

GOOD AFTERNOON! *Blessed Lent!* **WHAT'S HAPPENING (March 5)**

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.

Spring Forward this Weekend! Please remember to set your clocks *FORWARD* one hour this Saturday night, March 7th :)

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.

Our Friend and Fellow Member, Lee Valdez, is mourning the loss of his wife, Kathy, who died on Thursday, February 26. Lee and his family are in need of assistance for Kathy's burial expenses. If you would like to make a contribution, please write a check to Ascension with "Valdez Burial" on the memo line. Thank you in advance!

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:

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 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 and in the narthex.

Dear Members of Ascension, the legislature in Colorado has begun conversation about legalizing prostitution in our state. Please contact your representatives in the state house and senate asking them to vote against this sinful legislation.

More info about this bill: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB26-097>

Find your Colorado Representative here <https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>

Pastor John

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!

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!

It's time to start thinking about our Easter egg hunt for church, preschool, and neighborhood families on Saturday, April 4th! We're needing donations of pre-filled eggs. We'll have empty eggs and bags available starting this Saturday for you to take home, fill, and return. Or you can just buy already pre-filled eggs from the store. Please return by April 3rd. We appreciate your generosity and support. Thank you for your help!

A Dice Game for All! Mark your calendars for our annual Bunco Night on 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!

Whose Book is this? It's YOURS! Your story, your answers, your experience YOUR relationship with God...it's all YOURS! In the Gospel of John, we are told that we are to be Christ's witnesses and testify for Him....and this is a wonderful way to do it. Is Jesus truly alive and still working in your spirit? I still need YOU to fill several pages. How can I help YOU share God's journey with you to bless others? Just let me know you are writing then send your story to me.

GUESS WHAT???? Can YOU believe March 5 is next week? That's when our faith stories are due so they'll be ready in time. Just email Heyjude264@aol.com with your story, questions or other help for our Faith Book. Thank you. Pax Christi, Jude

Your Congregational Life Board continues to help spread the Gospel within our congregation. We are identifying new members and helping them toward full participation within the church. We recently had a New Member Dinner and we hope that helped you get to know our new members and share something about yourself with them. The weather was terribly cold that night but we had 28 new members attend and had a total of about 66 people at the dinner. It was a fun night with delicious food and fellowship. Our Welcome Center continues to thrive with a new monthly fresh look and handouts of bookmarks, small gifts, mints, and items for children. Our 10:30 Greeter program have people greeting at the door welcoming members and guest. Our Prayer Chain continues to thrive with 55 people praying for people's needs. We host every other month a Ladies' Brunch Outing at a local restaurant and we hope you can join us soon. We want to meet the needs of our members so let us know what you need. We always welcome new ideas or thoughts for improvement. Some ideas we are looking at are an outing to Littleton Town Hall Art Center, and bowling. These are some ideas that were shared. You are welcome to attend a board meeting or join our board. Our next meeting is Saturday, March 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Questions, please contact Shelia Beu at sheliabeu@yahoo.com.

Extended Day Preschool Yesterday was our 100th Day of School! We celebrated with a pizza party and everyone brought 100 of something for show-and-tell (100

buttons, pennies, Cheerios, marshmallows, etc.). We all counted aloud 100 times 15 students (that's a lot of counting!). Today we had Parent/Teacher conferences. We love telling parents how amazing their children are and that they are ready for kindergarten in August...woo hoo!

Have a wonderful weekend...and don't forget to "spring forward"! 🕒 Grace and peace,
Meg Stenman, Preschool Director

Ascension Church Patio Project – 2026 Fundraising Appeal

It won't be long until we can begin having coffee and treats, after the morning service, "under the trees" as we called it! This social gathering was in the area where the old bell tower once stood.

The Church Council approved the remodel of this area but we will need \$100,000.00 to complete the project, which will enhance the grounds for multiple uses.

Please take time to look at the pictures of the planned design / remodel and prayerfully provide what you can to Ascension--Project Peter, which will be used to pay for this project.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

In advance, Thank You for whatever you can provide!

Moving forward in Christ,

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 Lutheran Chorale is pleased to bring you The Passion of the Lord through the music of Dana Mengel. These are truly beautiful original compositions by this Lutheran composer.

The concerts are scheduled for Sunday, March 8, 2026:

2:30 p.m. at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 11500 E. Iliff Avenue, Aurora, CO
We recommend parking in the lot at 11453 E. Wesley Avenue.

6:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2100 Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, CO

Concerts are free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

We hope to see you there! - Christine Krueger, Media Coordinator, The Lutheran Chorale

"Welcome to GriefShare!"

Our GriefShare Support Group just finished its first month; nine sessions remain with nine participants. I am amazed at the power of the Holy Spirit that envelopes us with the Lord's care and support.

The GriefShare 13-Week support group at Ascension for 2026 began Tuesday, February 3, 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:

3/10 - "Anger"

3/17 - "Regrets"

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 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

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.

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 Lighthouse 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, March 13, 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. 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. Being tax-wise is essential in an estate plan so that you are caring for the family you love and ministries you care about. This can require that you talk with your accountant/tax preparer, to advise you, based on your current tax realities, and what impact a charitable gift today or in the future will have. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can get you started thinking about this topic, helping you to know what questions to ask your tax advisor. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Prayers: For Dianne and Alan Backhus and their family, at the death of Dianne's brother Don Rabe, on Sunday, March 1 in Texas; For Lee Valdez and his family, at the death of his wife Cathy; For Anita Baresel, who will have back surgery on March 12; For Henry Peepgrass, retaining fluid in his lungs; For renewed strength for Caroll Haeffele; For Wayne and Shelia Beu's cousin, Keith Celestine, and for his wife, Diane for strength following Keith's open heart surgery on Wednesday, Mar. 4; Also for Wayne and Shelia's friend, Connie Steffen, who is having heart afibrillation and will have her heart shocked back into rhythm on Thursday, May 5; For Viola Raasch's younger brother Al, who has brain cancer; For strength and peace of mind for Diana Gaide, in treatment for muscle weakness; For Sherry Hitztaler and her family, as they mark the 5th anniversary of Sherry's husband Dave's passing; For 5-year-old Ian Lujan, healing from surgery on his face following an accident; 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, Rachel Bohlmann, and Jim Nichols, as they go through cancer treatments; For Tonya Cronberg; For Janet Parrott, in hospice care; For wisdom and discernment for world leaders, that we might have peace 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! From Joan Antonnen: My granddaughter Lauren Dunbar and her husband, Marc, gave birth to their first child in Austin, Texas on February 26 -

this made me a Great Grandmother :) Prayers, please for baby Madison Emily Dunbar. She is a healthy beautiful baby - we are so blessed!

We rejoice with Troy and Shelly Gray in the arrival of their first grandson! Maceo Estuardo Leal (pronounced Mosseo) was born Tuesday, February 24, and was 6 1/2 lbs and 19" long. Mom and baby are doing great. Glory to God and Blessings to little Maceo and his family!

<u>Attendance</u>	Service Time	Attendees	
Saturday, 2/28	4:00 pm	69	
Sunday, 3/1	8:00 am	100	
	10:30 am	88	
			Total: 257
Wednesday, 3/4	11:30 am	37	
	6:30 pm	75	
			Total: 112

Online Views (as of March 3) for February 22: 153 views.

<u>Stewardship</u>	Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2026	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$13,000.00	\$117,000.00
Received Amount	\$11,401.00	\$135,976.00
Project Peter 2026	\$875.00	\$ 15,058.00

Calendar (Saturday, March 7 – Sunday, March 15):

Sat. (3-7)	9:30 am	Congregational Life
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (3-8)		3rd Sunday in Lent
		DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
	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. (3-9)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (3-10)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
	1:30 pm	GriefShare Support Group
	6:30 pm	Church Council
Weds. (3-11)	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. (3-12)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:00 am	Foundation Meeting
Fri. (3-13)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	12:30 pm	Ascension Quilters
	6:30 pm	Young Adult Group
Sat. (3-14)	3:00 pm	Baptism – Charlotte Michel
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Communion
Sun. (3-15)		4th 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 & Concordia University A Capella Choir
	11:45 am	Choir Lunch