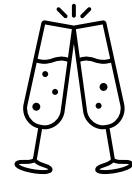


GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 30) *Happy New Year!*

Worship Services this weekend will be Saturday, January 3 at 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, January 4 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study and Sunday School will meet at 9:15 a.m.



Holy Baptism We celebrate together as Juliet Mary Anderson, daughter of Jesse and Jennifer Anderson, is baptized this Sunday at the 10:30 service. Blessings to Juliet and her family!

From the Christmas Families Team: Thank You to the congregation for your donations and willingness to volunteer to help with this program! We helped 10 families and about 35 people this year... a real blessing to those in need! Thank you and Happy New Year! – Scott and Dana Niederbrach

We'll Undecorate the Sanctuary this Saturday, January 3 We will meet at 8:30 am, we appreciate all helpers. Thank you!

On January 2, Tracy Huggins, a member of Ascension, will retire as executive director of the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA). Tracy began working for DURA as a controller in 1991 and became the executive director in 2000. Tracy led major redevelopment projects such as the Stapleton International Airport, Union Station, Lowry, Central Park and many projects in downtown Denver. DURA works with blighted areas to redevelop them into useful purposes. DURA will help in the work of transforming Burnham Yard into the new Denver Bronco stadium. Though retiring in January, she will stay on during the transition period of the first half of the year until a new director is hired. Tracy - Good Work!! Enjoy your retirement.

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.

Time to renew your Lutheran Witness subscriptions Please contact the office ONLY if you wish to CANCEL a current subscription or if you wish to ADD a new subscription. The cost of an annual subscription is \$20.65 (you can place your check made out to Ascension and noted 'Lutheran Witness-2026' in the offering plate). The deadline for changes is January 5! (New subscriptions will begin in March of 2026.)

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.

Read the Bible in a Year – 2026! With an average of 12 minutes a day, you can read the most important book for yourself! Pastor PJ Aarsvold, one of the pastors at Renewal / St. John's in downtown Denver, invites us to engage with the scriptures and improve Biblical literacy by listening along with them to a new podcast, "Renewal Bible in a Year," found on all podcast platforms and at renewaldenver.org/bibleinayear.

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 their servant event trip to LVR this summer, 2026. Basic burritos consist of scrambled eggs, cheese, and hash browns. Additional toppings of green chile and salsa will be made available. \$6.00 per burrito, \$7.00 burrito with sausage OR bacon. Pick up will be on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8th. Order forms are available in the narthex or contact Stephanie at stephanieroettjer@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting our youth!

FAMILY GAME NIGHT! Friday, January 23rd at 6:00 PM! Whether you're young or young at heart, we've got a space for you. Bring your favorite game or come ready to learn a new one as we enjoy an evening of laughter and fun together. Also, bring a snack to share! Prizes will be given out throughout the evening.

Free Mental Health Presentation – Sunday, January 25 You are invited to our next Mental Health Presentation at Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church, 8600 W. 38th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO on Sunday, January 25 at 12:00 noon. There is no charge and lunch will be provided. The event will conclude by 1:30, but our presenter will stay after to answer any questions.

The topic is "When Your Loved One Has Dementia."

Anyone planning to attend should register by contacting Deaconess Sara Smith, dcs.sara3@gmail.com or 513-509-8108 (call or 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

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.

Save the date! VBS is scheduled for June 1-5, 2026. Our theme this year is "Rainforest Falls." Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their Creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study with Pastor John will meet again on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The group is studying the Book of Galatians, please join us!

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 Lifelight 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 live in a “I can do it myself” culture. That has been cultivated by our access to technology. Yet the question is, “Do I need help to create my Christian estate plan?” This month we consider that your estate plan represents the biggest collection of decisions with far more impact than any others in life. To begin with, a good estate plan will include a good attorney, who can take your goals and put them down into carefully crafted, precise documents. Without an attorney, you risk allowing your will to be contested, or making mistakes that could leave something out you wished to do. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can get you ready to meet with your attorney. 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 Tom and Dawn Munson in honor of Dawn's father, Jim Nichols, for his 90th Birthday on January 18.

Happy Birthday to Fern Adams, one of our homebound friends - Fern will be 100 years old on Monday, January 5! Happy Birthday also to Lois Schmitt, who will be 90 on Tuesday, January 6!

Happy Anniversary! and Congratulations to Dave and Anita Baresel, who celebrated 59 years of marriage on December 25!

Prayers: For Judy Koester's sister, Janice, age 91, in Oregon. Janice fell in her home on Christmas Eve and fractured her sternum and her left knee cap. She's in a rehab center for the next 4 months. For Ed Geisler, that the treatment for his infection be effective, and for healing from his skin injuries; For Shelia Beu's brother, Dave Siedschlag. Dave has been in a VA facility for 3 years, and has an infection in his left foot that is not responding to treatment. The doctor wants to amputate to the knee and Dave is refusing. Please pray for wisdom and strength for him and Shelia's family. 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 Eugen Ihly, with severe back problems; For C.J. Earhart, in treatment for cancer; For Kim McCormick'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 Dianne Backhus' brother, Don Rabe, in San Antonio, who has learned through a CAT scan that he has a broken bone, missed by an X-ray 3

weeks ago. Please pray for progress and alleviation of the pain; For Alan and Dianne Backhus' friend, Diane, following a double mastectomy for breast cancer on December 16. Pray that chemo will be unnecessary. 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.

Prayers of Thanksgiving: From Durwin and Lois Schmitt and their family, after Lois' successful heart ablation last Monday, December 22. Lois is doing well and feeling much better!

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Service Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	
Wednesday, 12/24	4:00 pm	289	
	7:00 pm	208	
Thursday, 12/25	10:00 am	65	
			Total: 562
Saturday, 12/27	4:00 pm	69	
Sunday, 12/28	10:00 am	80	
			Total: 149

Online Views (as of December 29) for December 21: 145 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	December 24-25, 27-28		<u>Year-to-Date (YTD)</u>
Budgeted Revenue	\$14,000.00		\$720,000.00
Received Amount	\$24,624.00		\$770,350.00

Calendar (Wednesday, December 31 - Sunday, January 11):

Weds.(12-31)		<u>NEW YEAR'S EVE</u>
	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	3:00 pm	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	4:00 pm	Dinner catered by Romano's
Thurs.(1-1)		<u>NEW YEAR'S DAY</u> 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)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Mon. (1-5)		NO EDP – Teacher Workday
Tues. (1-6)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool

	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
Weds. (1-7)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Pastor John
	5:45 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
	6:30 pm	Ascension Chorale
Thurs.(1-8)	8:00 am	Foundation Meeting
	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (1-9)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Ascension Quilters
	6:00 pm	Youth Movie Night
Sat. (1-10)	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Adult Instruction
	9:30 am	Congregational Life Meeting
	9:30 am	Ladies Guild Board Meeting
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (1-11)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	1:00 – 4:00 pm	Adult Instruction