

GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 16)



Worship Services are Saturdays at 4:00 p.m., and Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study is at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, join Pastor John for his study on the Book of Lamentations!

Adult Instruction Class Pastor John will have class this Saturday, January 18 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, and Sunday, January 19 from 1:00-4:00 pm. This free, two-part class is designed to teach the basics of Christian faith and the Lutheran denomination. The instruction book will be provided. 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 are invited to attend.

The frigid weather has depleted supplies at HAAT Force. Their severe weather shelter has been open for 15 days since the start of that cold weather. In addition, subzero temperatures are expected this coming weekend. So they urgently need:

- Paper plates - dinner size
- Paper bowls for cereal (12 or 16 oz.)
- Paper hot cups - 10 or 12 oz. (microwave safe, no lids)
- Plastic forks, knives, and spoons (wrapped or unwrapped)
- Cold cereal (single serve)
- Juice boxes
- Hormel Compleats or other microwavable meals
- Pudding cups
- Spam
- Canned (pop top) or pouch chicken
- Vienna sausage - single serve
- Shelf-stable milk

Donations may be left in the bin downstairs by the door to the parking lot. Ann Kaneko and Lori Rolling will deliver them to HAAT Force. Ann Kaneko, kanekoa43@gmail.com, 720.289.6782 and Lori Rolling, rollingbarn@gmail.com

Mission Projects for 2025 Our congregation practices tithing (10% of all offerings to our general fund) in the mission projects that we support. Those mission partners are:

- The Rocky Mountain District LC-MS
- Lutheran High School
- Lead A Child (Lutheran Elementary Education in Third World Countries)
- Mission Experience (Pastor Mike Paulison and the work in Haiti)
- Renewal Church (A mission church, a church plant from St. John's Lutheran Church - in the old Emmaus Lutheran Church property in the Highlands in Denver)
- Together in Mission (LC-MS Pastor Dan Jastram and his wife, Missionaries to Japan)
- Lutheran Family Services

- Lutherans for Life

In 2024 you, and many others, contributed \$61,000 more than we anticipated. Thank you. On January 28 the Board of Elders will decide which mission programs we will support with the 10% of that excess \$61,000 (\$6,100.00). Usually we support projects with gifts in increments of about \$500.00. Let Pastor or one of the Board of Elders know if you have suggestions.

The Lord gives a promise, "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11) Since March of 2020 Ascension Lutheran Church has had a presence online, on YouTube, and I am amazed at how God's word has been received across our country and even beyond our country. During 2024 we had over 10,000 views (10,006 to be precise) on our YouTube channel - an average of 192 every weekend. In addition to that means of sharing God's word, the printed copy of the sermon is also available, both online and in the mailboxes (south side, on the top). I hear from people who take a copy of the sermon to a neighbor, a relative or a friend, and that becomes a part of their spiritual nurture. Pray that God would bring much fruit through these ways of sharing His love, salvation and mercy. Pastor John

Did you know that over the last 20 years Thrivent members have directed over \$100,000 to Ascension Lutheran Church through the distribution of their "Thrivent Choice Dollars"? Our Church Council has allocated those funds to a number of amazing ministries and projects through the years. If you are a Thrivent Financial member and you receive those dollars as one of the benefits of being part of Thrivent, we'd love you to consider Ascension as a place for that disbursement. If you have questions about this, you can contact Thrivent or your Thrivent representative.

Ascension Foundation News The Foundation has increased the Book and Material Reimbursement amount from \$375 per semester to \$500 per semester. Updated request forms are located below the Foundation bulletin board in the narthex or available from Dawn Munson in the church office. You can also request one from Mike Price via email at mtprice65@gmail.com. Happy studying!

As we begin 2025, I would like to give a report to you about this past year at Ascension Lutheran Church. Our congregation has 504 baptized members, 444 who are communicant members. This compares to 509 baptized members in 2023, with 458 of those who are communicants. Our weekly attendance was 213 in 2024 (220 was our average in 2023). 7 of our members died in 2024 (much less than the 19 who died in 2023!) We lost 29 of our members during this past year – the majority of that coming by way of release of membership due to inactivity (15), transferring to another congregation (7) and deaths (7). But we also saw 26 folks join Ascension. The majority of this was by reaffirmation of faith (8), Adult Confirmation (7) and transferring to Ascension from another congregation (5).

Our congregation completed two large projects on our building. In the early part of the year the bell tower was removed and in the middle of the year the roof of our sanctuary

was shingled. Though both of these projects were quite expensive we were able to use funds that we had saved or set aside to complete these projects.

During 2024 both our Evangelism Committee and the Congregational Life Committee, newly formed committees at Ascension, set some lofty goals and worked hard to accomplish them. A number of new ideas were well received by the congregation.

As a congregation we work together to bring grace and mercy to many others. We desire for more to know the salvation that God brings through Jesus and the love that we have for them. Well over \$130,000 was given through the offerings of the congregation, and the work of the Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation, our Ladies Guild, our Christmas Committee, the work through Angel Tree, and the work of the Social Ministry arm of Congregational Life. A special project that came to us due to the hurricanes in the southeastern part of our country was the need to help those devastated by the storms. Within a month our congregation raised \$10,000 to help with those needs. I thank you for your generosity.

2025 is a new year, with new challenges, undoubtedly. But our Lord is ever faithful. He'll lead us and stand with us. Pastor John Larson

Extended Day Preschool News We are bundling up and enjoying the balmy weather before this weekend. We have been learning about arctic animals and painting super cute polar bears. Contrary to what the kiddos told Pastor during chapel, we do learn our letters at school, lol (we are on Qq this week). Our two new little students have assimilated so well we forget that they are new. If there are any church members that are considering preschool/pre-k this fall, please contact me. I would love the opportunity to show you what we do at this wonderful school. Shelly and Melina are so amazing at what they do and are some of the best teachers that I have worked with (and I have worked with a lot). We are also going to have summer camps that anyone ages 3-5 are invited to join. Stay cozy this weekend! ❄️ 🧸 – Grace and Peace, Meg Stenman, Preschool Director

The moment you've been waiting for is here! Time to pre-order your yummy BREAKFAST BURRITOS! The youth will be taking orders as a fundraiser towards the LCMS National Youth Gathering trip this summer to New Orleans. Basic burritos consist of scrambled eggs, cheese, and hash browns. Additional toppings of green chile and salsa are available. \$6.00 per burrito, \$7.00 burrito with sausage. Pick up will be on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 9th. Order forms are available in the narthex or contact Stephanie at stephanieroettjer@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 24th! FAMILY GAME NIGHT is back for another round of Bingo, games, prizes, and fun! All ages are invited! Bring a game and a snack to share. 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

GriefShare Support Group Ascension's next GriefShare session begins with a new 13-Week GriefShare Support Group, starting Tuesday, February 4, and ending, Tuesday, April 29. Weekly sessions are on Tuesdays, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Please share this information with anyone (neighbors, friends, relatives, colleagues, etc.) who

may be grieving a loved one's death and could benefit from this successful program. GriefShare programs are Christ-centered and designed to help all grievers, regardless of religious affiliation (or lack of).

At each weekly meeting, group participants will view a video featuring respected counselors, teachers, and health-care professionals on grief-related topics. Small group discussions follow that allow people a time of sharing, support, and personal application of what they learned from the video. Participants also receive a participant guidebook, filled with valuable exercises and information to aid them in navigating their personal grief journey.

Please contact griefshare.org/findagroup to register or contact Sherry Hitztaler, hitz2@comcast.net for more information. All are welcome to attend. Linda Olsen and Sherry Hitztaler are the co-facilitators for Ascension's GriefShare Support Group and are happy to answer any questions. We are thankful that Pastor Larson, Church Council, and the people of Ascension support this valuable ministry.

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

SAVE THE DATE for Vacation Bible School 2025! The dates will be Monday, June 2 through Friday, June 6, and the theme will be "True North: An Alaskan Adventure!" True North VBS shows kids that Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

Congregational Retreat 2025 Please save the dates – Friday, August 1 to Sunday, August 3, at Lutheran Valley Retreat near Woodland Park! More info to come!

Ascension's Quilters Group meets on Fridays at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come and see what it is all about! For more information, please call Jackie Adams at 720-877-0162.

Young Adult Superbowl Party! Join Jenna and Michael Lawrenz at their house for a Superbowl party on Sunday, February 9 at 4:00! Please bring a snack to share. Call Jenna at 303-913-3512 or jenna.lindeman@cune.org

Young Adult Bible Study The Young Adult Bible Study will meet again on Friday, February 21, at Jenna and Michael Lawrenz' house. The group will study "The Case for Christ," by Lee Strobel. For more information, please call or email Jenna at 303-913-3512 or jenna.lindeman@cune.org

Bible Study with Pastor Don Ginkel The group is studying the Book of Acts every Wednesday at 10:00 am in Room 106. All are welcome!

NO Saturday Afternoon Bible Study this Saturday We will meet again on Saturday, January 25 at 3:00 pm for the Lighthouse Bible Study, Wilderness Wanderings on Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, in Room 106. Email Curt at Kengle0920@gmail.com

Putting an estate plan together presents many competing priorities around which to make decisions. Certainly, you wish to care for the family you love. Yet even families can present competing priorities. Maybe there is some relationship dysfunction

in your family that up until now, the grace of God has not yet healed. Should that impact inheritance? Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you think through, and pray through, such issues. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfn.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Paid Position Available! Temporary assistant caregiver needed for Lisa O’Neal’s 10-month-old granddaughter, Charlotte, while Lisa O’Neal is healing from two fractured wrists. Lisa needs help with feeding and diapering Charlotte, etc. Lisa will be present during work hours, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday through Friday. The location is near Wadsworth and Crestline Avenue in Littleton. This is a paid position. Please call Lisa at 720-980-3750 or email her at lisonal77@gmail.com

Prayers: For Joyce Gallagher, who has been diagnosed with glaucoma in her left eye; For healing for Christopher Coleman, Nancy Lugton’s nephew in New Mexico, who has been hospitalized and suffers from depression; For Patti Zeggert’s sister, Debi, whose heart catheterization showed no blockages. Please pray that she will learn the cause of her medical symptoms; For Larry Nelson, with health issues; For Edna Achziger, who has been ill; For Larry Nisbet; For Lisa O’Neal, with two fractured wrists; For Jerry Gerdes, who will have heart valve replacement surgery; For Carmen Gutierrez, recovering from back surgery; For health and strength for Rick Westra, Phyllis’ son, as his cancer has returned; For healing for Shane Alexander’s back and for his overall well-being. Shane is a friend of John and Lori Rolling; For Lawrence Brown; For those affected by the devastation caused by the fires in Southern California, especially those who have lost their homes; 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 Edna Achziger, who is feeling much better!

Thank You for your prayers, and for the calls and cards I received during my recovery from surgery. They are much appreciated! – Crystal Sundet

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Service Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	
Saturday, 1/11	4:00 pm	51	
Sunday, 1/12	8:00 am	81	
	10:30 am	73	
			Total Weekend: 205

Online Views (as of January 13) for January 5: 216 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	January 11-12	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$14,000.00	\$28,000.00
Received Amount	\$11,536.00	\$24,377.00

Calendar (Saturday, January 18 – Sunday, January 26):

Sat. (1-18)	9:00 am	Heritage Fine Arts Workshop
	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Adult Instruction
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (1-19)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	1:00 – 4:00 pm	Adult Instruction
Mon. (1-20)		MLK, Jr. Day
		NO Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (1-21)	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
Weds. (1-22)	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Pastor John
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
	6:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
	7:00 pm	Ascension Chorale
Thurs. (1-23)	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (1-24)	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Quilters Group
	6:00 pm	Family Game Night
Sat. (1-25)	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (1-26)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	KICKS (3 rd -6 th Graders)

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kfuo), [X](https://twitter.com/kfuo), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfuo).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: We're continuing in Isaiah on Sharper Iron! Join us as we take a look at chapters 25-29 (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT). On Thy Strong Word, we're beginning a study of the book of Job. You can tune in every weekday at 11 a.m. CT. Don't forget to join us for Concord Matters (1/25 at 10 a.m. CT)! We'll be continuing our discussion of confessional subscription with special guest Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or on the KFUE Radio app!