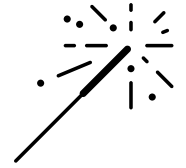


**GOOD AFTERNOON!  
WHAT'S HAPPENING (July 2)  
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!**



**Summer Worship Schedule** Worship services this weekend will be on Saturday at 4:00 pm and 9:00 am on Sunday. Adult Bible Study begins at 10:30 am on Sundays.

**COME CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEKEND!**

The United States is celebrating its 250th Independence Day on July 4, 2026, marking the Semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence. The milestone is being commemorated across the country through several official programs and festivities. At Ascension this weekend on both Saturday and Sunday, we are marking this historic event with a special order of service, readings, prayers and hymns appropriate for a national celebration of God's providence throughout our history. Diana Gaide will play a special rendition of "America" on the piano by Bill Wolaver. Mike Zehnder will play organ music fitting for an Independence Celebration and together they will play an organ and piano duet by the famous duo Nielsen & Young entitled "Hymns of God and Country." Pastor Alb will preach on the topic, "Finding Rest for Your Souls." It's a great day to use as a special invitation to a neighbor or friend to join us in worship!

**An Update From Pastor John**

First of all, I miss you. It is most difficult for me to be away from you, not knowing the things happening in your lives.

I appreciate the time that you have given me that I may work on my marriage with my dear wife, Marilyn. I thank Pastor Alb for preaching and conducting services, for Mike Zehnder for providing pastoral care during this leave, and for Dawn Munson running the day-to-day events of the church. So many of you, both staff and members, have used your time and skills during these days. Thank you.

During these initial weeks Marilyn and I have experienced both the hardest moments and the best moments. Jim Wert, our Head Elder, when meeting with us said, "When you pull off a scab, it hurts." He was right. We have pulled off a number of scabs in these past weeks and they have hurt. But there has been healing to those wounds, as well.

A verse that has been helpful to us has been, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) We can't solve our issues without Him. We need both humility and faith and hope. God is working in us. Thank you for your love and patience.

Pastor John and Marilyn Larson

**During Pastor John's leave of absence**, Pastor Larry Alb is the main preacher, he will conduct worship services and teach the Sunday morning Bible Class. The Board of Elders, along with Curt Engle and Jenna Lawrenz, will visit the home bound. Mike Zehnder (1.480.861.5000) is available for pastoral emergencies. Pastor John will return on August 8.

**Church office hours** are:

8:00am – 3:30pm Monday through Thursday

8:00am – 1:00pm on Fridays. *The office will be closed Friday, July 3.*

Our email is [office@alutheran.org](mailto:office@alutheran.org), phone is 303-794-4636.

**The Memorial Service for Lois Kreye** will be at 10:30 am this Saturday, July 4, with a reception to follow.

**Psst... Rev. Michael Zehnder is celebrating 50 years in Christian ministry!** Our wonderful Director of Music and Ministry, Rev. Mike Zehnder, will be celebrating his 50th year in the Ministry on Wednesday, July 15! Since he joined us in 2017, Mike has set a consistently high standard of servant leadership as our primary organist and musician, worship service coordinator, Agape Praise Band leader, guest preacher, and many other functions, in loving service to our extended Ascension family. We will have a card basket in the narthex this weekend and next, if you would like to congratulate him on five decades of excellence in Christian ministry!

**PROJECT PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND:**

Our playground is in need of some refurbishing. Can you help it "grow" with some new toys?

A wish list has been created to purchase

3 Tricycles

3 Little Tikes Cozy Coupes

6 playground balls

1 Picnic Table

2 Scooters

2 Sandbox Toys

Look for a "garden" of pictures of these items with suggested donation amounts in the Narthex over the next several Sundays! Feel free to "pick" one or two! Envelopes are provided for you as well. Place cash or check inside, along with the item/s you have "picked". All envelopes should be placed in Lisa Wert's mailbox or given to Dawn in the church office. Checks should be made payable to Ascension Lutheran Church. Please write Preschool Playground on the memo line.

**Evangelism: Vitalant Blood Drive on July 25th:**

As you've heard, the Board for Evangelism is sponsoring a Vitalant Blood Drive on Saturday, July 25th, from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm in the Church Music Room. Please come and give the gift of life to someone in need. You may sign up using this QR code (*use the camera on your phone to focus on the image, then it will take you to the Vitalant website*) or put your name, phone number, and email address on the sign-up sheet at Church. Dawn or a Board member will be happy to input your information into the Vitalant website for you. We all know



someone that lives today because faceless strangers donated blood for them. Let us donate for a faceless stranger in critical need. The Board thanks you in advance.

### **Ladies Brunch!**

**WHEN:** MONDAY, July 13, 2026 AT 11:30 A.M.

**WHERE:** TOAST RESTAURANT (2630 Belleview Ave. Ste. 100, Littleton)

**WHY:** SOME GOOD FELLOWSHIP AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL

We would love to have you join us for a brunch at Toast Restaurant on Monday, July 13 at 11:30 a.m. Delicious items like Bourbon Praline French Toast, Omelets, Burritos, Biscuits & Gravy, or luncheon special like Monte Cristo, Reuben, Triple Decker Club Sandwich or Cobb Salad. Something for everyone.

Please make a reservation if you would like to attend no later than by Friday, July 10. Please contact Shelia Beu by contacting her by texting 720-202-4739 or email, [sheliabeu@yahoo.com](mailto:sheliabeu@yahoo.com).

**Lutherans for Life** is joining other prolife ministries to repeal the codified amendment to our Colorado Constitution, 2025, permitting any abortion, for any and all reasons, at any time during the pregnancy. This current constitution is not aligned with Christian, Scriptural or Lutheran teachings. The only thing political about this moral and spiritual issue we are called to address are the political games people play! But these are not just political games, this is a spiritual war!



As we are now in the signature gathering phase of "Repeal 79", a direct repeal of the abortion amendment from the state Constitution, do we as the body of Christ have the resolve to get this done? The nation is watching.

LFL, a/k/a Jude Donovan, will be gathering signatures for the next several weeks. All registered voters are encouraged to sign this petition. Signing is only to get this proposal on the November 2026 ballot and does commit you to vote for the proposal.

**I would so welcome anyone to join me** in gathering signatures. I will be at the services the weekend of July 11-12, but will have the petitions with me starting this weekend.

Let us fight for our babies, all babies and their Moms and Dads. This is the first step toward ending a holocaust in Colorado. THEY need YOU...and your signature on the petitions NOW! Pax Christi, Jude Donovan

### **HAAT Force: Short List of Summer Needs for Homeless**

New Mens Underwear

Shelf Stable meals like Hormel

Breakfast Options like individual cereal and oatmeal packs

*You can drop these items off in the box in the narthex, thank you in advance!*

**\*\*\*New Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel:** Next Wednesday, Pastor Ginkel's Bible Study Class will have a special lesson on Revelation 21 titled, JERUSALEM, THE GOLDEN. We will study the beautiful aspects of Jerusalem where we will live with the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, countless holy angels, and all the saints forever. Exciting? Yes! One Lesson. Everyone will receive printed hand-outs. Classroom 106 at 10:00. Light refreshments. We invite you to attend. Bring a friend who needs to be uplifted. The group is studying 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, focusing on a chapter a week. You are welcome to join them each Wednesday at 10:00 am in Room 106.

**Update: Saturday Afternoon Bible Study** Please note, we WILL meet this Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. We meet each Saturday at 3:00 pm, for our Lifelight Bible study on the book of Acts, with a focus on evangelism. Email Curt at [Kengle0920@gmail.com](mailto:Kengle0920@gmail.com)

### **"Coffee Under the Trees"**

Please sign up to provide coffee and donuts or other treats after the Sunday morning worship service. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship! Thank you to everyone who has "adopted" a Sunday so far! Dates still available are August 30 and September 6.

**Online Auction to Benefit Mission Experience in Haiti** Rev. Mike Paulison and Mission Experience are requesting donations of various items for their Online Auction. (Please make all donations a minimum of \$50.00 in retail value). Please send a photo, description, dimensions, estimated value, as well as your name / contact info, suggested opening bid and minimum bid (if needed) to [sarah@missionexperience.org](mailto:sarah@missionexperience.org). Submissions are needed by the end of September.

### **Church Patio Project**

The south side Patio Project is moving forward. We have completed the Engineering work and our shelter has been ordered. Delivery is anticipated in October. Demolition of the existing patio along with two of the three rock walls will be undertaken shortly before the shelter arrives. We are working with the general contractor to procure the letters, address numbers, and the Missouri Synod cross to mount on the southernmost rock wall that will remain.

The capital campaign continues to move forward as well. We hope to raise \$100,000 of new funds for the project. Donations to date total \$33,513. The Patio Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee thank you for your donations and your prayers.

**Ascension Quilters** are taking a break for the rest of the summer. For more information please call Jackie Adams, 720-877-0162

**In a world where self-help is celebrated,** why does enlisting the support of an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor make sense? Many of us tend to procrastinate on big, important projects. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor can outline all the steps you need to accomplish in order to be successful in putting your plan together. They can then keep you on track in moving from one step to another, with friendly encouragement. Contact Jason Jones at [Jason.Jones@lfnf.org](mailto:Jason.Jones@lfnf.org) or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

**Flowers on the Altar** this weekend are given by Jim and Lisa Wert, in joyful celebration of their Wedding Anniversary!

**Prayers:** For our country, the United States of America; For Pastor John and his wife Marilyn; For Alan and Dianne Backhus' son, David, and for his family. David has been hospitalized since June 30 with unknown heart issues and a possible TIA. For some reason his heart rate is very low but blood pressure is high. His spirits are good and the family is strong in their faith. For Mavis Slifka, who will be having another surgery, yet to be scheduled; For Michael and Jenna Lawrenz and their family, at the death of Michael's grandmother; For Norm Hermsmeyer, for a successful heart ablation procedure on Thursday, July 2; For Pastor Ginkel, and for his granddaughter, Emma; For Richard Kositzke's grandson, Tony, who is not able to see his doctor until August; and for Richard's friend, Barb Westra; For Bill Burchett, scheduled for gallbladder surgery on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>; For Gayla Buehe; For Rebecca Nahale; For Don and Jeannette Nelson's grandson, Ethan; For Starla Moltz, with ulcers and breathing issues; For Hank Peepgrass; For Mike Price; For Mike Zehnder; For Michele Yowell and C.J. Earhart, as they go through cancer treatments; For wisdom and discernment for our leaders, that we might have peace in the Middle East and Ukraine; For God to send His Holy Spirit for strengthening of faith and witness.

<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Service Time</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	
Saturday, 6/27	4:00 pm	65	
Sunday, 6/28	9:00 am	129	
			Total: 194

**Online Views** (as of June 29) for June 21: 169 views.

<b><u>Stewardship</u></b>	June 27-28, 2026	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$13,000.00	\$338,000.00
Received Amount	\$20,978.00	\$369,629.00
Project Peter 2026	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 34,738.00

**Calendar (Saturday, July 4 – Sunday, July 12):**

Sat. (7-4)		<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>
	10:30 am	Memorial Service for Lois Kreye
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (7-5)	9:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Coffee Under the Trees
	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
Tues. (7-7)	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
Weds. (7-8)	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
Thurs. (7-9)	9:00 am	Foundation Meeting
Sat. (7-11)	9:30 am	Congregational Life Meeting
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study

	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (7-12)	9:00 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Coffee Under the Trees
	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	12:00 pm	Baptism of Myles Luke Christensen