

## GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 11)



**The Festival of Lessons and Carols** The bright season of Advent continues with worship services this Saturday, December 13 at 4:00 pm and Sunday, December 14 at 9:30 am! There will be only one Sunday morning service, featuring the Ascension Chorale, Agape, Youth Praise Band and Gloria Dei Ringers!

**At our second midweek Advent worship** on Wednesday, December 17th, licensed Lay Deacon, Curt Engle will preach. His sermon is titled, "Trusting God." This service, which also begins at 6:30 pm, will use the beauty of Holden Evening Prayer, and Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Prior to the worship an evening meal will be served starting at 5:30. On the 17th the Trustees are hosting their famous Potato Bar.

**Thank you to all that braved the weather** and attended the Advent by Candlelight event. Thank you to Pastor for the special Christmas message and to Mike for the wonderful music.

Thanks to Lisa Wert and the table decorators - everything looked beautiful! Special thanks to sous-chef John Rolling, to my mom and sister for helping, the delicious cookies that were provided and the clean-up crew.

Chuck, Terry, Cathy & Caleb - thanks for staying until everything was cleaned and put away. - Laurie Mullane

### **Patio Project**

The South Patio Redesign project is ready for review. Check out the picture boards in the Narthex and the two YouTube videos with links below. Nothing is set in stone, but we think you will like the new shade structure, the Ascension lettering on the stone wall, and the safer new concrete. Here are the links: [Morning Video](#), [Evening Video](#). (Here's a tip, expand to full screen when starting for better viewing.)

The videos are also available on the Ascension website: [www.alutheran.org](http://www.alutheran.org)

### **December 7th Voters' Meeting Elections - December 7**

This past Sunday, the members of Ascension Lutheran Church met with their semi-annual Voter's Meeting. Fifty-nine folks attended the meeting. During the meeting we heard reports from various staff and chairpersons, set our budget for 2026, elected people to places of leadership and voted on the bell tower area refurbishment.

Pastor John reported that membership now sits at 486 baptized members, 434 of them are communicant members. This is a decline from the totals of 504 baptized and 444 communicants in 2024. In 2025 we have had 14 adult confirmations, 7 adult baptisms and 11 folks transferred to Ascension from other LC-MS congregations. But we also lost 39 members who had become inactive in their membership or who had moved from the area.

Mike Price, our Treasurer, told us that we have a positive financial report for this year, receiving more funds than we have spent. Our budget for 2026 sees a slight increase from \$733,000 to \$737,000. This figure does not include the preschool budget of \$114,000.

We elected Bob Hea as President, Mike Price as Treasurer, Chuck Mielke and Terry Utecht as Trustees, Shelia Beu in Evangelism and Lisa Wert in Education. We thanked Christa Kirschner for serving the last number of years as chair of the Education Board.

Mike Price gave a report concerning the Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation. The Foundation now manages over 1.1 million dollars, using about 5% of the corpus to fund mission projects. In 2025 they funded about \$50,000 in mission works and in 2026 their budget was set for about \$56,000 in projects.

The final major action of the Voting Assembly was to hear the recommendation of the Patio committee concerning the renovation of the area where the bell tower stood. The assembly decided to proceed with the project. The cost for the project is estimated to be about \$233,000. After using some memorial funds, some of the prior year's surplus and funds set aside in "Project Peter," it appears that we will begin a Capital Campaign of about \$100,000. Larry Nisbet agreed to serve as the chair for that committee.

Our next Voters meeting will be on April 26, 2026.

**Mark Your Calendar:** Pastor John's next Adult Instruction / Confirmation class will be on Saturday, January 10, 9:00 to 1:00 and Sunday, January 11, 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

**Many Thanks From The Ladies Guild!**

The Bake and Craft Sale was a big success! We made over \$1,500 to date, and that doesn't yet include support from Thrivent Dollars of (\$1,000) in matching funds! We are SO grateful for your support, your contributions, and your shopping! Monies from last year's event were sent to the following Mission Projects: Lutheran High School, Lutheran Braille Workers, University Chapel-Boulder, Orphan Grain Train, Messiah Lutheran Campus Ministry-Grand Junction, Lutherans for Life, His Little Feet, and Lutheran Valley Retreat. Thanks again, and blessings to all.



**Extended Day Preschool** The Christmas excitement is building here at the preschool and will continue through next week! Everything we are doing this week and next is focused on the Christmaas season. 🎄 Our activities include building real gingerbread houses, creating paper chains for our trees, making gifts, discussing the stable and animals of baby Jesus, singing our songs, and playing outside. The current warm weather is wonderful, though not very Christmas-like. We may need to postpone our planned discussion about snowflakes until January. Enjoy your second week of Advent. ❤ Grace & Peace, Meg Stenman

**Youth (7th-12th grades) are invited to our Christmas party** and lock-in tomorrow night, Dec. 12-13, 7pm-8am! We will be going to play laser tag and bowling. Then, look forward to an evening of Christmas-themed games, crafts, movies, devotion, and treats! Bring a \$5 white elephant gift and your sleeping bag plus pillow! Must RSVP with Stephanie.

**Our annual Christmas caroling to our homebound members** is scheduled for this Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 pm. Share some joy and the love of Christ through song and your presence! Please sign up in the narthex! Thank you!

**HAAT Force** Following our recent cold snap HAAT Force has inventoried their supplies and sent out of their most needed items

- Laundry detergent pods
- Mouthwash (small bottles)
- Razors
- Waterproof Gloves
- Suitcases (gently used is fine!)
- Men's sweat pants (various sizes)
- Small packs - tissues, shower gels, and shampoos,
- Mini dish soap bottles (for hotels with a kitchenette)
- Scrub pads (for hotels with a kitchenette)
- Powdered creamer - for voucher days
- Hot chocolate packets - for voucher days

Place donations in the HAAT Force box. I will deliver them to HAAT Force. Thanks in advance for your generosity! Questions? Contact Ann Kaneko, 720.289.6782 (cell), [kanekoa43@gmail.com](mailto:kanekoa43@gmail.com).

**Prayers Needed!** Pastor Nathaniel Brown and his wife Laura are here from Minnesota, staying in Denver through the holidays, as their baby daughter Talitha recovers from heart surgery at Children's Hospital - Aurora.

- [Here's a link to their Caring Bridge website](#). You need a free account to view updates.

Update from Pastor Brown on 12/5: Talitha is doing well! We made it to the step down unit (CPCU technically) by going up to the 9th floor. Talitha also had her PICC taken out, as well as all of her IV ports. They are rapidly turning down her oxygen to get her back to room air. She has a feeding tube in to work around her temporary vocal cord paralysis, which happens because the nerve controlling the vocal cords is right next to the arch of the heart, which is what they operated on.

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study with Pastor John** is taking a hiatus for Advent and Christmas. We will meet again on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

**New Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel:** The group is now studying 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, focusing on a chapter a week. Please join them each Wednesday at 10:00 am in Room 106.

**Saturday Afternoon Bible Study** Join us this Saturday afternoon, 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](mailto:Kengle0920@gmail.com)

**Young Adult Bible Study** The Young Adult Bible Study will meet again this Friday, December 12, at Jenna and Michael Lawrenz' house. The group is doing a Bible study by Louie Giglio. For more information, please call or email Jenna at 303-913-3512 or [jenna.lindeman@cune.org](mailto:jenna.lindeman@cune.org)

**We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday.**

As we wrap up this year long consideration, we must ponder whether we see our estate plan as an expression of our Christian faith or just giving up on life. To provide continuity in the estate planning process, it is essential to speak with family about your plans, so they can see the blessing prepared. It is equally essential to express to ministry leaders the desires you have for the gifts that will flow to ministry, as you express your faith purpose behind the gift. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in these conversations. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

**Flowers on the Altar** for this weekend are given by Benjamin Dallet, in joyful celebration of his wife Mallori's Birthday on December 13, and their Wedding Anniversary on December 15! Flowers are also given by Bob and Bev Carter, in joyful celebration of their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on December 9!

**Happy Anniversary!** To Glenn and Louanne Isernhagen, who will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Thursday, December 18!

**Prayers:** For Shirley Nichols, at the death of her mother-in-law, also named Shirley Nichols, this past week; Flo Westra's sister-in-law, Annette Hollowell, and her family, at the death of Flo's brother, Bob Hollowell, on December 4; For Alan Backhus' brother, Don Rabe, in San Antonio, who was hospitalized after a fall at home and is retaining fluid in his lungs. For Alan and Dianne Backhus' friend, Diane, with breast cancer. She will have surgery on Dec 16th. For Elaine Rodefeld, in rehab for healing from a broken hip; For Brenda O'Connell, now at Encompass Rehab following surgery at Littleton Hospital for brain hemorrhage; For Jan, friend of Michiko Dunker, with serious health issues; For Tina Kaiser's cousin Hannah, and Hannah's two young sons, at the unexpected death Hannah's husband; For John Klepetka; For Tonya Cronberg; For Jody Tunheim's sister-in-law, Kelly, who has breast cancer; For Gayla and Larry Buethe's grandson, Landon; For Janet Parrott, in hospice care; For Faith Lawson, with cancer; For Jordan Loptien, in treatment for leukemia. For Charlie James Niederbrach; For Michael Lawrenz's grandmother; For Talitha Brown; For all travelers during this holiday season; 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.

<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Service Time</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	
Saturday, 12/6	4:00 pm	63	
Sunday, 12/7	8:00 am	82	
	10:30 am	96	
			<b>Total: 241</b>
Wednesday Advent Worship, 12/10		61	

**Online Views** (as of December 8) for November 30: 171 views.

<b><u>Stewardship</u></b>	December 6-7	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$14,000.00	\$678,000.00
Received Amount	\$20,464.00	\$687,588.00

**Calendar (Saturday, December 13 - Sunday, December 21):**

Sat. (12-13)	8:00 am	Youth Lock-In Ends
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Festival of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion
Sun. (12-14)		<b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b>
	9:30 am	Festival of Lessons & Carols
	2:00 pm	Caroling for the Homebound
Mon. (12-15)	8:30am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (12-16)	8:30am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
Weds.(12-17)	8:30am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	5:30 pm	Advent Meal – Trustees
	5:30 pm	Confirmation
	5:45 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
	6:30 pm	Advent Worship with Holy Communion
	7:00 pm	Ascension Chorale
Thurs.(12-18)	8:30am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	EDP Christmas Program
	1:30 pm	Koinonia
Fri. (12-19)	8:00am	Staff Appreciation Breakfast
	8:30 am	Extended Day Preschool Teachers Work Day – No Students
Sat. (12-20)	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Happy Birthday Jesus Party
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (12-21)		<b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b>
	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Adult Bible Study / Sunday School
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion