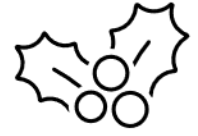


GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 5) *Blessed Advent!*



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.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols The bright season of Advent continues with worship services next Saturday, December 14 at 4:00 pm and Sunday, December 15 at 9:30 am! There will be only one Sunday morning service, featuring the Ascension Chorale, Agape, Youth Praise Band and Gloria Dei Ringers!

Family Advent Calendars are now available in the narthex!

Holy Baptism This past Sunday, December 1, we celebrated the baptisms of Molly Doreen O'Connell, daughter of Colin and Meghan O'Connell; Parker Owen Aldrich, son of Jeremy and Erin Aldrich; and Brynn Elise Aldrich, daughter of Jeremy and Erin Aldrich.

This coming Saturday, December 7, we will celebrate the baptism of Charlotte Lily Thompson, daughter of Matthew Thompson and Danielle O'Neal-Bennett.

May the gifts of Holy Baptism continue to bless the lives of these children and their families!

Youth Christmas party and progressive dinner is set for Friday, December 13! Expect to travel to different homes for each part of our three-course meal. Bring a \$5.00 white elephant gift! Friends are invited! Please RSVP to Stephanie.

We are delighted to have Curt Engle, a member of Ascension and a Lay-Deacon in our District preach on Saturday, December 14 at 4:00. We invite you to come and worship that afternoon and encourage Curt in his service to our congregation.

Our annual Christmas caroling to our homebound members is scheduled for Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 pm. Share some joy and the love of Christ through song and your presence! Please sign up on the church bulletin board. Thank you!

Sunday school and youth dress rehearsal on 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!

Voters' Meeting Highlights On Sunday, December 1, 57 members of Ascension met for the bi-annual Voters' Meeting. The meeting, lasting 80 minutes, was comprised of reports from staff and committees, we elected officers and chairs of various committees, we received a financial report concerning 2024 from our treasurer, Margo Pasha, we set a budget for 2025, and we took an action concerning the Patio Project.

Some of the highlights were:

- By the end of October, we had received \$15,000 more than we anticipated and had spent \$14,000 less than we budgeted. We saw a \$29,000 change in assets.
- The number of children in our preschool is fewer than we had anticipated. The shortfall for 2024 is about \$37,000.
- We had some major expenses in 2024 – The removal of the Bell Tower, the decking and shingling of the roof, and the change of insurance carriers – which brought with it a large increase in premiums.
- We passed a budget of \$736,000 for 2025. This compares with a budget of \$658,000 for 2024. The majority of the \$78,000 increase is due to a \$50,000 increase in our insurance premiums and an increase in salary and benefits for staff.
- We elected David Kaiser to be our vice-president, Mike Price to be our treasurer and Anita Baresel and Bob Hea will lead the Evangelism committee. We continue to search for a chair for the Board of Youth.
- The congregation approved seeking bids for an architect to provide designs for the area of our patio, where the Bell Tower once stood.

The next Voter's Meeting is scheduled for noon on Sunday, April 27, 2025.

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

Christmas Update: Young Adult Bible Study On December 13 the Young Adult Group will have a Christmas party at Michael and Jenna Lawrenz' house, instead of their regular monthly Bible study. They will still meet at 6:30 pm. Please plan to bring a Christmas snack to share and a \$10 gender-neutral gift for a gift exchange! *See you there!*

GriefShare: “Surviving the Holidays” On Saturday, November 23, twelve participants attended the GriefShare Workshop, “Surviving the Holidays,” at Ascension. We had an excellent group: 10 women, 2 men; several church members, one from the neighborhood, and several friends of Ascension members. The GriefShare program utilizes excellent videos, participant guidebooks, and discussion questions enabling participants to embrace their grief, honor their loved ones, and recognize the difficulty of facing the Holiday season without their loved ones.

We are especially thankful to Pastor Larson and the Ascension congregation for supporting GriefShare, both financially and spiritually. Our GriefShare Team: Pastor, Dawn Munson, Tina Kaiser, Suzy Martin, Mike Zehnder, and Dennis and Joyce Lord, are amazing! Thank you all!

The 2024 GriefShare programs included: the 13 week class of the initial GriefShare program, “From Mourning to Joy; and two workshops: “Loss of a Spouse” and “Surviving the Holidays,” both are two hour stand-alone workshops.

Next Steps: Our 2025 13-week class will begin on Tuesday, February 4; ending 13 weeks later, Tuesday, April 29, 2025. Please Contact Linda or Sherry if you are interested. Lastly, please keep all of our participants in prayer as they head into difficult holiday times without their loved ones.

Thank you from Sherry Hitztaler and Linda Olsen, Co-Facilitators.

Ascension Christmas Families: During the month of 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.

Advent by Candlelight

Thank you to everyone for your support in creating this wonderful event for our members and friends!

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

Ascension Extended Day Preschool Thank you so much, all of you Butter Braid buyers! 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!

We 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

Bible Study with Pastor Don Ginkel If you would like to have a “MARY” Christmas please join us for the next two Wednesdays for a study of portions of Luke 1 and 2. Christmas treats will also be served.

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

Your estate plan can enable you to express your Christian faith. Have you ever endeavored to express your faith and desire for your family to remain in the faith, in a short, succinctly written piece that you can share as a lasting testimony even after the Lord calls you home? Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you to initiate this project, including sharing some examples. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Prayers: For Gwen Marshall, who will have hip replacement surgery on December 16; For Scott Estes, son-in-law of Del Grau, hospitalized with infection issues; For Joyce Gallagher, that she receives the help she needs for her upcoming move; For Barry Kratzer, preparing to have surgery for a heart valve replacement; For Susan Price; For Crystal Sundet, recovering at home from surgery; For Lawrence Brown; For Judy Koester, who is ill, and for the Koester’s great granddaughter, Nalani; For James Cooper, with pancreatic cancer; 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.

Flowers on the Altar this weekend are given by Bob and Bev Carter, in joyful celebration of their 64th Wedding Anniversary!

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Service Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	
Thanksgiving Eve	7:00 pm	59	
Saturday, 11/30	4:00 pm	48	
Sunday, 12/1	8:00 am	63	
	10:30 am	102	
			Total Weekend: 213

Online Views (as of December 3) for November 24: 122 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	November 29-December 1	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,600.00	\$601,400.00
Received Amount	\$6,989.00	\$589,784.00

Calendar (Saturday, December 7 – Sunday, December 15):

Sat. (12-7)	10:00am-12:00pm	Heritage Fine Arts Workshop
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (12-8)		SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
	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
Mon. (12-9)	9:30am – 2:30pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (12-10)	9:30am – 2:30pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
	11:00am-12:00pm	Hands All Around Sewing Group – Christmas Tea
	6:30 pm	Church Council
Weds.(12-11)	9:30am – 2:30pm	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	5:30 pm	Advent Meal – Ladies Guild
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
	7:00 pm	Advent Worship
Thurs.(12-12)	9:30am – 2:30pm	Extended Day Preschool
	6:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
	7:00 pm	Ascension Chorale
Fri. (12-13)	8:00 am	Staff Appreciation Breakfast
	9:30am – 2:30pm	Extended Day Preschool
	5:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party / Progressive Dinner
	6:30 pm	Young Adult Christmas Party
Sat. (12-14)	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (12-8)		THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
	9:30 am	FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS
	2:00 pm	Caroling for the Homebound

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@KFUOradio on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: Join us as we continue our study of Isaiah on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and look at chapters 15-18 in the Gospel of John on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Don't forget to tune in for the 100th anniversary edition of JOY!, airing this Sunday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. CT! Find the full program schedule at kfuo.org/joy.