

**GOOD AFTERNOON!**  
**WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 28)!**  
**Merry Christmas!**



***This weekend there will be NO 4:00 Saturday Service.***

**This Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve** there will be two worship services. One at 10:00 am, featuring the Queen City Jazz Band! Sing along to favorites like "Jesus Lifted Me" and "Amen!" Come early to hear additional songs before the service begins. More details are at <https://www.queencityjazzband.com/>

At 3:00 pm on New Year's Eve there will be another, more traditional worship service (without the band), 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!

**On Monday, New Year's Day, the church office will be closed.**

**Time to Undecorate!! We need a few hands to undecorate the sanctuary** on Saturday, January 6, beginning at 8:00 am. Thank you!

**2023 is quickly coming to an end!** To be sure your donation qualifies for 2023 tax deduction, the donation must be made by the last Sunday in December, December 31<sup>st</sup>! If you are giving via worship or mailing in the offering, it must have a postmark date of December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are giving online, it must be completed on December 31<sup>st</sup> and/or it must be dropped off at the church by December 29<sup>th</sup> before 1:00 pm.

**The Memorial Service** for Henry Kerluke will be on Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 p.m., followed by a meal. The Memorial Service for Rick Eastridge will be Saturday, January 13, at 11:00 a.m., followed by a meal.

**At the end of this year** Ann Westra will complete her service as director of the Ascension Chorale. We thank her for directing the Chorale and assisting the congregation to worship our great God during this past year. Beginning in January, Stephanie Roettjer, our Director of Christian Education, will be the interim Director of the Chorale as we look for a permanent director.

**Benefit Dinner for Ama Orr - Thank you** to everyone who attended the dinner last week, sponsored by Thrivent, and attended by more than 80 people attended! The amount raised for Ama, including \$250.00 in matching funds from Ascension Foundation, is \$2,423.00! Please continue to pray for Ama, and if you would to help her via Go Fund Me, here is the link - <https://gofund.me/8a720c6d>. Thank you!

**During 2023 the following people served our congregation** in these capacities: Tim McClaren, President; Bob Hea, Vice-President; Barbara Rutter, Secretary; Margo Pasha, Treasurer; Jim Wert, Board of Elders; Chuck Mielke and Terry Utecht, Board of Trustees; Joyce Lord, Community Outreach; Linda Achziger, Board of Stewardship and Ladies Guild; Ian Kirschner, Youth Board; Christa Kirschner, Board of Education,

Tom Munson, Life Enrichment; and Anita Baresel, Board of Social Ministry. We thank you for all that you have done for this congregation and for our community. Your work has made a difference!!

**The 2024 Flower weekly signup sheet** is located on the bulletin board on the landing just down from the Narthex. Simply fill out your name, dedication for a special event, and write a check for the number of arrangements, each arrangement is \$27.00, the cost for both arrangements is \$54.00, this is the same cost as 2019. If you want to share your special event with another person that is perfect – we love to celebrate everyone's special day.

You are welcome to take your donated flowers home after the last service, or you can opt to give them another good deed. The Ladies of Circle IV will take the flowers left to the homebound and hospitalized members of our church to brighten their day!

You may pay for your flowers using the envelopes located below the sign-up sheet and place it in the weekly offering plate. It is particularly important to mark your check clearly "ALTAR FLOWERS" so the offering counters do not credit it to the General Fund, but to floral budget, the church does not have a floral budget, and all Altar Flowers are made possible by donations. Please remember to pay for your flowers by the Sunday you are dedicating them.

Thank you all for your flower donations and the beauty, which they bring to our Church.

**SHARING JESUS Bible Study!** Written and taught by Pastor Ginkel, the group meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in Room 106, and will meet on Wednesday, January 3. Please join us. Pastor Don's booklet, SHARING JESUS, is available on request.

**The Saturday afternoon Bible study led by Curt and Karen Engle:** The 3:00 Saturday Bible study will resume on January 6th! Merry Christmas, and we hope to see you there! Email Curt at [Kengle0920@gmail.com](mailto:Kengle0920@gmail.com)

**Ascension Quilters** will next meet on Friday, January 12 at 12:30 pm. 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 Christmas when you receive gifts and consider writing thank-yous, try to communicate in those notes that you acknowledge that the gift came from the Lord through the one who gave you the gift. Then consider communicating that depth of blessing in the way you plan your estate. 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.

**Are you making resolutions for the New Year?** Have you selected a Word for 2024? Consider making both PRAYER!

Grant us grace, O God,  
to begin this year in Your faith  
and to continue it in Your favor,  
that being guided in all our doings  
and guarded all our days,

we may spend ourselves in Your service  
and finally, by Your grace,  
attain to the glory of eternal life;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ written by W E Orchard, 1877-1955

If you'd like to join the Ascension Prayer Group, 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)

**Prayers:** For Adeline Newth, who suffered a stroke while visiting family in Nebraska; For Clyde Wiggins, who will have hip replacement surgery on January 9; For Candyce Uyeda's friend, Roz Modic, who is having problems with her kidneys; For Kathy Chamberlain, who will be having back surgery; For Tamara Lee, Mike Zehnder's sister, recovering from surgery to her shin bone. She will have a 3-month recovery; For Joyce Gallagher, who has back pain, and for her great niece, Liz Schneider, following thyroid surgery; For Jeanine MacCluskey, who has entered hospice; For Dennis Anderson, brother of Judy Hermsmeyer, diagnosed with stage four lung cancer that has spread to both lungs; 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.

**Happy News from the Langness Family!** Rev. Rick and Kim Langness have announced that their daughter, RuthAnn, is engaged to Ezekiel Grabau, a second-year seminarian at Ft. Wayne! They became engaged on November 22, and the wedding is planned for June 22 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. RuthAnn's internship and Ezekiel's vicarage will be in close proximity to one another (sometimes the same congregation can take both, but it isn't a guarantee). They will return to the seminary the following year for his last year of classes, and RuthAnn will serve in a second internship position. They will both receive calls in the spring of 2026.

**Shortly after the first of the year...** Norm and Connie Fringer will be moving to Windsor to be closer to family. Norm and Connie have blessed this congregation in numerous ways, including being the chairs of the Columbarium Committee for a number of years, assisting many families during the loss of their loved ones. *Thank you, Norm and Connie, and God bless you in many ways.*

**Flowers on the Altar** are given by Jackie Viren and Adam Wilson, in joyful celebration of Jackie's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday on December 22!

<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Service Time</u></b>	<b><u>Attendees</u></b>	
Sunday, 12/24	4:00 pm	286	
	7:00 pm	160	
Monday, 12/25	10:00 am	74	Total: 520

**Online Views** (as of December 28) for December 17: 116 views.

**Year-End Financial Information** will be posted in next week's Happenings.

**Calendar (Saturday, December 30 – Sunday, January 7):**

Sat. (12-30)	10:00 a.m.	<b>NO 4:00 Service</b>
Sunday (12-31)		<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with the Queen City Jazz Band
	3:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	4:00 p.m.	Meal catered by Romano's
Mon. (1-1)		<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY – OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Tues. (1-2)	9:30 a.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
Weds. (1-3)	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	5:00 p.m.	Bible Study with Pastor John
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Thurs. (1-4)	1:30 p.m.	Koinonia
Sat. (1-6)	8:00 a.m.	Church Undecorating
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Guild Board Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	<b>EPIPHANY</b> Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday (1-7)	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

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**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org:** Continue enjoying the Twelve Days of Christmas on KFUE Radio, with special Christmas music, Scripture, and greetings until January 6. Blessed Christmas! Christ is born!