

GOOD AFTERNOON!
WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 23)
Merry Christmas!



Christmas Eve Services on Wednesday, December 24:

3:45 p.m. Congregational Carols
4:00 p.m. Family Worship with Holy Communion
and Children's Program
6:45 p.m. Congregational Carols
7:00 p.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

On Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day there will be a single worship service with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

The Church office will be closed on Friday, December 26.

Worship Services this weekend will be Saturday, December 27 at 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m. Please note there will be only one service on Sunday, December 28.

From Phyllis Westra: Thank You! This Christmas, first, I want to thank Jesus Christ for being my Lord and Savior. Thank you to Pastor John for his visits with Holy Communion. I truly appreciate it. Thank you to the Ladies Guild for the beautiful handmade quilt they gave me, which I truly enjoy. Thank you to everyone for the calls, cards and prayers at the passing of my dear son. And finally, thank you to the beautiful families who came and sang carols to me. A beautiful child in their group asked if she could give me a hug, and I said "Yes, and a million more!" She brought me to tears. Thank you so much! *I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

New Year's Eve with Worship followed by a catered meal from Romano's!

Worship will be at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31 followed by the meal. Please sign up in the narthex or contact the office (303-794-4636) office@alutheran.org by Monday, December 29, so we know how much food to order.

Can you help with serving or clean-up after the meal? Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office. Thank you!

When it's Time to Undecorate... we will need a few hands! If you can help, we will meet on Saturday, January 3, beginning at 8:30 am. Thank you!

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.

In Honor of Sanctity of Life Month, Lutherans for Life will be collecting disposable diapers and wipes to donate to Love INC, (Love In the Name of Christ) during the entire month of January. Please see the insert in the Worship bulletin for greater details. Boxes will be placed by the back door and by the LFL exhibit in the narthex. "Wipes and Dipes" is an easy way to support and acknowledge our commitment to support prolife activities in our very own neighborhood.

In particular, size 6 diapers are essential, (no pull ups or opened packages please). We, Love INC, diaper about 50 babies every month. This can amount to over 7,000 diapers and over 14,000 wipes every single month!

As you can see, diaper drives are critical in being able to serve the community in this way. These can be ordered online and sent directly to the church if that is easier or found in local stores. Just think about how necessary for babies and children's health, clean, new undies are.

Thank you for your great generosity and loving care of these needy kiddos. We will accept any financial donations as well to give to Love INC, just mark your memo line or make checks directly to Love INC and put them in my mailbox and I will deliver them.

Love in the Name of Christ, Jude Donovan, Heyjude264@aol.com, 303 902 0344 text.

Patio Project

The South Patio Redesign project was approved by the Voters on December 7. Check out the picture boards in the Narthex and the two YouTube videos with links below. 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

Foundation Update The Foundation board met on Thursday, December 11, and welcomed two new board members: Dennis Lord and Zack Railsback. Both have jumped in with both feet and have accepted roles as liaisons for several of our missions and ministries. At the meeting, we accepted the resignation of Athenia Michel, a longtime member whom we will miss dearly.

Given the current status of the stock market, where we invest most of our funds, we are able to provide a total of \$58,000 in 2026, spread across six world missions, five local missions, our youth mission, our book and material reimbursement program (college students look for the application for the refund in the Foundation box in the narthex or ask at the office), Lutheran High School and Concordia Adopt A Student, with 3% devoted to accounting and the filing of our tax return.

We are thankful for all your generous donations and look forward to a successful 2026.

EDP Update Teaching our preschoolers about the birth of baby Jesus is such an honor. Last week swished by with lots of fun activities and we tied it up with our Christmas Program. The children knew their songs (somehow, it always comes together!) and the parents sang Away In The Manger with us. Afterwards, we celebrated Jesus' birthday with a craft and cookies and chocolate milk. We hope your Christmas is wonderful, beautiful, meaningful, and blessed. ❤️

See you next year! 🎉

HAAT Force HAAT Force has inventoried their supplies and has need of these 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.

Flowers, Flowers! The 2026 Flower weekly signup sheet is located on the bulletin board on the landing just down from the Narthex. Simply fill out your name, dedication for a special event, and write a check for the number of arrangements, each arrangement is \$27.00, the cost for both arrangements is \$54.00, this is the same cost as 2025. If we order roses, we will need to charge a bit more since the cost of roses has gone up, so the cost will be \$60.00 for both arrangements. If you want to share your special event with another person that is perfect – we love to celebrate everyone's special day.

You are welcome to take your donated flowers home after the last service, or you can opt to give them another good deed. Pastor will take the flowers left to the homebound and hospitalized members of our church to brighten their day! You may pay for your flowers using the envelopes located below the sign-up sheet and place it in the weekly offering plate. It is particularly important to mark your check clearly "ALTAR FLOWERS" so the offering counters do not credit it to the General Fund, but to floral budget, the church does not have a floral budget, and all Altar Flowers are made possible by donations. Please remember to pay for your flowers by the Sunday you are dedicating them.

Thank you all for your flower donations and the beauty which they bring to our Church.

Get ready! Starting in January, the youth will be **taking orders** for their famous breakfast burritos fundraiser! Pick up is scheduled for Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8th. The word on the street is that if you buy a burrito, the Denver Broncos will be in the Super Bowl! Funds will be going towards their servant event at LVR, summer of 2026. Thank you for supporting the youth!

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

Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel: Merry Christmas! The group is now studying 1st and 2nd Corinthians, focusing on a chapter a week. They will meet again next Wednesday, January 7 at 10:00 am in Room 106.

Saturday Afternoon Bible Study Join us this Saturday afternoon, at 3:00 pm, for our Lighthouse Bible study on the book of Acts, with a focus on evangelism. Anyone is welcome to join! Email Curt at Kengle0920@gmail.com

Young Adult Bible Study The Young Adult Bible Study will meet again on Friday, January 16, 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

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. As we complete this year, we keep in mind that in Christ, we will never finish but simply transfer into the glorious life the Lord has prepared for us. We never let death have the final word, for Jesus has conquered it. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in putting your life-celebrating plan together. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfn.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Flowers on the Altar for this weekend are given to the glory of God by Ron and Ann Kaneko.

Prayers: For Kathy Valdez, Lee Valdez' wife, with serious health issues; For Lina Cora, Aunt of Dennis and Joyce Lord, who is in the hospital suffering from an intestinal perforation and liver cancer; For Starla Moltz, whose lungs are very weak; For Millie Fitzpatrick, at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs and recovering from pneumonia. She hopes to be released from the hospital before Christmas; For Brooklynn Railsback, who was hit by a car while riding her scooter on Saturday. Fortunately her injuries were not serious, and she is recovering at home. For Karen Engle and her family. Karen's mother, Mary Fergesen, died on December 18; For Eugen Ihly, with severe back problems; For C.J. Earhart, in treatment for cancer; For Judy Bress, recovering from surgery for a fractured hip; For Lois Schmitt, following a heart procedure (ablation) on Monday, December 22. For Dan and Kim McCormick's family, following the death of Dan's father, Bill, on December 21, in Cody WY. Also for Kim's daughter and Dan's stepdaughter, Jules Civilla, (granddaughter of Andy & Mavis Slifka and Nathan & Marlene Eickmann). Jules has a cyst on her brain, pray for successful testing and treatment. For Alan Backhus' brother, Don Rabe, in San Antonio; For Alan and Dianne Backhus' friend, Diane, with breast cancer; For John Klepetka; For Tonya Cronberg; For Jody Tunheim's sister, Kelly, who has breast cancer; For Gayla and Larry Buethe's grandson, Landon; For Janet Parrott, in hospice care; For Charlie James Niederbrach; For Michael Lawrenz's grandmother; 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.

Happy Anniversary! To Larry and Ruth Nisbet, who celebrated their 56th Wedding Anniversary on Monday, December 22! Many Happy Returns!

| <u>Attendance</u> | Service Time | Attendees | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|
| Saturday, 12/20 | 4:00 pm | 67 | |
| Sunday, 12/21 | 8:00 am | 111 | |
| | 10:30 am | 74 | |
| | | | Total: 252 |

Online Views (as of December 22) for December 14 (Curt Engle preaching): 283 views.

| <u>Stewardship</u> | December 20-21 | | Year-to-Date (YTD) |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------|
| Budgeted Revenue | \$14,000.00 | | \$706,000.00 |
| Received Amount | \$44,915.00 | | \$745,726.00 |

Calendar (Wednesday, December 24 - Sunday, January 4):

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|---------------|----------|---|
| Weds.(12-24) | | CHRISTMAS EVE |
| | 3:45 pm | Congregational Carols |
| | 4:00 pm | Family Worship Service with Holy Communion and Children's Program |
| | 6:45 pm | Congregational Carols |
| | 7:00 pm | Festival Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| Thurs.(12-25) | | CHRISTMAS DAY |
| | 10:00 am | Christmas Morning Worship with Holy Communion |
| Fri.(12-26) | | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED |
| Sat. (12-27) | 3:00 pm | Saturday Bible Study |
| | 4:00 pm | Traditional Worship with Communion |
| Sun. (12-28) | 10:00 am | Traditional Worship with Holy Communion |
| Weds.(12-31) | | NEW YEAR'S EVE |
| | 3:00 pm | Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | 4:00 pm | Dinner catered by Romano's |
| | | |
| Thurs..(1-1) | | NEW YEAR'S DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED |
| Fri. (1-2) | | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED |
| Sat. (1-3) | 8:30 am | Undecorating the Sanctuary |
| | 3:00 pm | Saturday Bible Study |
| | 4:00 pm | Traditional Worship with Communion |
| Sun. (1-4) | 10:00 am | Traditional Worship with Holy Communion |