

GOOD AFTERNOON! *Blessed Lent!* **WHAT'S HAPPENING (February 19)**

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 Season of Lent During the Lenten season you are invited to worship each Wednesday through March 25. We have worship at 11:30 in the morning and 6:30 in the evening. Prior to the evening worship a supper is served by one of our boards or organizations from about 5:00 until 6:15. Our Lenten Theme this year will be "I Love to Tell the Story: The Story of God's Deliverance in Exodus." Sermon titles for Lent are:

February 25 "Names," Exodus 3-4

March 4 "From Bad to Worse to Best" Exodus 5-11

March 11 "A Bunch of Lies but a Greater Truth" Exodus 14-15

March 18 "Bread From Heaven" Exodus 16

March 25 "Lent = Love" Exodus 20

Family Lenten calendars are now available for pick-up to help your family reflect and prepare during this time leading up to Easter! Available at the Youth and Family Ministry board in the north entryway.

The 2025 Annual Report for Ascension is now available, copies are in the church narthex. Thank you to all who contributed.

Tell Your Friends! The Concordia Nebraska A Capella Choir, directed by Dr. Kurt von Kampen, has included Ascension in its Spring 2026 tour throughout Wyoming, California, Nevada and Colorado, and they will be here at Ascension on Sunday, March 15 during the 10:30 worship service! This internationally-renowned choir has been joining congregations in worship for over 87 years. Members are chosen by audition and represent most academic disciplines. The choir will sing a variety of choral works by composers such as J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Felix Mendelssohn, Gerald Finzi, and David von Kampen. What a wonderful addition to our Lenten worship!

Youth and Parent meeting on Sunday, March 1st after the late service (around 11:30am) in room 106! We will be discussing the Easter breakfast fundraiser as well as our summer mission trip to LVR. Pizza provided. See you there!

Seasonal help needed! Join us in choir as we prepare our special music for Lent and Easter. Rehearsals will be after the evening midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays, starting on February 25th from 7:05-8:00pm in the music room. Thank you!

First Lent, then Easter...then our Faithbook, Our Faith 14, after His Ascension! Let's begin to pray now as we get started on the 2026 edition, our 14th edition of this beloved booklet. You and Your story matter...to God, to you and to us. We begin to develop this by asking each of you to join us in praying that God will bring to mind how much a part of your life HE really is. We collect these stories and publish them to read between Easter and the Ascension. Please listen carefully to the Lord's leading, as you

write a 400-550-word story that tells of a time or situation that God used to bless or heal you, answered prayers, give you hope. Sign up begins now by emailing me at Heyjude264@aol.com. or signing up on the list on the narthex bulletin board. We will need all of you to help fill the pages. Please email that you will write a story NOW, then plan to send your FAITH Story to me by March 5 or sooner. I will be glad to interview you and help you write if you like. Call me to discuss it at 303-972-0873. With God's help and yours, this booklet can bless us and glorify God. Your story for His Glory! Thank you for your prayers and stories, Jude Donovan

Ascension Church Patio Project – 2026 Fundraising Appeal

Please take time to look at the pictures of the planned design and prayerfully provide what you can to Ascension - Project Peter, to complete the project this spring. Watch the fund thermometer in the narthex and the Stewardship section of Happenings 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 Wucherpfening

Larry Nisbet, Campaign Committee Chair

Extended Day Preschool Tuesday was a big day at preschool. It was picture day! Cute outfits, hair curled and slicked back. The kids smiled big and were absolutely adorable. The Lunar New Year started this week...the year of the Fire Horse (look it up, super interesting). We are also waiting for Ms. Shelly's first grandchild to be born. There is finally snow in the mountains...that is cause for celebration! Now, if we can only get some moisture down here. Yesterday we had chapel and Pastor John explained Ash Wednesday in such a way the kids understood. Even though most of Easter is difficult for a four-year-old to understand, they know that Jesus died to save them. Thank God! ❤️ Grace and peace, Meg Stenman, Preschool Director

“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 continues through Tuesday, April 28. Meetings are at Ascension Lutheran Church on Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-3:30 pm. GriefShare programs are Christ-centered and designed to help all grievers, regardless of religious affiliation.

Next Tuesday, February 24, our topic will be “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 participants: Barb, Chris, Geri, Kerrie, Libby, Mary and Mike, Mary, Susan, Vanessa and all who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Pray for our Grief Support Team: Pastor John, Linda, Suzy, Dawn, and myself that we can fully support our participants on this grief journey, "From Mourning to Joy," through the love of Christ. Thank you, Linda Olsen and Sherry Hitztaler; Co-Facilitators

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

HAAT Force HAAT Force sends thanks for your awesome generosity. Our warm weather has provided a break for them to assess their needs. Here's a list of their current needs:

- Ziplock bags - quart or gallon, any brand
- Single serve packets of cereal
- Shelf stable single serve meals - Hormel Compleats and similar
- Shelf stable single serve milk, white or chocolate
- Men's and women's new underwear, all sizes
- Small bottles of hand sanitizer
- Small bottles of dish soap
- Hygiene wipes
- Adult size gloves
- Adult winter jackets
- Hot Hands hand warmers

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 have a 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

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. Sometimes we don't know the possibilities of things we could do, especially on our own. Your Ascension Gift

Planning Counselor can show you those gifting opportunities. 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 joyful anticipation of the arrival of her first grandchild, Baby Muldoon!

Prayers: For the family and friends of Judy Bress and Adeline Newth, who each died on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Judy died peacefully at her home, and Adeline died in Beatrice, NE, having earlier entered hospice care; We lift up Naomi and Ken Price and family as her father, Phillip Rose, a retired Air Force colonel, died on February 12. Also, please pray for Breezy Lenz and her family to be comforted and at peace as they grieve the loss of Mason, little brother and son, who passed away after a long battle with a heart transplant; For Viola Raasch's brother, who has brain cancer; For Barb Muirhead, who has breathing issues; For Doc and Christy Williams and their family, at the death of Doc's sister, Susan; For Carmen Gutierrez, who has broken a bone in her foot; For Charlie Brown, Susan Firth's brother-in-law in PA, following his cardiac catheterization procedure on February 16; For Jaclyn Warren, that her health be fully restored and that she be protected from future issues; For Michael Zehnder, for relief from ongoing neck pain; For successful chemotherapy treatment for Michele Yowell, with B cell lymphoma cancer; For Norm and Linda Finfrock's niece, Rachel Bohlmann, for strength as she goes through her cancer treatments. For Kealan Cornell, 20-year-old son of Shawn and Chandra Cornell, who will have a procedure of his heart on Friday, February 20; For Eugen Ihly, following surgery on his spine; For Starla Moltz; For C.J. Earhart, in treatment for cancer; For Tonya Cronberg; For Janet Parrott, in hospice care; For peace in Haiti, 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, 2/14	4:00 pm	51	
Sunday, 2/15	8:00 am	90	
	10:30 am	58	
			Total: 199
Ash Wednesday, 2/18	11:30 am	62	
	6:30 pm	111	
			Total: 173

Online Views (as of February 17) for February 8: 208 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	Feb. 14-15, 2026	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$13,000.00	\$ 91,000.00
Received Amount	\$9,186.00	\$115,920.00
Project Peter 2026		\$ 4,083.00

Calendar (Saturday, February 21 – Sunday, March 1):

Sat. (2-21)	8:30 am - 3:00pm	Heritage Fine Arts Workshop
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (2-22)		1st SUNDAY IN LENT
	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	1:00 pm	Memorial Service for Mary Fergesen
Mon. (2-23)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (2-24)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
	1:30 pm	GriefShare Support Group
	7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
Weds. (2-25)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	11:30 am	Lenten Worship
	5:00-6:15 pm	Lenten Meal
	5:30 pm	Confirmation Instruction
	5:45 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
	6:30 pm	Lenten Worship
	7:05 pm	Ascension Chorale
Thurs. (2-26)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Fri. (2-27)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Ascension Quilters
Sat. (2-28)	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (3-1)		2nd Sunday in Lent
	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	11:30 pm	Youth/Parent Meeting re: LVR Retreat