

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 19) *Merry Christmas!*



We will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent with Worship Services this weekend 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.

The Sunday school and youth dress rehearsal will be this Saturday, December 21 at 10:00 am in the sanctuary in preparation for our Christmas Eve service! The **Happy Birthday Jesus Party** will follow at 11:15 am with crafts, games, and snacks in the Fellowship Hall! All families are welcome!

Holy Baptism This Sunday, December 22, we will celebrate the baptism of Sophia Burneikis, daughter of Dominykas and Talia Burneikis, and granddaughter of Joann and Rolly Sorrentino. Next Saturday, December 28, we will celebrate the baptism of Everlee Eickmann, daughter of Myles Eickmann and Braney Arnett, granddaughter of Dan and Kim McCormick, and great-granddaughter of Andy and Mavis Slifka, and Nathan and Marlene Eickmann. May God continue to bless these families!

Christmas Eve Services on Tuesday, 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 Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day there will be a single worship service with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

The Church office will be closed on Thursday, December 26.

Worship Services on the weekend after Christmas will be Saturday, December 28 at 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m. Please note there will be only one service on Sunday, December 29.

The Memorial Service for Terry O'Connell will be Saturday, December 28 at 11:00 am. A meal will follow the service.

New Year's Eve will begin with a worship service at 3:00 pm, followed by a delicious dinner catered by Romano's at about 4:00 pm. Please sign up in the narthex to attend the meal. 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!

Pastor John is offering an Adult Instruction Class on Saturday, January 11 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m, and Sunday, January 12, 1:00-4:00 pm. The two-part class is designed to teach the basics of Christian faith and the Lutheran denomination. There is no cost. The instruction book will be provided. Free refreshments!! If you are not a member of Ascension and would like to see what we believe (or even if you are a member, and would like to have a refresher of Lutheran doctrine), you're invited to attend. Childcare is provided at no cost.

Flowers Flowers Flowers! The 2025 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 2024. 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.

Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force (HAAT Force) After the closing of the Severe Weather Shelter Network last spring, the services the Shelter Network had been providing for homeless adults were transferred to the Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force (HAAT Force). This organization was founded in 2010 out of a concern about homelessness in the South Metro Denver area. Today they serve a variety of individuals and families who are unhoused. SWSN served only adults and was a partner of HAAT Force and is now a part of their shelter program. This program is different from SWSN, in that it uses a motel model. Clients stay in motels when the weather is severe. They are also provided with meals.

HAAT Force needs are the same as those of SWSN. We are starting a food and supplies drive for them this weekend. You’ll find a list of needs in your mailbox. Thanks in advance for all you do.

Ann Kaneko, kanekoa43@gmail.com, 720.289.6782 and Lori Rolling, rollingbarn@gmail.com

Ascension Extended Day Preschool What is more special than experiencing Christmas through the eyes of children? Absolutely nothing! To be able to share the birth of Jesus with our preschoolers is an amazing feeling of joy. Toss in the beautiful music and adorable crafts and you have happiness that lasts forever. If you would like to experience our preschool Christmas, you are welcome to come to our little Christmas Program this Thursday the 19th at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The children will sing some festive songs and Pastor John will have a Christmas message for the families. It will be 20 minutes that will even make the Grinch smile.

– Grace and Peace, Meg Stenman, Preschool Director

Bible Study with Pastor Don Ginkel Merry Christmas! The group will take the next two weeks off, and will resume their study of Acts on January 8. All are welcome!

Saturday Afternoon Bible Study Please join us this Saturday at 3:00 pm for the Lifelight Bible Study, Wilderness Wanderings on Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, in Room 106. There will be no class on Saturday, December 28. Email Curt at Kengle0920@gmail.com

Your estate plan can enable you to express your Christian faith Someday, when the Lord calls you home, your estate will turn over the financial assets to family, ministry or other charities. Have you ever considered preparing a letter to each of the beneficiaries of your estate, sharing with them why the Lord directed you to share with them? Maybe this could translate into face-to-face conversations right now. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can ask you questions, assisting you to become specific about how your faith translates into your gifting plan. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Prayers: For all those who are ill during this season; For Carmen Gutierrez, who will have back surgery on December 31; For health and strength for Rick Westra, Phyllis' son, as his cancer has returned; For healing for Joyce Gallagher, who is ill; For John and Lori Rolling's friend, Shane Alexander, in critical condition after emergency surgery that lead to multiple blood clots affecting his heart, lungs and back; For Vicki Redden's brother-in-law, Pastor Kevin Peterson, and his wife, Julie; For Gwen Marshall, recovering from hip replacement surgery on December 16; For Scott Estes, son-in-law of Del Grau; For Barry Kratzer, healing after heart valve replacement; For Crystal Sundet; For Lawrence Brown; For Judy Koester and Nalani, the Koester's great-granddaughter; For James Cooper, with pancreatic cancer; For those who are lonely or grieving during the holidays; For the people of Haiti, and for the children living there; 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.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for the safe delivery on December 17 of Louis John Kirschner, son of Christa and Ian Kirschner and baby brother of Emery; and for successful move to a new home for Joyce Gallagher!

Flowers on the Altar this weekend are given by Ruth and Larry Nisbet, in joyful celebration of their 55th Wedding Anniversary; and by Marilyn and Don Loptien, in joyful celebration of their 46th Anniversary! Congratulations!

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Service Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	
Saturday, 12/14	4:00 pm	55	
Sunday, 12/15	9:30 am	175	
			Total Weekend: 230
Wednesday, 12/18	7:00 pm		

Online Views (as of December 17) for December 8: 147 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	December 14-15	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,600.00	\$626,600.00
Received Amount	\$20,033.00	\$644,691.00

Calendar (Saturday, December 21 – Sunday, December 28):

Sat. (12-21)	10:00 am	Children’s Program Practice
	11:15 am	Happy Birthday Jesus Party
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (12-22)		FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Tues. (12-24)		CHRISTMAS EVE
	3:45 pm	Congregational Carols
	4:00 pm	Family Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
	6:45 pm	Congregational Carols
	7:00 pm	Festival Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
Weds.(12-25)		CHRISTMAS DAY
	10:00 am	Christmas Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Thurs.(12-26)		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Sat. (12-28)	11:00 am	Memorial Service for Terry O’Connell
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (12-29)		FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
	10:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUA AM850 & kfuo.org: Tune in to Sharper Iron as we continue our study of Isaiah (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT) and wrap up the Gospel of John with the Resurrection account on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Don't forget to join us for this week's edition of Joy!, featuring sacred music for the Advent season. You can find the full program schedule at kfuo.org/joy!