

GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 15)

Worship Services are Saturdays at 4:00 p.m., and Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School classes are at 9:15 a.m.

The work of a congregation is found in many people who help lead and serve. We are thankful to those who have served their Lord and this congregation in the past years. We especially give our thanks to Christa Kirschner, who has completed her service as Education Board Chair. Those who will help lead our congregation during 2026 are:

Bob Hea (President); David Kaiser (Vice-President); Mike Price (Treasurer); Barbara Rutter (Secretary); Jim Wert (Elders); Lisa Wert (Education); Shelia Beu (Congregational Life); Linda Achziger (Ladies Guild); Chuck Mielke and Terry Utecht (Trustees); Anita Baresel and Bob Hea (Evangelism); Erin Aldrich (Youth)

Ushers Needed for 8:00 Sunday worship services. This is a wonderful way to serve your fellow members and meet new people! Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office at 303-794-4636. Training is available.

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!

Your Evangelism and Congregational Life Boards will be hosting a Welcome Dinner for all those that have joined our church in the last 2 years. The date is Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. We are asking current members (who have been here awhile :) to join us and get to know these newer members better. We are excited that we have 40 plus new members! This will be a meet and greet time. Each new member will have a special table and we ask that you join them and get to know them. This is your time to shine and welcome them to our church. We will have name tags for all and plan a little trivia to help break the ice.



We will provide pulled pork and we ask you to please bring a dish to share. We are hoping you can bring a traditional dish that celebrates your heritage or family bonds. Example: Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, Swedish Meatballs, Pickled Herring, Coleslaw, Mac & Cheese, 3 Bean Salad, Taco Salad, Breads or Puddings, etc. We know you can be creative and look forward to

what you will share. Cake, coffee, and punch will be provided. Please mark your calendar and join us in welcoming new folks to Ascension.

Questions, please contact the committee members; Shelia Beu, Bob Hea, Anita Baresel, Dawn Munson, Janet Heinz, or Kathy Wucherpfennig.

Ascension Church Patio Project – 2026 Fundraising Appeal

In the most recent Happenings article you learned about the proposed upgrade for the old Bell Tower area, and how a plan has been developed to revitalize the space. Look carefully at the visuals in the narthex or go to the Ascension website to see the proposed designs. Then, with this mild weather we are experiencing, walk out to the area and visualize how beautifully it will come together.

Now please, prayerfully consider supporting this beautiful upgrade to our Ascension campus. More than half the projected project costs will be covered through reserved funds and memorial contributions, leaving a fundraising goal of \$100,000 for us to finish this wonderful upgrade to our grounds, an area for future events and fellowship where we share the love of Jesus Christ with friends, neighbors and each other.

Psalm 133:1 “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.”

Let us work together to complete this wonderful outdoor area where we will work together, meet together and share in the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As you consider your donation, small or large, make your donation payable to Ascension and denote the funds for “Project Peter.”

Sincerely, the Capital Campaign Grounds Upgrade Committee: Bob Hea, Art Gordon, Kim McCormick, Chuck Mielke, Terry Utecht, Kathleen Wucherpfenning

Larry Nisbet, Campaign Committee Chair

Ascension Foundation Update Your Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation currently supports six mission projects that are “local,” along with World missions. One of them is HAAT Force. The support that the Foundation provides to HAAT Force is separate from what the congregation does. Christopher Hornbaker became president of the HAAT Force board of directors last summer. He came to the Foundation meeting last week and gave us a much better understanding of what HAAT Force does. You know some about the severe weather sheltering, but their mission statement also states, “To aggressively address the needs of people experiencing homelessness in the South Metro Denver area and provide life-saving assistance in a collaborative response to homelessness.” Along with sheltering as many people as their funds allow, HAAT Force is in contact with other groups, such as Movement 5280 Englewood and the Hornbuckle Foundation, to offer help to people beyond a night’s shelter. HAAT is also able to offer counseling, help with finding medical care and additional housing options.

Another local area of support is Ascension's Youth group. The Foundation will match what the Youth get from the Super Bowl burritos sale. Enjoy those burritos! 

Extended Day Preschool This week, our students are learning all about arctic animals. We have shared several fascinating facts, such as how the arctic hare changes colors for camouflage and that a narwhal's ten-foot tusk is actually a tooth. We also learned that the snowy owl hunts during the day, the polar bear has black skin and hollow fur, and that a puffin was once recorded carrying 62 fish in its beak.

On another note, we have been very fortunate to have very few reported illnesses in our preschool since August. Thanks to our rigorous hand-washing routines and the parent's thoughtfulness in keeping children home when they are not feeling, we have remained largely germ-free. We hope to maintain this healthy environment through the end of the school year.

Finally, I hope you will all be cheering for the Broncos this Saturday!   

Grace & Peace, Meg Stenman

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.

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.

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.

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).

"Welcome to GriefShare!"

The GriefShare 13-Week support group at Ascension for 2026 begins Tuesday, February 3, and ends, Tuesday, April 28. This year, for the first time, we are meeting Tuesday afternoons, from 1:30-3:30 pm. GriefShare programs are Christ-centered and designed to help all grievers, regardless of religious affiliation.

At each weekly meeting, a topic particular to grief and grieving is introduced, explored, and discussed. Topics range from "Anger" to "Loneliness" to "Self Care," and more. Each session follows the GriefShare format: Excellent videos featuring professionals; SmallGroup discussions; and Guided Workbook exercises.

At our weekend services this weekend (1/17 and 1/18), GriefShare flyers will be included in the Service programs; please share this flyer with anyone (neighbors, friends, relatives, colleagues, etc.) who may be grieving a loved one's death and could benefit from this very successful program. Additional information about the GriefShare program can be found on the small table in the narthex. Feel free to take the "GriefShare; Hope and Healing after the death of a loved one" for your own use or to give to an interested party. Our best advertising is "Word Of Mouth!"

Contact griefshare.org/findagroup to register or contact Sherry Hitztaler (hitz2@comcast.net) for more information. All who grieve the loss of a loved one are welcome - whether that loss is recent or years ago.

And, above all, please pray for our upcoming session and all who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Linda Olsen and Sherry Hitztaler; Co-Facilitators

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." PSALM 34:18

HAAT Force Thanks to donations like ours, HAAT Force was able to shelter 60 people during last week's snowy weather. At this time, their needs are:

- Adult winter gloves
- Mens' pants
- Blankets
- Adult winter coats
- New mens' and womens' underwear
- Single serving boxes of cereal
- Small bottles of dish soap

Place donations in the HAAT Force box. Questions? Contact Ann Kaneko, 720.289.6782 (cell), kanekoa43@gmail.com.

Flowers, Flowers! The 2026 Flower weekly signup sheet is 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 is \$54.00, the same cost as 2025. If we order roses, we will need to charge a bit more, 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 can take your flowers home after the last service, or you can opt to give them away. Pastor will take the flowers to homebound and hospitalized folks 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 important to mark your check "ALTAR FLOWERS" so the offering counters do not credit it to the General Fund. 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!

The Mt. Olive Wanderers is a travel group led by Christine Krueger, a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Aurora. The group originated as the Grace Wanderers about 30 years ago. The Wanderers offers bus trips to different parts of the country two to three times a year. The travel price includes bus transportation, hotel stays, all breakfasts and most dinners. Entry fees to museums and other attractions are also included. The traveler will need to cover a tip for the driver, costs for lunch and other miscellaneous costs (souvenirs, etc.). The tours are organized through Diamond Tours (www.diamondtours.com).

Trips planned for 2026 include Charleston, SC from April 17 - 27th and Mackinac Island, MI September 12 - 20th. Space is available for both trips and can be held with a refundable \$75 deposit per person.

Please feel free to contact Christine for more information: chrisnglenn@comcast.net, 303-359-6555

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.

Ascension Quilters meets each Friday in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 12:30 pm, all abilities for more information please call Jackie Adams, 720-877-0162

Wednesday Evening Bible Study with Pastor John meets Wednesdays 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: The group is studying 1st and 2nd Corinthians, focusing on a chapter a week. You are welcome to join them each Wednesday at 10:00 am in Room 106.

Schedule Change: Saturday Afternoon Bible Study Please note: Curt and Karen will be out of town this Saturday, January 17th. We will meet again on January 24th, 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, February 20, at 6:30 pm 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. If you are planning gifts to family, it is a wise idea to discuss these with family, imparting Godly encouragement for faithful stewardship. A ministry gift might include a discussion with current ministry leaders. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help facilitate these discussions. 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 Dick and Joanne Castleman, in joyful celebration of their Wedding Anniversary!

Prayers: For Eugen Ihly, who will have surgery on Wednesday, January 28 to remove a cyst on his spine; For Sue Calhoun, John Romano and their family, at the death of their brother, Nick Romano; For Carmen Gutierrez, following colon surgery on Tuesday, January 6; For Patti Heggen, as she has a scan on January 15 following cancer treatments over this past year; For Larry Koldeway, hospitalized for pneumonia at Swedish; For Joyce Gallagher's cousin Sheila, and her family, at the death of Sheila's daughter, Misty; For Nancy's Lugton's brother-in-law, Jay Harris, for successful treatment of cancer in the lymph nodes and healing of issues in his kidneys; healing, encouragement and peace for Nancy Lugton's friend, Tom Stensland, who has prostate cancer. For Starla Moltz, whose lungs are very weak; For C.J. Earhart, in treatment for cancer; For Jules Civilla, for successful treatment for the cyst on her brain. For Dianne Backhus' brother, Don Rabe, in San Antonio, for continued healing of

the fractures in his pelvis; For Tonya Cronberg; For Jody Tunheim's sister, Kelly; For Gayla and Larry Buethe's grandson, Landon; For Janet Parrott, in hospice care; For Michael Lawrenz's grandmother, Anita; For the people of Haiti, and for the children living there; For peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and Venezuela; 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: We rejoice with Scott and Dana Niederbrach and their family, as their baby grandson, Charlie James Niederbrach, has been released from the hospital! Charlie was born 12 weeks early, on October 8, and weighed only 2 lbs. 8 oz. at birth. He is doing well and now weighs more than 8 pounds! Praise God!

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Service Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	
Saturday, 1/10	4:00 pm	61	
Sunday, 1/11	8:00 am	105	
	10:30 am	70	
			Total: 236

Online Views (as of January 13) for January 4: 134 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	<u>January 10-11, 2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date (YTD)</u>
Budgeted Revenue	\$13,000.00	\$26,000.00
Received Amount	\$7,960.00	\$18,768.00

Calendar (Saturday, January 17 - Sunday, January 25):

Sat. (1-17)	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (1-18)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
Mon. (1-19)		MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
		No EDP, Church Office Closed
Tues. (1-20)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
Weds. (1-21)	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.(1-22)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (1-23)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Ascension Quilters
	6:00 pm	Family Game Night
Sat. (1-24)	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion

	5:30 pm	New Member Dinner
Sun. (1-25)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion