

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (July 3) *Happy Independence Day!*



Summer Worship Services are on Saturdays at 4:00 pm and on Sundays at 9:00 am. Following the 9:00 service on Sunday there will be Coffee Under the Trees, and Adult Bible Study begins at 10:30 am.

Preaching Themes and Verses: Summer 2025

July 6 - Forgiven and Forgiving Matthew 6:12

July 13 - Pastor Kelly Crabbe, Preaching

July 20 - Pastor Mike Zehnder, Preaching

July 27 - Too Much!! Matthew 11:28-30

August 3 - Pastor Mike Zehnder, Preaching

August 10 - God in Control Romans 8:28

August 17 - A Fortress Psalm 46

August 24 - A Temple 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

August 31 - Work Colossians 3:23-24

SPECIAL MUSIC THIS WEEKEND - JULY 5-6

This weekend is a special time both to attend services and as an opportunity to invite those in your sphere of influence! We're having a dynamic "Patriotic Celebration" both in our 4:00 pm Saturday and our 9:00 am Sunday services. Pastor is preaching on receiving and giving God's forgiveness which is sorely needed in our country and world today. Special music will feature a patriotic organ and piano medley by Diana Gaide and Michael Zehnder, special flute solo by Ann Westra, a moving solo by Rachel Becker on how God will never leave or forsake us, even if the mountains are hurled into the sea. Also joining us is special guest Mark Senechal, trumpeter, a long-time friend of Mike Zehnder back in his Orange County days. They used to play together weekly in a brass quintet and they took the same piece Rachel is going to sing on a European tour the late 1980's. Mark is currently the Director of Worship at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO where he directs and oversees a number of groups and he has recently been a leader at the LWML national convention in Omaha where he directed a 270-voice choir. Thanks to Mark and all who are participating in these special services! Don't forget to use this opportunity to invite friends and neighbors as an evangelistic outreach! Saturday and Sunday services will be identical with all the musicians present.

Thank You from Bob Estes: "I wanted to thank everyone for their prayers for the Evangelism event that I participated in last Saturday at the Sterling State prison with 2200 inmates. Our team of 41 volunteers contacted 235 inmates, of which 36 professed Jesus as Lord for the very first time and another 87 rededicated themselves to the Lord. It is part of the Bill Glass "Behind the Walls" national program.

<https://www.behindthewalls.com/>

We were trained Friday evening for the 8:00 am Saturday prison event. We put on 2 events. The 2 different exercise areas where we met the prisoners were nearly as

large as NFL football field. There was a comedian putting on a show that he does in Las Vegas on the stage, and 15 Christian Bikers drove around the areas and exhibited their Harleys. All this attracted the interest of many inmates, and they emerged from the building to see what was going on. Then, each volunteer would approach several inmates and draw them into a cluster, give each a flyer and ask them to read along. As we read together through each of the points under “what do you think”, we’d ask each one something like “Is that you, Vince?” That gave us a quick idea of where each one is spiritually. We shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them and answered their questions. There was no shade where we met in the 95-degree open air, but what a golden opportunity to talk ‘turkey!’”

Sousa Band Evangelism Event – A Great Success!

Last Saturday an estimated 175 members and guests attended our picnic lunch / John Philip Sousa Band concert. The 20+ member band played 4th of July patriotic songs while attendees cheered and clapped in the shade of our South lawn trees. A medley of anthems for each branch of the military was most popular as veterans stood and were recognized for their service. Fried chicken, sides, and watermelon were served before the concert and all were surprised with ice cream during to offset the heat. We pray that our guests will consider returning to Ascension for worship when the Holy Spirit prompts them to seek the Lord. Thank you to all that volunteered their time and effort to make this event a success.

Name tags: If you don’t have a name tag in your box, please email us at office@alutheran.org and we will make one for you.

NEEDED: Volunteers to join our Sunday school team for the 2025-26 Christian education year! Please pray about how you can serve in this way! It is a rewarding and joy-filled experience to share Jesus' love with His children! **We'd love to have you on our team!** If you can't commit to teaching every Sunday, you are certainly welcome to rotate with another teacher or teachers to do 1 or 2 Sundays a month. Must be willing to take a background check. For more information: stephanieroettjer@gmail.com

***The Sacred Art of Ascension** Ascension has been richly blessed with beautiful works of sacred art throughout our building. Jude Donovan has created a booklet describing our art and its symbolism, entitled “The Sacred Art of Ascension,” and copies are now available in the narthex. Each week we will include a page of the booklet at the end of the Happenings. As Jude says, “A picture is worth a thousand words, come and enjoy the ORIGINALS!” 😊

Time is Running Out to Register for the Congregational Retreat – August 1-3
Thanks to everyone who has registered so far for the Congregational Retreat! **We will accept registrations through Sunday, July 20.**

[Lutheran Valley Retreat](#) (LVR) is a year-round retreat and summer camp facility for all ages, tucked away in the Pike National Forest. They are located 1.5 hours from

Colorado Springs and 2.5 hours from Denver. Their mission is to share God's grace and glory through His creation.

From Friday evening, August 1 until Sunday morning, August 3, 2025, members and friends of our congregation will share Christian fellowship and engage in fun, safe indoor and outdoor activities for all ages. We will be staying in cabins; married couples may request to stay together as space is available. Bath facilities are near the cabins. Meals are served cafeteria-style. There are trailer hook-ups available (20 amp receptacles), as well as tent campsites.

To register:

Go to <https://lvr.org/>, scroll down to the bottom of the page, find "Sign Up for a Camp Now" and click "REGISTER." Each family will create a log-in if they have never registered with LVR before. When you reach the list of camp dates, scroll down until you see "Ascension Church Retreat on August 1-3." Then register each family member attending for:

August 1-3: "Ascension Church Retreat"

Session Password: Ascension

Here is a video if you need help: [How to Create an Account and Register for Camp at LVR](#)

The cost is \$175 / person (under age 4 is free) (Cost also applies if you are tent / RV / trailer camping), which includes the program, meals and lodging. **Scholarships and payment plans are available, please call the church office at 303-794-4636.** You will NOT pay for your registration on the LVR website. Instead, please bring your payment to the church office OR you can pay securely online using [this link](#)

Young Adult Bible Study The Young Adult Bible Study will meet again on August 8, 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 Ginkel: Each Wednesday, Pastor Ginkel leads Bible Study at 10:00 am in Room 106. We are studying the Gospel of John, one chapter a week. All are welcome!

Saturday Afternoon Bible Study We meet on Saturdays at 3:00 pm for our Lifelight Bible study on the book of Acts, with a focus on evangelism. Anyone is welcome to join! Email Curt at Kengle0920@gmail.com

We may face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. The Lord gives us a charitable heart but where should we direct our charitable intent? As you decide where charitable gifts should be aimed, it might be a good idea to have a discussion with a leader from your favored organizations, to see if they have a plan in place for appropriately handling estate gifts. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help you set up those meetings, even attending them with you

if you prefer. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Prayers: For Regina Fetterolf and her family, at the death of her mother, Rosemary Fox. Rosemary died of pneumonia on June 29 at Lutheran Hospital; For Tim Conner, a former member of Ascension, who has pancreatic cancer and will not live long. Prayers for his brother, Patrick, as well. For healing and patience for Linda Finrock, who broke the bone on her little toe in a fall last week. She had surgery and had a small plate and six screws placed on the break, and can't bear weight on her foot for four to six weeks. For Bob Stamp, who has entered home hospice care, and for his wife Carol and their family; For quick and complete healing for Deb Shiflet, who has fractured her kneecap in a fall; For Rita Kratzer, who is at Sky Ridge with pneumonia. She had abdominal surgery last week also; For Heidi Baker, whose housing situation is in transition; For Barb Muirhead, hospitalized with an infection; For Nancy Lugton's sister, Laura, in New Mexico; For Shirley Nichols' mother-in-law, also named Shirley, who has entered hospice; For Rosemary Fox, who is sick with pneumonia; For Jackie Adams' granddaughter, Amy, and her husband Cooper, and their baby who will be born in early August; For Karen Frundt, Ellen Thompson's sister, in hospice care in Texas; For Margo Pasha, undergoing chemo treatments this summer; For Tonya Cronberg; For Janet Parrott; For Starla Moltz; For Larry Nelson, who will have a stem cell transplant for lymphoma, beginning on July 8; For Rick Westra; For Jim Nichols; For the people of Haiti, and for the children living there; For peace in the Middle East and Ukraine; For wisdom and discernment for world leaders; For God to send His Holy Spirit on all believers for strengthening of faith and witness.

Prayers of Thanksgiving For Jim and Lisa Wert's newest grandbaby's birth on May 21 and baptism in Wisconsin this coming Sunday! She was born to Lisa's son and daughter-in-law, Noah and Juliet. Her name is Laila Sun. Jim and Lisa will be present for little Laila's baptism.

Happy Birthday to Melanie Bard, who will celebrate her birthday on July 9!

Flowers on the Altar this weekend are given by Barbara Rutter, to the glory of God and in celebration of her birthday!

<u>Attendance</u>	Service Time	Attendees	
Saturday, 6/28	4:00 pm	56	
Sunday, 6/29	9:00 am	141	
			Total: 197

Online Views (as of June 27) for June 22: 134 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	June 28-29	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$14,000.00	\$364,000.00
Received Amount	\$22,230.00	\$379,364.00

Calendar (Saturday, July 5 – Sunday, July 13):

Sat. (7-5)	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (7-6)	9:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Coffee Under the Trees
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class
Mon. (7-7)		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Tues. (7-8)	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Church Council
Weds. (7-9)	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
Thurs. (7-10)	9:00 am	Foundation Meeting
	1:30 pm	Koinonia
Sat. (7-12)	9:30 am	Congregational Life Meeting
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (7-13)	9:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Coffee Under the Trees
	10:30 am	Adult Bible Study

Crucifixion: “Was Crucified, Died, and was Buried.”

The Crucifixion window transcends time, past and present, joining Jesus’ crucifixion 2000 years ago with lives today.

In the background is the hill of Calvary, outside Jerusalem. Note the three small black crosses. The angles and diagonal lines in the sky show the tremendous emotion, conflict and pain of Good Friday. (Notice the contrast with the peaceful sky in the previous window.)

In the foreground is a larger, more stylized cross (compare this with our processional cross). The IHS monogram is a Latin abbreviation of the Greek word, Ixthus, meaning fish. This is an acronym for Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior, an early Christian symbol.

Around the contemporary altar cross is the crown of thorns. Drops of blood spill into the Communion chalice. The loaf offers bread for the Eucharist. Yesterday’s Calvary is joined with today’s Communion.

