

GOOD AFTERNOON!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (January 8)

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.

Mark Your Calendar: Pastor John's Adult Instruction / Confirmation class will be this Saturday, January 10, 9:00 to 1:00 and Sunday, January 11, 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Circle 1 - Altar Guild Just a reminder that the 2026 sign-up sheet is in the Sacristy. Thank you.

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)

Ascension Church Patio Project – 2026 Fundraising Appeal

In 2024, the Board of Trustees removed the deteriorating bell tower for safety and financial reasons. This left a vacant area previously used for outdoor gatherings, such as our popular “coffee under the trees” events. In 2025, the Patio Committee, under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, developed a plan to revitalize this space. The Voters approved both the project and the funding at the recent December Voters' Meeting. Visuals of the proposed design are available in the narthex and on the Ascension website. [Morning Video](#), [Evening Video](#).

The total project cost is approximately \$235,000, which covers design fees, removal of outdated materials, and new construction. Over half of this amount has already been secured through reserved funds and memorial contributions. The remaining fundraising goal is \$100,000.

We invite you to prayerfully consider supporting this important enhancement to our church grounds. Contributions of any size are appreciated and will help us create a welcoming space for future events and fellowship as we share the love of Jesus Christ with friends and neighbors. If so moved, 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

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!

Extended Day Preschool It was so nice to get back to school and see all the cute little faces that we missed over Christmas break. And it was really nice to get back into a routine again. We heard and saw Christmas treasures and that was pretty much our day on Tuesday. Our themes switched to winter and snow...we have big hopes for the weather today and tomorrow!

Our Bible story this month is NOAH'S ARK. That is a favorite of all, young and old(er). The teaching possibilities are endless...counting, sorting, patterns, types of animals, etc. This month we are going to start discussing (and showing) kindness, what it means, and how Jesus was kind to everyone. Some time will be spent on why we have the 19th off for Martin Luther King Jr., and why he is still relevant.

We won't have any football excitement until next weekend but we can still send out positive and winning vibes to our Broncos...have a great weekend! 🏈

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.

Brown Bag Lunch & Bible Study with Pastor Larson

You are invited to join Pastor John for a Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study on Thursday, January 15 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Ladies' Guild will

provide dessert, coffee and tea. Please remember to bring your brown bag lunch, your mites, your Bible, and most importantly, a friend!

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 griever, regardless of religious affiliation (or lack of). 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 respected health-care professionals, ministers, psychologists, and everyday griever;
- Small group discussions that follow the video and allow participants time to share, support, and apply the new information to their grief journey;
- Guided workbook exercises, filled with valuable information and exercises to help participants navigate their own personal grief journey.

Statistics recently released from the national GriefShare office indicates that there are over 15,000 groups, operating in 8,847 churches with 90,000 leaders! Over 2.4 million people checked out the GriefShare website in the last year.

Please 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.

PLEASE share this information with anyone (neighbors, friends, relatives, colleagues, etc.) who may be grieving a loved one's death and could benefit from this very successful program. Please pray for our upcoming session and all who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Linda Olsen and Sherry Hitztaler are the Co-Facilitators for Ascension's GriefShare Support Group and are happy to answer any questions. Linda and Sherry are thankful for the support of Pastor Larson, our Church Council and the people of Ascension in this valuable ministry.

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
PSALM 34:1

HAAT Force Thanks to all who have donated so much to HAAT Force. They are most grateful. At this time, their biggest needs are for:

Gloves - adult M or L
Tea bags
Ground coffee

The tea and coffee are used when their guests gather to get their motel vouchers. They are provided with a meal and snacks. 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 now 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 for the next two Saturdays, so the group will not meet January 10th or 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 this Friday, January 9, 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. But what is the value of meeting with an LCMS Gift Planning Counselor if I already plan on meeting with an attorney? The answer is, that your counselor can assist you in getting organized, thinking through your goals and becoming specific about them, and encouraging you to spend time considering who you might choose for a personal representative, trustee or the one named in your power of attorney documents. This decision should be carefully made, not rushed. Prayer should be included. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor

can help you get started now. 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 Dave and Carol Zeller, in joyful celebration of their 54th Wedding Anniversary on January 8!

Prayer Chain: When you have a need for prayer, praise for answered prayer or desire for an anonymous prayer, we have more than 55 members who will pray for you and yours. Email your request to Jude Donovan anytime at heyjude265@aol.com. You can also email Jude if you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain.

Prayers: 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 Elizabeth Wilhelm's sister Mary; 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 Judy Bress, who may be going home from rehab soon; For Rachel, daughter of Shelly, a friend of the congregation. Rachel has been having seizures; For Joyce Gallagher's cousin Sheila, and her family, at the death of Sheila's daughter, Misty; For healing, encouragement and peace for Nancy Lugton's friend, Tom Stensland, who has prostate cancer. For Judy Koester's sister, Janice, age 91, in a rehab center in Oregon as she recovers from injuries after falling on Christmas Eve. For strength and peace for Shelia Beu's brother, Dave Siedschlag, who has had his left leg amputated to the knee. For Starla Moltz, whose lungs are very weak; For Eugen Ihly, with severe back problems; 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 healing and alleviation of pain from a broken bone; For Alan and Dianne Backhus' friend, Diane, that chemo will be unnecessary. For Tonya Cronberg; For Jody Tunheim's sister, Kelly; For Gayla and Larry Buethe's grandson, Landon; For Janet Parrott, in hospice care; For Charlie James Niederbrach; 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: Thanks and praise to God from Mavis Slifka's family, for healing Mavis from her cancer! She has made it through about two years of cancer treatment and we pray that her scans will continue to show no cancer in the coming years!

<u>Attendance</u>	Service Time	Attendees	
Wednesday, 12/31	4:00 pm	129	
Saturday, 1/3	4:00 pm	55	
Sunday, 1/4	8:00 am	97	
	10:30 am	87	
			Total: 239

Online Views (as of January 5) for December 24: 156 views.

Stewardship	December 31		Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	n/a		\$720,000.00
Received Amount	\$4,145.00		\$774,495.00

Stewardship	January 3-4, 2026		Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$13,000.00		\$13,000.00
Received Amount	\$10,808.00		\$10,808.00

Calendar (Saturday, January 10 - Sunday, January 18):

Sat. (1-10)	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Adult Instruction
	9:30 am	Congregational Life Meeting
	9:30 am	Ladies Guild Board Meeting
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (1-11)	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
	1:00 – 4:00 pm	Adult Instruction
Mon. (1-12)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (1-13)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Church Council
Weds. (1-14)	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
	5:45 pm	Heritage Fine Arts Guild Meeting
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
	6:30 pm	Ascension Chorale
Thurs.(1-15)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	11:30 am	Ladies Guild Bible Study & Brown Bag Lunch
	1:30 pm	Koinonia
Fri. (1-16)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Ascension Quilters
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