

## **GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 22)**

**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.

**Welcome New Members!** This weekend we will welcome these new members of Ascension at all three worship services: Elizabeth Wilhelm, Carla Kuhlman, William H. Conner, Jr., Tony Olimpio, Nicole Henry Becker, Gary Gaudreault, Karen Winckler, Bill Winckler, Andrea Winckler, Clint Winckler, Jackson Winckler, Will Winckler, Bill Brookhart, Miriam Brookhart, and Edward Brookhart.

### **Year End Report 2025**

At the beginning of 2026 our congregation has:

493 baptized members, of those 439 of them are communicants.

We averaged 220 people in attendance for our weekend services.

We had over 9,200 views on our website and YouTube Channel – an average of 177 views weekly.

During 2025 we had:

14 adult confirmations

7 adult baptisms

6 youth/children baptized

5 youth confirmed

9 deaths

6 members transferred from Ascension to other churches

11 members transferred in from other churches

37 members were removed due to inactivity or moving from the area.

### **Missions Projects**

During 2025 our congregation received \$74,000 more than we had expected. Because our congregation encourages tithing, we also practice it is our gifts to mission partners and programs. 10% of all monies given in regular offerings are given to mission partners and programs. When the Elders meet on January 27 we will distribute over \$7,400 to various missions. If you have a suggestion for a Christian charity or mission work you can contact one of the Elders or speak with Pastor. The generosity of our congregation will bless many people.

**Souper-bowl Sunday!** On February 1 and February 8, celebrate your favorite football team by stocking the shelves at IFCS Food Bank! They could really use it this time of year – please bring cans of SOUP to the box in the narthex. Integrated Family Community Services helps families with their food bank, financial assistance, school supplies, holiday grocery boxes, and recreation center vouchers. They appreciate your generosity!

## **Columbarium News**

The Ascension Columbarium is a memorial garden located on the southeast side of the church. Built 20 years ago, there are three tiled walls with niches that church members can purchase as a final resting spot for themselves and loved ones. We perform 'inurnments', a Pastor led ceremony after a memorial church service, where we commit the ashes to their chosen niche. Single and couple niches are available. The fees are \$2,300 for a couple; \$1,900 for a single, all inclusive. If you visit the Columbarium you will see many niches have been reserved by your fellow church members, and some of our loved ones reside there. If you would like to reserve a niche, or have questions, please call me, David Clausen, at 303-995-5560.

**Do you have a Thrivent Insurance Policy?** If you do, you may have "Choice Dollars" that can be directed to a church or charity. You are able to do this at no cost to you - it is a benefit of your policy. If you would consider directly some, or all, of your "Choice Dollars" to Ascension, we will use them wisely. Thank you.

**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](mailto:stephanieroettjer@gmail.com)  
Thank you for supporting our youth!

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT!** This 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.

**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 this 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**

Thank you for any and all donations you have made to the Patio Project so far! We appreciate all donations, large and small, as the project goes forward. Please keep up your prayers, and let's continue working toward our goal of completing the beautiful patio project that we have planned!

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 like-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 past Tuesday, we used the snow to discuss weather and seasons. It is wonderful to connect our lessons back to Genesis; I hope the children learn to love the truth of "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" as much as "once upon a time..."

As we reach the mid-year point, Shelly and Melina have introduced new learning tools and rearranged the classroom to help the children apply the concepts they have learned. It is a joy to watch these children grow as new ideas take root, friendships form, and personalities blossom. Truly, "God saw that it was good."

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.

**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](http://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](mailto:dcs.sara3@gmail.com) or 513-509-8108 (call or text).

**"Welcome to GriefShare!"**

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*  
Isaiah 41:10

PLEASE help us enlist more participants in this important program. Right now, we are in need of MORE participants to make this program viable. GriefShare flyers are available on the small table in the Narthex. Most of our participants sign up because a pastor, friend, relative, colleague, or neighbor suggested it. Please share this flyer with anyone who may be grieving a loved one's death and could benefit from this very successful program. 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!”

The GriefShare 13-Week support group at Ascension for 2026 begins Tuesday, February 3, and ends, Tuesday, April 28. Meetings are at Ascension, Tuesday afternoons, 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 “Fearful and Overwhelmed” to “Loneliness” to “Self-Care,” and more. Each session follows the GriefShare format: Excellent videos featuring professionals and grievers; SmallGroup discussions; and Guided Workbook resources and exercises.

Contact [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://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.

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

Thank you for your prayers and your help in finding more participants, Linda Olsen and Sherry Hitztaler; Co-Facilitators

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”* Matthew 5:4

**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](mailto:kanekoa43@gmail.com).

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, focusing on a chapter a week. You are welcome to join them each Wednesday at 10:00 am in Room 106.

**Saturday Afternoon Bible Study** We will meet this Saturday, 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](mailto:Kengle0920@gmail.com)

**Young Adult Bible Study** The Young Adult Bible Study will meet on Friday, February 20, at 6:30 pm at Jenna and Michael Lawrenz' house, for their 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 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. Estate planning is more than a task such as filing your income taxes online. Your attorney, financial advisor, insurance representative and tax advisor all have a responsibility to help you plan well. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help make sure all the communication is working with all these people, also making sure that your goals are being respected. Contact Jason Jones at [Jason.Jones@lfnd.org](mailto:Jason.Jones@lfnd.org) or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

**Flowers on the Altar** for this weekend are given to the glory of God by Elizabeth Wilhelm.

**Prayers:** For Carol Shepherd, recovering from bronchitis; For Mark Nielsen, who was rear-ended in a car accident in Arkansas; For Roger Koester, who will have hip replacement surgery on Tuesday, February 3; For Eugen Ihly, who will have surgery on Wednesday, January 28 to remove a cyst on his spine; For Larry Koldeway, recovering from pneumonia; 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; 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 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.

<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Service Time</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	
Saturday, 1/17	4:00 pm	36	
Sunday, 1/11	8:00 am	113	
	10:30 am	75	
			<b>Total: 224</b>

**Online Views** (as of January 20) for January 11: 130 views.

<b><u>Stewardship</u></b>	<b>January 17-18, 2026</b>	<b>Year-to-Date (YTD)</b>
Budgeted Revenue	\$13,000.00	\$39,000.00
Received Amount	\$38,545.00	\$57,313.00

**Calendar (Saturday, January 24 - Sunday, February 1):**

Sat. (1-24)	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	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
Mon. (1-26)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (1-27)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
Weds. (1-28)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 am	Memorial Service – Nick Romano
	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.(1-29)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (1-30)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Ascension Quilters
Sat. (1-31)	8:00 am – 3:30 pm	Heritage Fine Arts Workshop
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (2-1)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion