

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 29)

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.

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.

Help Needed – Altar Guild The Altar Guild is in need of members to help with Sunday's 8:00 am services. This would include cleaning up communion after the service, taking a count of how many received communion and then setting up communion for the next service. One on one help is available until you feel comfortable on your own.

Please contact Charmaine Rohde for more information. 303-618-8889

February is a big month for big things. Valentine's Day is February 14. This year Ash Wednesday is February 18. But did you know that three of our members have milestone birthdays in February?

Gloe Ann Leino turns 90 on Tuesday, February 10;

Durwin Schmitt turns 90 on Sunday, February 15;

Andy Slifka turns 90 on Monday, February 16.

Congratulations!! May God grace you fully, daily.

Missions Projects

On Tuesday, January 27, the Board of Elders was able to distribute more than \$7,400 in additional mission gifts to 11 different ministries. These gifts were made because our congregation gave over \$74,000 more in offerings than we had expected. Our congregation encourages tithing and we practice it in our gifts to mission partners and mission projects. The mission projects (one-time annual gifts) ranged from \$650.00 to \$923.00. The recipients were:

Love, In The Name of Christ (Littleton)
North Littleton Promise
Lutherans for Life - Denver Chapter
Lutheran Family Services
Boy's Home of Mt. Pleasant
Concordia Center for the Family
People of the Book Ministries (PABLO)
Resurrection in the City Lutheran Church, Denver
Evergreen Lutheran Church and School, Detroit
The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society
University Lutheran Hills Lutheran Church, Denver

The Elders also designated our mission partners for 2026. We will be sending mission monies of slightly more than \$68,000 to these ministries:

The Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Lutheran High School
Lead-A-Child
Mission Experience-Haiti
Renewal Church - Denver
Together in Mission (Dan and Joan Jastram - Missionaries in Japan)
Lutherans for Life
Lutheran Family Services

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!

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!

LAST DAY TO ORDER BURRITOS: February 1st!

Another way to pay! Go to our Ascension website (www.alutheran.org), pay online under "Resources."

FAMILY SERVANT EVENT! February 1st from 11:30-12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall! Pizza provided for lunch. Come serve as a family together to bless others! We'd love to see you there!

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.

Updated Directories are available in the narthex, please check your contact info and let us know if you have any further updates. Thank you!

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.

Ascension Church Patio Project – 2026 Fundraising Appeal

We just completed a beautiful Christmas season and in spite of the many challenges of daily life through Jesus we are challenged to keep moving forward. For the Ascension family the new year calls us to support our Church through our yearly pledge, committing ourselves to steady attendance, Bible study to help in the support of our wonderful Pastor /staff, on-going missions, youth activity and now the development of our patio area. 2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV) "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." We will need \$100,000.00 to complete the remodel of the old bell tower/patio area, which will enhance the grounds for multiple uses. Please take time to look at the pictures of the planned design and prayerfully provide what you can to Ascension - Project Peter, which will be used to pay for this project, to complete it this spring. Watch the fund thermometer in the Narthex to keep track of the fundraising effort for the patio Church front area.

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

Larry Nisbet, Campaign Committee Chair

Extended Day Preschool This week we have been discussing the weather. Snow, rain, thunderstorms, tornados, hurricanes, wind...all in all, I think Colorado is a pretty safe place to live. Most of our kids liked summer best because they got to do fun things like swim, play outside, and wear shorts. The classes are reviewing their letters and

numbers, mixing colors, being very helpful and kind with their friends. It's fun to hear about playdates that are made outside of school. It's all part of growing up. 😊

"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

The GriefShare 13-Week support group at Ascension for 2026 begins Tuesday, February 3, and ends, Tuesday, April 28. Meetings are at Ascension Lutheran Church, 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. Our sessions begin with an excellent video on the weekly topic, followed by small group discussions, and enhanced with guided exercises and additional resources in participants' workbooks. There is no charge for the workbooks but donations are gladly accepted.

February topics are:

- 2/3 - "Is This Normal?"
- 2/10 - "Your Grief Journey"
- 2/17 - "Loneliness & Sadness"
- 2/24 - "Self-Care"

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. Feel free to drop in for a session that appeals to you to see if you are comfortable with our setting.

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.

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.

Saturday Afternoon Bible Study We will meet this Saturday 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 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

We live in a "I can do it myself" culture. Sometimes we might be tempted to think a Christian estate plan is just a collection of documents (will, trust, POA). However, we need to look deeper into the factors influencing a good plan. An automated will or trust generator may not be able to capture family nuances pertaining to inheritance. Hiring legal counsel to make sure these issues are addressed is pursued. To prepare for working with an attorney, your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can help. 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 Nancy Lugton, in honor of Jackie Muldoon's birthday.

Prayers: For Joan Antonnen and her family, at the death of her sister, Judy Lesch, in Madison, Wisconsin on Sunday night, January 25; For Doc Williams older sister, Susan, who has entered hospice care; For Zack Phillips, Melanie Butler's son; For Roger Koester, who will have hip replacement surgery on Tuesday, February 3; For Eugen Ihly, recovering from 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.

<u>Attendance</u>	Service Time	Attendees	
Saturday, 1/24	4:00 pm	61	
Sunday, 1/25	8:00 am	88	
	10:30 am	58	
			Total: 207

Online Views (as of January 27) for January 18: 158 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	January 24-25, 2026		Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$13,000.00		\$52,000.00
Received Amount	\$5,641.00		\$62,954.00

Calendar (Saturday, January 31 - Sunday, February 8):

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	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Mon. (2-2)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (2-3)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
	1:30 pm	GriefShare Support Group
Weds. (2-4)	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.(2-5)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	1:30 pm	Koinonia
Fri. (2-6)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Ascension Quilters
Sat. (2-7)	9:30 am	Youth Burrito Making

	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (2-8)		SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY
		Pick up Your Burrito Order!
	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion