

## **GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 23)**

**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 25 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, and Sunday, January 26 from 1:00-4:00 pm (rescheduled from last weekend due to the weather). 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.

**Family Game Night This Friday, January 24th!** Join us for a 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.

**Souper-bowl Sunday!** On February 2 and February 9, we can celebrate our favorite team by stocking the shelves at IFCS Food Bank! They could really use it this time of year – please bring cans of SOUP to the box in the narthex. Integrated Family Community Services helps families with their food bank, financial assistance, school supplies, holiday grocery boxes, and recreation center vouchers. They appreciate your generosity!

**Beware of Email Scams!** We received a bogus email here in the office that LOOKED like it came from a beloved church member, asking “do you shop at Amazon?” It was clearly a scam. If you receive similar suspicious emails, please take time to think twice before responding!

**The recent 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](mailto:kanekoa43@gmail.com), 720.289.6782 and Lori Rolling, [rollingbarn@gmail.com](mailto:rollingbarn@gmail.com)

**The wildfires in Los Angeles County, California**, continue to inflict widespread damage and suffering throughout the Los Angeles area. The LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSD) reports that many LCMS people have lost their homes, including long-time elderly residents. LCMS Disaster Response includes the entire Synod's prayers, along with spiritual resources to assist church workers as they care for their congregations. In addition, we are there to offer practical support in the form of ongoing counsel and advice and material support in the form of supplies, recovery grants and volunteer coordination.

If you are able financially to support the church's response to wildfires in California, please prayerfully consider a contribution to:

- **The LCMS Disaster Response—Strategic Use fund.** Visit [lcms.org/give/disaster](https://lcms.org/give/disaster) or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write “Disaster Response—Strategic Use (TR9206).” This fund allows our Synod to continue its care and support, as the demands warrant, of those still suffering in North Carolina and other parts of the Southeast as well as those affected by the wildfires in California.
- **The LCMS Wildfire Relief (only) fund.** Your gift will only be utilized to help those impacted by wildfires. Visit [lcms.org/disaster](https://lcms.org/disaster) and select the “Disaster Response — Wildfires” option in the “Giving opportunities” or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write “Wildfire Relief Only.”

**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.

**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](mailto:mtprice65@gmail.com). Happy studying!

**GriefShare Support Group** Dear Ascension Lutheran Church members and Friends, As the ALC Grief Support Group prepares to begin a new 13-Week Program, we have a problem we hope you can help us with: we don't have enough participants!

Informational GriefShare flyers will be in your church service bulletin this weekend. Please give your flyer to anyone who may be grieving a loved one's death and could benefit from this successful Biblical-based program. The loss of a loved one could be recent or some time ago.

Grief does not have a timeline. Please reach out to your neighbors, relatives, friends and colleagues - help us bring God's love to the broken-hearted and guide participants to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

Time is short - we are planning to begin Tuesday, February 4 at 6:30 PM but need more participants! Our program is designed to reach out to the community so consider contacts beyond ALC. More flyers are available!

Thank you so much for your help! Linda Olsen and Sherry Hitztaler, Co-Facilitators

**Extended Day Preschool News** I think we are still trying to thaw out from our long weekend...brrr! But it is toasty inside and we are painting snowflakes and revisiting our "known" letters. The older children have started to talk about kindergarten because they have been on tours and visited different schools. As proud as that makes us feel (they grow so fast!), it does leave our hearts a little sad...we would like to keep them here forever! But they are almost ready for their next big step in their lives and come August, they will be fully ready. But we still have 4 months left with them and we are going to savor the days. XO – 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](mailto:stephanieroettjer@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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](mailto:jenna.lindeman@cune.org)

**The Wednesday Evening Bible Study Class** taught by Pastor John on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 pm will begin a new study on Isaiah chapters 40-50 this coming Wednesday, January 29.

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

**Saturday Afternoon Bible Study** We will meet this Saturday, January 25 at 3:00 pm for the Lighthouse Bible Study, Wilderness Wanderings on Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, in Room 106. All are welcome! Email Curt at [Kengle0920@gmail.com](mailto: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 you are reaching the later part of earthly life and have no children. Is family inheritance still required, or expected? Might God have another plan for His resources in your life? Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you to begin discerning the right thing to do. Contact Jason Jones at [Jason.Jones@lfn.org](mailto:Jason.Jones@lfn.org) or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

**Prayers:** For Lori Banaszak, an online viewer who has cancer; For Gwen Geisler, who will have cataract surgery on January 28; For healing for Christopher Coleman, Nancy Lugton’s nephew in New Mexico; For Patti Zeggert’s sister, Debi; 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; For Lawrence Brown; For those affected by the fires in Southern California; 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.

**Many thanks** for the wonderful Christmas gifts that we received from our friends at Ascension! From, the Goff Family

**Flowers on the Altar** for this weekend are given by Rose Kahler, in loving memory of her husband, Vernon, whose birthday would have been this Sunday, January 26.

<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Service Time</u></b>	<b><u>Attendees</u></b>	
Saturday, 1/18	4:00 pm	18	
Sunday, 1/19	8:00 am	49	
	10:30 am	51	
			Total Weekend: 118

**Online Views** (as of January 21) for January 12: 155 views.

<b><u>Stewardship</u></b>	January 18-19	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$14,000.00	\$42,000.00
Received Amount	Will report next week	Will report next week

**Calendar (Saturday, January 25 – Sunday, February 2):**

Sat. (1-25)	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Adult Instruction
	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 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Graders)
	1:00 - 4:00 pm	Adult Instruction
Mon. (1-27)	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (1-28)	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
Weds. (1-29)	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. (1-30)	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (1-31)	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool

	12:30 pm	Quilters Group
Sat. (2-1)	9:30 am	Evangelism Meeting
	8:30 am – 3:00 pm	Heritage Fine Arts Workshop
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (2-2)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 am	Baptism – Lewis John Kirschner

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: We continue in the books of Isaiah on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT) and Job on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT). Tune in to the Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9 a.m. CT) to hear this month's episode of Searching Scripture, and join us as we revisit National Lutheran Schools week with some special segments! Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or on the KFUE Radio app!