

GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 4)



Worship Schedule

Sunday worship times are 4:00 on Saturday afternoons, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class meet at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday. Join Pastor John for his study of the Book of Matthew!

Our first midweek Advent worship will be on Wednesday, December 10th, beginning at 6:30. At this 35-minute worship Pastor John will preach the sermon titled, "Stirring Things Up". We will use Holden Evening Prayer for our liturgy.

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, 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 10th the Ladies Guild will serve the meal. On the 17th the Trustees are hosting their famous Potato Bar.

Evangelism Committee Meeting

Come join us this Saturday at 9:30 am in Room 106 for an Evangelism Committee Meeting. We are excited to start planning 2026 events. Our neighborhood music event in 2025 was a success. We hope to reach even more neighbors next summer with a contemporary band. Please join us and bring your zeal for the Lord! Let's share it!

Patio Project

The South Patio Redesign project is ready for review and possibly approval at the Sunday Voters' Meeting. 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

December 7th Voters' Meeting Elections- December 7, 12:00 pm

Voters' Meeting Agenda:

- Call to Order & Opening Prayer
- Presentation of the Minutes (April 27, 2025 meeting)
- Pastor's Report
- Treasurer's Report (2025 YTD & 2026 Proposed Budget)
- Reports of Board Chairpersons & Committees
- Elections
- Unfinished Business – Patio Committee Presentation
- New Business – Nominations for Synod Positions
- Foundation Update

- Adjournment
- Closing Prayer

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 I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving...it was so nice to be with family and the weather did not disappoint. This week we are talking about animals who hibernate (the snow was a great visual!) and the Mexican Christmas tradition, Las Posadas. The kiddos are also practicing their Christmas program songs. ❤️💚

Advent is a time of preparation and waiting for our Lord to come again. The preschoolers may not know the "why" of Advent, but they are eagerly anticipating Christmas morning. We invite you to come and see Christmas through the eyes of children. Our program is on the 18th at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. 🎄
Grace & Peace, Meg Stenman

Youth (7th-12th grades) are invited to our Christmas party and lock-in on 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 Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 pm. Share some joy and the love of Christ through song and your presence! Please sign up! Thank you!

Seasonal help for our adult choir! You're invited to join us to sing for our Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve services. Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm.

Heritage Fine Arts Guild - Festive Card Making Party – December 6

Join the Heritage Fine Arts Guild for a joyful day of creativity and connection at our annual Card Making Party.

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2025

Time: 10:00am – 2:30pm

Location: Ascension Lutheran Church, 1701 W. Caley Ave, Littleton

Cost: \$10 (includes pizza lunch)

Register: www.heritage-guild.com

Each year, Guild members and friends gather to handcraft holiday cards that are delivered to local nursing and care homes—spreading cheer through art and heart. We'll start the morning with bagels, coffee, and shared treats, then dive into card making with a wide array of art supplies. Blank cards are provided, and participants are encouraged to bring their favorite materials—markers, paints, glue, stencils, paper punches, scissors, and more. Don't worry if you're missing something—Guild artists love to share! (Please, no glitter.)

After a creative morning, we'll celebrate with a pizza party to admire everyone's beautiful creations. Cost is just \$10, which covers lunch.

Ascension Christmas Families: In December we support families who need a little help in the Christmas season. Forms have been placed in the narthex mailboxes. We need funds to buy presents and gift cards for gifts and for the Christmas meal. Checks should be made out to Ascension and please indicate that the gift is for Christmas Families. For more information, please contact Dana Niederbrach (303.886.7860).

The Poinsettia Ordering Chart is on the landing Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Poinsettias are \$30.00 each this year, the same price as last year. There are **3 Poinsettias still available**. Individuals can dedicate a Poinsettia for the Holiday Season, and the plants can be taken home after New Year's.

Envelopes for payments are located below the ordering chart. Please make sure that you place a check mark next to Poinsettias and note Poinsettias on your check.

On Saturday, November 15, the Grief Support Team at Ascension presented GriefShare's "Surviving the Holidays," a two hour stand-alone workshop with 20 participants, 4 facilitators and 2 helpers. This workshop is designed to help grievers prepare for the Holidays without their loved one.

Participants:

45% of the participants were previous ALC GriefShare "alum,"
30% were referred by Pastor Larson and/or affiliated with Ascension,
20% registered via the GriefShare website,
5% brought/referred by friends.

As always, "it takes a village," so Big Thanks to Anita Baresel who provided a warm and inviting environment with fall decor, delicious morning goodies, and lots of coffee! Big Thanks to Stephanie Roettjer for her video/tech help. Big Thanks to Pastor Larson, Linda Olsen, and Suzy Martin who joined me as small group facilitators.

Please pray especially for our GriefShare participants during this Advent season. The Christ Child brings love, peace, and hope to us all, especially when hearts are grieving. Thank you all for your support of GriefShare at Ascension.

Sherry Hitztaler

Thank you for supporting our youth by purchasing a God's Creation

Calendar! We made close to \$700 which will be matched in funds from the Foundation. The proceeds will help towards our goal of attending LVR next summer for a mission project. Thank you for your generosity! Pick up your calendar at the table in the narthex and if you haven't paid, there will be a payment box available this weekend.

HAAT Force Update A huge THANK YOU for your awesome generosity! Julie Hall, Program Director, is delighted with all your donations. You have done much to increase her supplies. Blessings to you.

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 12/1: *Talitha has a smaller left side of the heart but it is not as small as we previously thought, which is a relief. Talitha's mitral valve and her aortic valve both are within the normal window for size, and they will grow. Surgery will fix her aortic arch, and they will also fix the hole between Talitha's left and right atriums. Honestly, Talitha Grace is living up to her name. By the miraculous grace of God, we are in a much better place than we were. Special thanks to the doctors and nurses taking care of us as well.*

Update from Pastor Brown on 12/3: *Talitha has been extubated, and is now at 50% supplemental oxygen, which is standard for a cardiac baby after they have put a breathing tube in. All in all, she is doing great. The team is watching to see if there are any seizures or other brain issues that happen after surgery. Long story short, Talitha is doing amazing, and we are blown away with how quickly she is recovering already.*

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 1st and 2nd Corinthians, focusing on a chapter a week. Please join them each Wednesday at 10:00 am in Room 106.

Ascension Quilters will meet this Friday, 12/5 at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, all are welcome! Come see what it is all about! Call Jackie Adams for info, 303-798-5161

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, 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

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

The big decision to make is whether an estate plan is merely a legal/financial activity or is it an activity of faith. Estate documents often read and sound very legal. They are. But it is possible for you to insert language in a will or trust that reflects your Christian faith to all who will be benefactors of your estate. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can supply examples to get you going. 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 Gary Selzer, in loving memory of his parents, Oscar and Dot Selzer, on what would have been their 81st Wedding Anniversary.

Prayers: For Brenda O'Connell, following surgery at Littleton Hospital for brain hemorrhage on Sunday, November 30. Brenda is the mother of Colin O'Connell and Erin Aldrich. For Jan, best friend of Michiko Dunker. Jan lives in California and has been having serious health issues since the summer. For Alan and Dianne Backhus' dear friend, Diane Ullom, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will have surgery on Dec 16th. For Gary Winkler, who had a procedure on Wednesday for an irregular heartbeat; For Kamal Mustafa, who will be going back to Iraq for family and personal matters for two months - prayers for his safety; 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 Ken Jarrell, son-in-law of Ed and Gwen Geisler, who has a serious infection following back surgery. Ken will receive IV antibiotics for several weeks; For Bobbie Frink, longtime friend of Barb Muirhead, for health concerns and peace in the family; For Gayla and Larry Buethe's grandson, Landon; For Janet Parrott, in hospice care as her health is declining; For Faith Lawson, with cancer; For Jordan Loptien, great-granddaughter of Don and Marilyn Loptien and Rita Kratzer, in treatment for leukemia. For Al and Madonna Forney's grandson, C.J. Earhart, whose cancer has returned; For Charlie James Niederbrach, grandson of Scott and Dana 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.

Happy Birthday to Millie Fitzpatrick!! Millie will be 104 on Thursday, December 11th. Millie lives with her daughter, Kathleen, near Colorado Springs. She does quite well for one born in 1921!!

Time to rise up as prayer warriors for the women and men in prisons. Prison Fellowship has a program called Grow InPrison. They have 229 small groups in different facilities with 5000 participants in 2024. Specific prayer requests:

That those in the Grow program will see transformation in their life as they turn to our Great Physician, Comforter and Counselor. That they will open both their hearts and minds to Christ and walk in His purpose.

For those who are being released that they will stay faithful to Christ and be witnesses for Him as they find home churches and ministries.

Also, pray for Prison Fellowship to find open doors at new prison facilities and donations to provide Bibles and curriculum. I am so very grateful for your faithful prayers, your dedication to our needs and your walk with Christ through Ascension. Pax Christi, Jude

<u>Attendance</u>	Service Time	Attendees	
Saturday, 11/29	4:00 pm	54	
Sunday, 11/23	8:00 am	96	
	10:30 am	69	
			Total: 219

Online Views (as of December 2) for November 23: 104 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	November 29-30	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$14,000.00	\$664,000.00
Received Amount	\$14,580.00	\$667,127.00

Calendar (Saturday, December 6 - Sunday, December 14):

Sat. (12-6)	9:30 am	Evangelism Committee Meeting
	10:00 am–2:30 pm	Heritage Artists Workshop – Card Making
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (12-7)		SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Adult Bible Class / Sunday School
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Voters Meeting and Lunch
Mon. (12-8)	8:30am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (12-9)	8:30am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
	11:00 am	Hands All Around Christmas Tea
	6:30 pm	Church Council
Weds.(12-10)	8:30am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	5:30 pm	Advent Meal – Ladies Guild
	5:30 pm	Confirmation
	5:45 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
	6:30 pm	Advent Worship
	7:00 pm	Ascension Chorale
Thurs.(12-11)	8:30am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:00 am	Foundation Meeting

Fri. (12-12)	8:30am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Quilters Group
	6:30 pm	Young Adult Group
	7:00 pm	Youth Lock-In
Sat. (12-13)	8:00 am	Youth Lock-In Ends
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Festival of Lessons & Carols
Sun. (12-14)		THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
	9:30 am	Festival of Lessons & Carols
	2:00 pm	Caroling for the Homebound