

GOOD AFTERNOON! *Blessed Lent!* **WHAT'S HAPPENING (March 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.

Pastor John will be gone to celebrate Grandparents Day in the Minneapolis area this weekend. He leaves on Thursday, March 19, and returns to the office on Tuesday, March 24. Pastor Kelly Crabbe will be conducting the services and teaching the Bible Class while Pastor is gone.

The Season of Lent Next Wednesday, March 25, we will have our last Wednesday Lenten Services for this year. Our Lenten Theme is "I Love to Tell the Story: The Story of God's Deliverance in Exodus." We will 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. The title of Wednesday's sermon will be "Lent = Love," from Exodus 20.

Holy Week Schedule: Worship services for Palm Sunday weekend, March 28-29, will be at their normal times. The Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2. Good Friday worship will begin at 7:00 on Friday, April 3. On Saturday, April 4, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m. Please note, there will be no 4:00 service on Saturday, April 4. Easter Sunday Worship will be at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., and will feature the Ascension Chorale and Gloria Dei Ringers!

From 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on Easter morning, come and enjoy a delicious Easter Breakfast served by our youth! There will be a freewill offering to support the Youth Mission Trip this summer.

The Memorial Service for Judy Bress, who died on February 18, will be Thursday, March 26 at 11:00 am. A meal will follow the service.

Palms and Lily ordering charts are on the landing Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Palms are \$25.00 each, 12-6" Lilies are \$20.00 each, and 4-8" Lilies are \$30.00 each.

We have ordered 4 Palms and a total of 16 Lilies for the Church. Individuals can dedicate either a Palm or Lily. Lily plants can be taken home after the last service on Easter Sunday.

Envelopes for payments are located below the ordering chart. Please make sure that you place a check mark next to Palm/Lily and note either Palm or Lily on your check.

From HAAT: Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force As we all know, winter was warm and there were few times that HAAT Force had vouchering.

Julie Hall, Program Director, writes -

"Our team has been brainstorming ways to support our clients through the end of the season, especially if we don't get the chance to voucher again. We would like to offer resource days at Spirit of Hope. These days would be very similar to a voucher day, we just wouldn't be offering hotel rooms. But all our other resources (breakfast, hot

lunch, clothing bank, hygiene room, frozen meals etc.) would be available to them. We would really love volunteers to support this effort. We are looking at Friday March 27 and all the Fridays in April. Timing would be similar - set up at 9 am and then serve clients from 10-12."

If anyone would like to volunteer to help out on one of these Fridays, please contact Julie Hall - jhall@haatforce.org

Thank you to Everyone who assisted in preparations and attended last Sunday's visit from the A Capella Choir of Concordia University – Seward; it was an amazing experience for all of us! Your support and prayers have been appreciated!

Prayers needed! Received from Rev. Mike Paulison, Mission Experience – Haiti: "Our school and orphanage in Haiti, God's Garden, has been attacked. What we learned today is that the gangs often switch troops around like police. Recently a new group of gang members have moved into our area. They decided to attack God's Garden. They beat up four of our guards. They asked where our guns are, but we don't have any there. They then took an evaluation of all the things that we have on site. They said they want things like the large generator. They said they will call tomorrow and tell us what they want. Prayers needed. Please share this prayer request. I am more than willing to give them possessions. We are praying they spare God's Garden, Grace Academy and our staff."

Our Easter egg hunt for church, preschool, and neighborhood families will be on Saturday, April 4th! *Thanks to everyone who donated pre-filled eggs, we now have plenty! We appreciate your generosity and support!*

A Dice Game for All! Mark your calendars for our annual Bunco Night tomorrow night, Friday, March 20th at 6:00 PM! Don't know how to play Bunco? No problem...we will teach you! Bring a favorite snack to share, drinks and pizza will be provided. Childcare available but please RSVP ahead of time with Stephanie. See you then!

Extended Day Preschool A little green Irishman visited preschool this week. He was a little naughty and made a mess of the classrooms. We have amazing kids who quickly worked together to get the classrooms back in ship-shape in no time. 🍀

Since next week is our Spring Break we had chapel with Pastor John again this week. He talked about Easter and why we celebrate the death of Jesus. I hope these children hold on to the truth...Jesus LOVES them so very much that He died for their sins. That simple truth will give them great comfort throughout their lives. ❤️ Grace and peace, Meg Stenman, Preschool Director

The Ascension Foundation Board met on March 12 and approved funding for St. John's church in Salt Lake City under the aegis of our local LCMS Rocky Mountain District. The church in SLC is hoping to secure a new pastor this spring. Attendance and membership is low and with a new pastor, the mission is to increase membership. Our funding will be designed to aid in their evangelism to attract new members.

We also were pleased to see how well our youth performed on the Super Bowl Burrito sale, which netted them over \$4000. Adding our \$3500 donation, the youth are well on their way to fully fund this summer's trip.

Other encouraging news came from Chikondi Malawi, a mission we have viewed less as a Christian mission and more of a mission of mercy for the children in one of the poorest African countries. The treasurer of Chikondi wrote in a January letter: "every weekday afternoon, 60 girls in 4th and 5th grade gather to complete homework, read, and engage in Christian Education and scripture memorization." What a wonderful spiritual addition this is to the Malawian mission.

The Foundation has been incredibly blessed by our Lord and our congregation as we continue to spread the Gospel throughout the local community and the world.

Ascension Church Patio Project

It would be wonderful to begin the project that has been so beautifully designed to enhance our outside patio area, knowing full well that it is going to take \$100,000.00 to complete but pulling together we can get this done. Now please, prayerfully consider supporting this beautiful upgrade to our Ascension campus.

During this Lenten season as we look forward to what God provided – Easter and that astonishing gift to us. 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". Let us get this project going and completed this spring.

Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Blessings,

The Capital Campaign Grounds Upgrade Committee: Bob Hea, Art Gordon, Kim McCormick, Chuck Mielke, Terry Utecht, Kathleen Wucherpfenning Larry Nisbet (Campaign Committee Chair)

"Welcome to GriefShare!"

The GriefShare 13-Week support group at Ascension for 2026 is underway, and will end 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.

March topics are:

3/24 - "Grief and Your Household"

3/31 - "Grief and Your Friendships"

Above all, please pray for our participants: Barb, Geri, Kerrie, Libby, Mary and Mike, Mary, Susan, Vanessa, Richard 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. When I told our group last week that they are in the prayers of our congregation, they were all thankful for your prayers. We are too!

Thank you, Linda Olsen and Sherry Hitztaler; Co-Facilitators

Please email me (hitz2@comcast.net) or call the church office if you are interested in joining us.

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

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.

Register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/alcvacationbibleschool>

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 Friday, April 10, at 6:30 pm at Jenna and Michael Lawrenz' house, for their Bible study by Louie Giglio. For more information, contact Jenna: 303-913-3512 jenna.lindeman@cune.org

We live in a "I can do it myself" culture. The truth is that with creating a Christian estate plan, we need an entire team, to assist us to make sure that our plan is well grounded. It may very well be that part of your planning has included insurance. Those insurance needs change during different eras of life. Past insurance plans to guard against potential disasters, might now provide great inheritance opportunities for family, or even a charitable gift. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in conversations with your insurance representative to make sure your insurance policies are coordinated in your plans. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Flowers on the Altar this weekend are given by Nancy Lugton, in joyful celebration of her daughter Emilie Muldoon's birthday!

Prayers: For Gail Raether and her family, and for the many friends of Lois Kreye, who died on Monday, March 16 in Minnesota; For Michael Lujan at the death of his uncle; Also for Michael and his wife Lisa, whose have had to temporarily leave their home due to a water leak; For Carol Haeffele, in hospice care; We pray along with the students and staff at Concordia University-Seward as they grieve for their friend and fellow student who died in a car accident earlier this month, and we pray for healing and hope for the others who were injured in the accident; For Steve and Joyce Brom; For Lisa O’Neal, who was hospitalized this week for an infection; For Ed Geisler, improving after an infection; For Rev. Bob Seible’s niece, Sandy Wynn, as she recovers from surgery; For healing and strength for Anita Baresel, recovering from back surgery; For Henry Peepgrass, who is doing better at Orchard Park Rehab; For relief from pain for Mike Zehnder and his nephew Nick; For Jaclyn Warren, that her health be fully restored and that she be protected from future issues; For Michele Yowell, C.J. Earhart and Jim Nichols, as they go through cancer treatments; For Tonya Cronberg; For Janet Parrott, in hospice care; For wisdom and discernment for our leaders, that we might have peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Haiti, and Venezuela; For God to send His Holy Spirit on all believers for strengthening of faith and witness.

Prayers of Thanksgiving Anita Baresel is glad to report that her surgery on March 12 went very well! She is now home from the hospital and continuing to recover her strength. She is happy and grateful for everyone’s prayers.

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Service Time</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	
Saturday, 3/14	4:00 pm	46	
Sunday, 3/15	8:00 am	32	
	10:30 am	243	
			Total: 321
Wednesday, 3/18	11:30 am		
	6:30 pm		
			Total:

Online Views (as of March 17) for March 8: 151 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	Mar. 14-15, 2026	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$13,000.00	\$143,000.00
Received Amount	\$8,006.00	\$162,107.00
Project Peter 2026	\$2,775.00	\$ 19,508.00

Calendar (Saturday, March 21 – Sunday, March 29):

Sat. (3-21)	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Heritage Fine Arts Workshop
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (3-22)		5th 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
Mon. (3-23)		SPRING BREAK NO Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (3-24)		NO Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
	1:30 pm	GriefShare Support Group
	7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
Weds. (3-25)		NO 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
	7:15 pm	Ascension Chorale
Thurs. (3-26)		NO Extended Day Preschool
	11:00 am	Memorial Service for Judy Bress
Fri. (3-27)		NO Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Ascension Quilters
Sat. (3-28)	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (3-29)		PALM SUNDAY
	8:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion