John was honored at the Broncos v. Browns football game on November 26 for his service in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam! The Broncos Events Coordinator invited him and three family members to the game, and they showed photos of John in his Navy uniform along with some of the

family. They introduced him to the fans and he was welcomed onto the field with a standing ovation! His wife Lori relates, "John was grateful for the opportunity to be recognized. It was very special and meaningful to all of us." *Congratulations John!*

Recently, one of our members, Christy Williams, assumed a new role on the School Board for Douglas County. Elected in the fall of 2021, Christy has served as vice-chairman of the school board. Recently the president stepped down and the board elected her to serve as the new president. Please pray that God gives her wisdom and strength to carry out her duties of leadership on the school board.

News from Extended Day Preschool We have had so much fun getting ready for Christmas. The singing is the best...the little kids sing their hearts out! We are thrilled to welcome Noel Price to our staff as a teacher's aide. She is wonderful with the children and they adore her. Pastor John came down this week and held chapel in our room. He talked about the advent wreath and the meaning of the candles. Lastly, we are *loving* this warm weather...playing outside with no jacket in December is the best!

For those of you who would like to send your little one to preschool next year...yaay! Registration will be in January and current forms will be on our website soon (www.alcpreschool.com). Come play with us! :)

Prayers and Help Needed for EDP Preschool Teacher Ama Orr! Ama is a teaching assistant at our preschool. She loves teaching these young children. On November 7 she suffered a heart attack and stroke. Her road to recovery is very steep. We are raising funds to assist her with rent, insurance, phone, internet, medical bills, food and possibly Assisted Living while she regains enough strength to live in her own home. Please pray for Ama, and if you would like to help, **please visit her Go Fund Me site**, <https://gofund.me/8a720c6d>. Thank you!

Benefit Dinner for Ama Orr On Wednesday, December 20 at 5:30 p.m., before our midweek Advent worship service at 7:00 p.m., we will host a dinner in the Fellowship Hall with proceeds going to assist in Ama's recovery. The Trustees have graciously offered to make baked potatoes and yummy toppings. Please join us!

New Year's Eve will begin with a worship service at 10:00 am featuring the Queen City Jazz Band! At 3:00 pm there will be another worship service, followed by dinner catered by Romano's at about 4:00 pm. Please sign up in the narthex to attend the meal. Also, if you can help serve or clean up, there is a sign-up for that as well. This is a wonderful opportunity to conclude the year in worship and fellowship!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a God's Creation Calendar to help support the youth on their 2024 summer mission trip! The calendars have arrived, and you can pick yours up in the narthex! \$10 to Stephanie or drop off in the church office.

The Severe Weather Shelter Network is in need of some supplies as listed below. If you are able to provide any of these, please place them in the box by the door to the parking lot by December 17th. We will deliver them. Thanks in advance.

- Coffee
- Creamer

- Sugar
- Disposable hot cups
- Back yard trash bags
- Knitted hats
- Waterproof gloves - medium or larger

Ann Kaneko, kanekoa43@gmail.com, cell- 720.289.6782

Lori Rolling, Rollingbarn@gmail.com, cell- 720-280-5178

The Poinsettia ordering chart is on the landing Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Poinsettias are \$30.00 each this year, a slight increase from the last few years. We have ordered **only 16 - Poinsettias**. Individuals can dedicate a Poinsettia for the Holiday Season, and the plants can be taken home after New Year's. Envelopes for payments are located below the ordering chart. Please make sure that you place a check mark next to Poinsettias and note Poinsettias on your check.

SHARING JESUS – It's Important – It's Easy – And Here's How. Written and taught by Pastor Ginkel. Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Room 106. Please join us. Pastor Don's booklet, SHARING JESUS, is available on request.

The Saturday afternoon Bible study led by Curt and Karen Engle: We are studying Exodus on Saturdays at 3:00 pm here at Ascension, and anyone is welcome to join us! We hope to see you there! Email Curt at Kengle0920@gmail.com

Ascension Quilters will meet this Friday, December 8. For more information, call Jackie Adams at 303-798-5161.

Learning to acknowledge the abundance of God's blessings to us is the beginning step of putting together the gift plan within our overall estate plans. This is a month where family often gathers. This month, intentionally engage in conversation. Find out what the depth of blessing is in your family. Then plan your inheritance gifts to family to celebrate family blessing, making sure the family knows that God is the ultimate source of all good things. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you organize your thoughts around family. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

With the Advent season upon us, we eagerly await the arrival of the Newborn King. We can eagerly await, with hope and assurance, the promise of a Savior who will one day return for us yet again!

Please consider praying with us on Zoom every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2:30 pm. Contact MargoALPasha@yahoo.com

Prayers: For Sue Anzai and her family, at the death of her husband Jimmy on November 24; For Gayle Gibbons, who has had a stroke; For Dennis Anderson, brother of Judy Hermsmeyer, who has been diagnosed with stage four lung cancer that has spread to both lungs; For Jeanine MacCluskey, at UC-Health Highlands Ranch; For Dennis and Harriet Metz' son-in-law, Vic, who is undergoing medical tests; For Kathy Chamberlin, who has been suffering with back and leg pain; For Bob Carter, who will have a medical procedure on December 15; For Lila Loots, who had back

surgery for sciatica on December 5; For John Klepetka, who had double by-pass surgery on Tuesday, December 5; For Mary Brown, who fell and fractured her shoulder; For Shirley Nichols, who had shoulder replacement surgery on December 1; For Bill Gaudreault, who is having trouble with his breathing; For Jerry Peterson, who is undergoing a new treatment for blood cancer; For Kim McClaren, who had knee surgery on December 5; For Carol Zeller; For Ama Orr; For Barry Kratzer; For Lawrence Brown; For peace in Israel and Gaza, in Ukraine, and throughout the world; For our country; For God to send His Holy Spirit on all believers for strengthening of faith and witness.

Thank you for all of the goodies and the beautiful quilt from the Ladies Guild, brought to me along with an armful of flowers by Pastor John! – Viola Raasch

Thank you again for your prayers and kind words for my dad, David Stocker, who has been recovering from an infection after bypass surgery. After two months in the hospital and rehab, he is now happily at home, receiving physical and occupational therapy from his stroke. Every day, there is improvement and we are very grateful for this miraculous recovery! - Stephanie Roettjer

Happy Birthday to our two favorite Millies! Millie Fitzpatrick will be 102 years old on Monday, December 11, and Millie Cox will be 90 on December 15! Happy Birthday to both of you!

Flowers on the Altar are given by Barbara Rutter, in joyful celebration of her parents' birthdays and anniversary!

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Service Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	
Saturday, 12/2	4:00 pm	70	
Sunday, 12/3	8:00 am	69	
Sunday, 11/26	10:30 am	70	Total: 209

Online Views (as of December 5) for November 26: 177 views.

Calendar (Saturday, December 9 – Sunday, December 17):

Sat. (12-9)	4:00 p.m.	Festival of Lessons and Carols
Sunday (12-10)		SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
	9:30 a.m.	Festival of Lessons and Carols
	2:00 p.m.	Caroling for the Homebound
Mon. (12-11)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Mamas Coffee Connect "MC2"
Tues. (12-12)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Church Council Meeting

Weds. (12-13)	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study with Pastor Don Ginkel
	5:00 p.m.	Bible Study with Pastor John
	5:30 p.m.	Advent Meal – Ladies Guild
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Instruction
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Worship with Holy Communion
Thurs. (12-14)	9:00 p.m.	Foundation Meeting
	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (12-15)	8:00 a.m.	Staff Appreciation Breakfast
	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 p.m.	Quilters Group
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Christmas Party
Sat. (12-16)	4:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday (12-17)		THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study / Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Stewardship:

2023	Sat/Sun, December 2-3	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,000.00	\$588,000.00
Received Amount	\$14,238.00	\$640,173.00
Project Peter Receipts	\$400.00	\$56,959.00

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org: Dive into Advent Hymnody on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), study 1 Corinthians 12-14 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and learn more about the 3rd Sunday in Advent on The Coffee Hour (10/13 at 9:00 a.m. CT). Music and programming for the 12 Days of Christmas begins December 25! Hear your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUE Radio app.