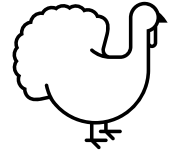


**GOOD AFTERNOON!**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING (November 21)! *Happy Thanksgiving!***



**Worship Times** Worship times are 4:00 on Saturday afternoons, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The Adult class and Sunday School meet at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays. Pastor John is leading the study on II Corinthians this Sunday during the Adult Bible class.

**Holy Baptism** This Sunday, November 24, after the 10:30 worship service, we will celebrate the Baptism of Kaliope Storm Endicott, daughter of Cori Goff and Zakaryah Endicott and great-granddaughter of Joyce Dowdy. Blessings to little Kaliope and her family!

**Please Join us for Thanksgiving Eve Service** next Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 pm!

**Operation Christmas Child** The Sunday School children are participating in a service project by filling Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for children around the world. **If you picked up a shoebox and have been filling it, please remember that they are DUE back to church by this Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> (despite what the label says).** Return them to the designated box in room 106 or leave in the church office. Thank you!

**Chili Cook-off: a "BIG" thank you** to those of you who helped with our youth fundraiser on Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> and attended and/or brought chili for the cook-off! Some of our winners of the tastiest chili include: John Rolling, Carmen Gutierrez (spiciest), Jenna Lawrenz (most creative), David Pearman, Jason Smith. The trivia winners were: Pastor's table, the "Trivia Titans." And thank you to our chili judges: Christa Kirschner, David Pearman, Cheryl Olson, and Krista Schmidt.

Overall, it was a great evening and we thank you for your support and appreciate your generosity with your freewill offerings to help the youth get to the NYG! We raised over \$2,000 which includes the matching funds from the Foundation. Thank you!

**God's Creation Calendars are here!** \$10 for a beautiful 2025 calendar with Scripture verses and stunning pictures. Proceeds will go towards the youth trip to the LCMS National Youth Gathering next summer! Available in the narthex.

**Christmas Cards** Thank you to Mary Hert, who has ordered and arranged the beautiful Christmas Cards now available for sale in the office lobby. Please make checks out to "Ascension Lutheran Church" with "Cards" written in the memo line.

**The Ladies Guild Craft & Bake Sale is this Sunday morning beginning at 9:15!** Your donated items can be dropped off this Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am to noon, or you can bring them Sunday morning early. Please price your items before drop off. Thank you! Contact Charmaine Rohde with inquiries: [cr23home@outlook.com](mailto:cr23home@outlook.com) 303-618-8889

**GriefShare: "Surviving the Holidays"** workshop will be this Saturday, November 23, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at Ascension, Room 106.

If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one this holiday season, please consider attending our Workshop. This program provides grievers with tools to cope with their losses at this special time of year. Learning practical ways to navigate memories, emotions, invitations, traditions, conversations, etc. are all helpful. Above all learning to trust the Lord to guide you on this perilous journey are all welcome aids for this difficult time.

Please pass this information on to someone you know who is hurting from the loss of a loved one this holiday season.

Thank you from Sherry Hitztaler and Linda Olsen, Co-Facilitators of ALC's GriefShare Programs.

**Ascension Christmas Families:** During the months of November and December we seek to help some of our own families who need assistance during the Christmas season. Our Congregational Life committee sponsors "Christmas Families." If you would like to participate you can help in a number of ways – we need funds to buy presents and gift cards for gifts and for the Christmas meal. Checks should be made out to Ascension and please indicate that the gift is for Christmas Families. If you would like to be the person who does the shopping for the adults, youth and children on our list, we could use your shopping skills. Dana Niederbrach (303.886.7860) is coordinating this effort – you may contact her with questions or if you'd like to volunteer.

**The Poinsettia ordering chart** is on the landing Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Poinsettias are \$30.00 each this year, the same price as last year. 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.

**Christmas Sanctuary Decorating – next Saturday, November 30!**

Do you love decorating? Or do you just love Christmas? If you answered yes to either of these then please join us in decorating our beautiful Sanctuary and Narthex. We will begin decorating at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 30. \*Note: You DO NOT need to be able to get up on a ladder to help.\*

**Advent by Candlelight - Wednesday, December 4 at 6:00 pm**

Elves are needed to help set up on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon - Dec. 3rd and 4th, and then to help cook, finish preparations, serve and clean-up on Dec. 4th. We need cookie makers! If you would like to make something for dessert - we would love to sample your baking skills. Please text or call Laurie Mullane at 303-794-7937 or email LJMullane@msn.com if you would like to volunteer to help or make cookies.

Would you like to be a table decorator? We need decorators for 15 round tables of 6 and 5 rectangle tables of 8. Each table will be decorated with items from your own home. This includes plates, napkins, silverware, glasses, tablecloth (the church has white ones available for use) and centerpiece. Tables may be decorated Tuesday (1-6 p.m.) or

Wednesday (before 4 p.m.). For more details - please contact Lisa Wert by phone or text 720-980-9446, or email [lisajeanschilling@msn.com](mailto:lisajeanschilling@msn.com) if you would like to be a Table Decorator. If you can't be a Table Decorator but have items that would make a beautiful table, contact Lisa for pick-up. You can decorate more than one table.

Thank you for your support in creating this wonderful event for our members and friends! This is going to be a memorable evening and we look forward to seeing you!"

**PRAISE THE LORD!!! Great things He has done!** Our Angel Tree contributions have again revealed the tender and generous hearts of our Ascension Family. The Holy Spirit has led us to donate \$2,936.00 for gifts for the children of incarcerated parents. Our Ascension Foundation has joined this amount with a donation of \$1000.00, for a total of \$3936.00! **PTL!!!** With the matching funds grant to double our gift, we are contributing **\$7,872.00!**

May the Lord bless us and continue to shine His Face, His Light and His Provision upon us. On behalf of the children, parents, guardians, Prison Fellowship and each dollar we send, I thank you. Let us give thanks with a grateful heart. Jude Donovan

**Canto Deo Festival Choir and Orchestra** will have their free Christmas concerts on Saturday, December 14; Sunday, December 15; and Monday, December 16. Times and locations are at [www.cantodeo.org](http://www.cantodeo.org)

**Ascension Extended Day** Thank you so much, all of you Butter Braid buyers! Wednesday was delivery day and it's days like this that like to remind me that I'm just getting that much older, lol. All of your braids are in the church freezer in the bottom right. They are wrapped in brown paper and your name is on the outside. We made \$663 and it was a very successful fundraiser. Thanks again and enjoy!

There is something about the day before a holiday break that makes kids extra squirrely...they are excited to go on a trip or to have family come and visit them. Most of them are looking forward to just being home with their siblings and being able to play all day. We are done with all things Thanksgiving (and it is still a week away!) and will dive into Christmas when we return from our break. There is so little time until Christmas and we pack all that we can into our days. 😊

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving...we have so much to be thankful for.

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. ~ 1 Chronicles 16:34*

– Grace and Peace, Meg Stenman, Preschool Director

### **December Voters' Meeting**

On Sunday, December 1, at noon, the Voters at Ascension will meet to discuss, vote and decide on a number of important issues. We hope that you can come. A luncheon is provided for your enjoyment.

We will elect officers and chairs for various committees, listen to reports from our committees, and look ahead into 2025. We have two regular Voters' meetings annually. The next Voters' Meeting is on April 27.

One of the greatest changes that we will address is our 2025 budget. The budget for 2024 is about \$660,000. Next year we are looking at an increase of over 10%, to about \$730,000. The large increase is due to a number of factors, including a \$45,000 increase in the cost of insurance and an increase of about \$26,000 in salary and benefits for staff and music personnel.

Thank you for your thoughts, involvement and support of our congregation.

### **Voters' Meeting Agenda**

- Call to Order & Opening Prayer
- Roll Call (Quorum?)
- Presentation of the Minutes (April 28, 2024 meeting)
- Pastor's Report
- Treasurer's Report (2024 Year-to-Date and 2025 Proposed Budget)
- Recommendations of the Council
- Elections
- Reports of Board Chairpersons & Committees
- Unfinished Business (None at this time)
- New Business (None at this time)
- Adjournment
- Closing Prayer

**Ascension's Quilters Group** has "wrapped up" their 2024 season, and will take a break until January. For more information, call Jackie Adams at 720.877.0162.

**Young Adult Bible Study** The Young Adult Bible Study will meet on Friday, December 13, at Jenna and Michael Lawrenz' house. We will be studying the concept of vocation and how God uses us to carry out His will.

**Bible Study with Pastor Don Ginkel** On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am, please join Pastor Don Ginkel for a Bible study on the Book of Acts. All are welcome!

**Saturday Afternoon Bible Study** Please join us for the Lighthouse Bible Study, Wilderness Wanderings on Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, at 3:00 pm Saturday in Room 106. Email Curt at [Kengle0920@gmail.com](mailto:Kengle0920@gmail.com)

**Important Church Attendance Study & Survey** Our congregation, along with others in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has been invited by LCMS Research Services to participate in a national study of church attendance in the United States. From LCMS Research Services: "By participating, we can have an important role in ensuring that confessional Lutheranism is represented as part of the broader context of religion in America.

This study is being conducted by an outside entity as part of the Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations (EPIC) and Faith Communities Today (FACT). The LCMS has actively participated in other FACT and EPIC studies over the last twenty years and benefited from the insights their research has produced.

Please keep in mind that this survey was designed to be broadly applicable to a wide range of church bodies across America. Because of this, you can expect that the wording, at times, may not precisely align with confessional Lutheran perspectives and practices. We see this as all the more reason to make sure the confessional Lutheran voice is well-represented in this national survey effort.”

[https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=19505](https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=19505)

The survey link is specific to our congregation, and will remain open through November. Thank you for your participation.

**Gift planning can ensure that your charitable intent is honored in your overall estate plan.** Life is busy and often does not allow dedicated time to focus thoughts in a clear way on a variety of topics. As a result, we remain ambiguous, often missing out on opportunities. This can be true about estate planning. Down deep you have had a desire to make a gift to ministry, but have never defined the timing or size of that distribution, nor the goal you hope ministry will achieve with this financial support. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor focuses on your goals, helping you to construct a plan that achieves them, including support of ministry. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfn.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

**Prayers:** For Barry Kratzer, scheduled for surgery for a heart valve replacement; For Patti Heggen, Hugh Heggen's daughter-in-law, who is ill. For Bill Gaudreault, with blood pressure and breathing issues; For Janet Becker, recovering at home from Covid and pneumonia; For peace and comfort for Karen Martin, friend of Barb Williams at the loss of Karen's husband Ron; For Glenda Powell, who has fallen and broken both arms; For Starla Moltz, with a fractured shoulder; For Susan Price, with severe knee pain; For Crystal Sundet, recovering from successful surgery on Tuesday, November 19; For Kevin Kromminga, Mike Zehnder's cousin, in the ICU with injuries from CPR and diabetes complications; For Lori Banaszak, an online viewer who is suffering from cancer; For Lawrence Brown; For David Hawk; For Kathy Chamberlin, who has had two back surgeries; For Roger and Judy Koester's great granddaughter, Nalani; For James Cooper, with pancreatic cancer; For those affected by violence in Israel, Lebanon, Gaza, and Ukraine; For our beloved country, and for its leaders; For God to send His Holy Spirit on all believers for strengthening of faith and witness.

**Thank you from Charlotte Wilkinson** for the many cards, messages and good wishes from her friends at Ascension on her birthday! She received a big stack of cards, and enjoys going through them!

**Thank you from Angel Ihly** to the congregation for all your prayers, texts, emails, cards, and condolences at the death of my father, Pastor Miller. A special thank you to Pastor Larson for all his prayers and for checking in with us as well. Eugen and I really appreciate the kindness and love shown to us by our Ascension church family.

**Happy Birthday** to Viola Raasch, who will be 96 years old on November 23, and to Lila Loots, on November 25!

**Flowers on the Altar** this weekend are given by Edna and Linda Achziger, in loving memory of Edward Achziger.

<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Service Time</u></b>	<b><u>Attendees</u></b>	
Saturday, 11/16	4:00 pm	62	
Sunday, 11/17	8:00 am	94	
	10:30 am	92	
			Total Weekend: 248

**Online Views** (as of November 19) for November 10: 150 views.

<b><u>Stewardship</u></b>	November 16-17	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,600.00	\$576,200.00
Received Amount	\$11,500.00	\$570,001.00

**Calendar (Saturday, November 23 – Sunday, December 1):**

Sat. (11-23)	9:00am -12:00pm	Set up for Ladies Guild Bake & Craft Sale
	10:00am – 12:00pm	GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (11-24)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	<b>Ladies Guild Craft &amp; Bake Sale</b>
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	KICKS: Kids in Christ Knowing the Savior (3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Graders)
Mon. (11-25)		<b>Thanksgiving Break – No Extended Day Preschool This Week</b>
Tues. (11-26)	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
Weds.(11-27)	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	7:00 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Holy Communion
Thurs.(11-28)		<b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b>
		Church Office Closed
Fri. (11-29)		Church Office Closed
Sat. (11-30)	8:30 am	Decorate the Sanctuary
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (12-1)		<b>FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b>
	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

	12:00 pm	Voters Meeting and Lunch
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**@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).

**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUA AM850 & kfuo.org:** We continue our study of the Psalms of thanksgiving on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and discuss chapters 8-11 in the Gospel of John on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Tune into Concord Matters this Saturday (11/30 at 10:00 a.m. CT) to learn more about the Lutheran view of the Sacrament. Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or on the KFUA Radio app!