



# *Ascension In Action*

Ascension Lutheran Church

February 2016

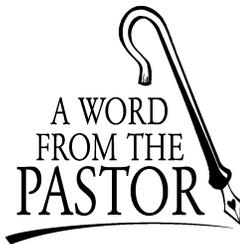
Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado

## **Lenten Confession: My Discomfort with Spirituality**

I could come up with some pretty good reasons, if you asked me to, if you asked me to explain why I don't like the words "spiritual" or "spirituality." I'd tell you that the modern push for "spirituality" is too focused on the individual, and doesn't value the community. I'd tell you that spirituality is all about my connection with God, and ignores our calling to serve in the world and stand with the poor and oppressed. I'd tell you that spirituality is too wishy-washy and not grounded.

But the truth is, none of these are true, or at least none of them are always true. And, none of them are the real reason I'm uncomfortable with "spirituality." The truth is, I haven't put enough work into exploring spirituality because I haven't felt like it fit me. Part of the problem here is with how spirituality is conceived in our world, and part of the problem is me – I probably just haven't tried.

I've heard spirituality described as "a lived faith." I like that. And what I want is a spirituality, a lived faith, that fits me better. A spirituality that isn't rooted in certain practices or disciplines, but uses them to connect me to what I'm really rooted in: God's grace. I want a spirituality, a lived faith, that includes times of personal prayer and reflection, but also recognizes the importance and gift of the great Christian community I'm part of (you!). I want a spirituality, a lived faith, that's centered on the word of God, on the taste of bread and wine, on the feel of baptismal water. I want a lived faith that isn't all about me, but that engages me in the love of God and calls me to share that love with the world. I guess



what I want is a spirituality that's ... Lutheran! The good news is, I – we – kind of already have that. While I might find some language around modern spirituality uncomfortable, weekly worship does sustain me, the grace of God does encourage me throughout the week, and the community of believers does support me in living my faith.

So, maybe what I need isn't to find the perfect spiritual discipline or practice, but to instead engage in the community, learning, service, worship – and yes even spiritual practices – through which I can live my faith. Maybe I need a Lutheran spirituality.

Now for the shameless plug. If you feel like I do, like you long for a way to integrate faith and life but are turned off by a lot of the "spiritual" talk you hear about these days, join us Wednesday evenings this Lent as we take on this Lutheran perspective on spirituality. We're calling it "Lutheran Spirituality: Living the Faith." It starts with Ash Wednesday worship on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, and continues the following Wednesday nights with soup suppers at 6pm and Holden Evening Prayer worship at 7pm.

Let's get spiritual. Let's explore living the faith together.

Pastor Daniel

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## **IHN**

Thank you for your support of IHN in early February when we helped our IHN mission partner (Beth-El Mennonite) support four homeless families. Our volunteers provided meals for the families, played with the children, and talked with the parents. Ascension will be hosting IHN families again in mid-May.



## What's Happening

Mary Stoneback has accepted our call as Ascensions Diaconal Minister. Mary's consecration will be held February 21. Be watching bulletin announcements for time and place.

The next session of Discover Ascension will be beginning on February 7 between services. If you are interested in becoming a member of Ascension or would just like to know more about Ascension please plan on attending these sessions.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2016 and will be held between services. Come and join in the fellowship and see what our CPC has planned for 2016.

Ash Wednesday service is February 10. We will be continuing our soup suppers and Lenten worship services the following weeks leading up to Holy Week. This year's theme will be "Lutheran Spirituality".

We are truly "A Community of Grace, Called to Serve."

Peace be with you, Greg Gulliksen, President CPC  
637-9313 / greg.gulliksen@gmail.com

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### **It's time to consecrate the ~~Lutheran Pope, Floor Cleaner, Diaconal Minister!~~**

All are invited to Mary Stoneback's Consecration service on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm at Ascension. Mary has finished her studies and preparation, and Ascension Lutheran has called her as a Diaconal Minister of Faith Formation. Mary will be expanding upon her work over the last 5+ years, supporting and encouraging the faith of our community. Bishop Jim Gonia will lead the worship, and we hope to see you there.



The January 12 CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Dan Holt led devotions.
  - Pastor Daniel said the recent adult Sunday School classes "Animate" have been well attended.
  - Pastor Dan noted this year's Lenten theme will be "Lutheran Spirituality".
  - Board Directors gave brief updates on current activities and future plans.
  - Rex Rudy reported on the January financials and the Fiscal Year 2015. Details will be reported in the Annual Report.
  - Greg gave an update on the facility renovation and a recommendation from the Diamond Anniversary Steering Committee for moving forward.
  - Pastor Smith gave an update from the Communication/Technology committee stating the website is nearing completion and should be out soon.
  - The audit committee was approved. Those approved were Christine Millard, John Hayes, and Eddie Calderon.
  - The CPC is working on approving nominees for the Synod Assembly as our delegates.
  - Phil Trent noted his group was nearing completion of our revised employee policy and procedures.
  - Greg noted the Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on February 21 between services.
  - Pastor Daniel Smith led closing with prayers and the Lord's Prayer.
  - The approved minutes of recent meetings are posted on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall and are available in electronic format from the church office.
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## Congregational Meeting



### Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting for Ascension will be held at 9:15am on Sunday, February 21, 2015. Reports by each Board and the audited

2015 financials will be presented. All are highly encouraged to attend and see what your Congregation Planning Council is planning for 2016. Be watching the worship bulletins for further information.

#### Agenda

Call to Order

Opening Devotions

Roll Call of Voting Members

Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes from December 6, 2015

Presentation of the Annual Report

Approval of Nominating Committee

Approval of Synod Assembly Delegates

Closing Prayer

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### Thank You to Our Special Committees!

In 2014 Ascension's Council chartered two groups to develop plans, conduct fundraising, and provide project management of our facility improvements project. The first team, Action Team, was comprised of two sub-teams, Development Team and Building Team. The development team was responsible for the evaluation of funding options and fund raising for the proposed facility renovation project. The building team was to develop building plans and obtain cost estimates to meet facility renovation and Ascension's mission needs. Both of these teams have pretty much completed their tasks. The other group was the Diamond Anniversary Steering Committee. This group was to provide overall guidance and support to all the activities associated with the Diamond Anniversary celebration including discussions identifying our values, and exploring how they might shape our facility renovation plans and future ministries, assist with the Diamond Anniversary Celebration, assist in the capital campaign fundraising, look to the future and provide some insight to Council concerning how do we envision the future ministry of Ascension. These groups have completed a majority of their tasks. The recommendation from the Diamond Anniversary Steering Committee is to replace these committees after they have completed their final tasks with a

Building Committee to oversee the facility renovation project. Next month's newsletter will have more information on the Building Committee and their tasks. Ascension would like to take this moment to thank all who have served on these committees and for the many hours you have all put in to make our Diamond Anniversary a special celebration and for a successful capital campaign.

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### To Ascension Lutheran Church

My heart is extra full as I write this letter of acceptance to serve as a Diaconal Minister at Ascension Lutheran Church. Praise God indeed from who all blessings flow. I am grateful to walk with each of you in this call and may God bless us as we journey together and grow in faith and love in Jesus Christ!



2505 North Circle Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
719-634-1694  
info@ascensionlutheranelca.org

I hope you can also join me for my Consecration and Installation service for Diaconal Ministry on Sunday February 21 at 5 pm, at Ascension Lutheran Church.

*Ephesians 3:14-21* Sincerely, Mary Stoneback

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### Strengthening Our Foundation, To Serve In The Future

The Capital Campaign has received 114 pledges totaling \$464,494. A big thank you to all who have pledged. And, a special thank you to all who have donated – both pledged and unpledged donations as well as those who donated prior to the Capital Campaign. Here is a summary of the pledges and donations through December 31, 2015.

Pledged:	\$464,494
Donated Prior to 11/1/15:	\$9,400
Donated After 11/1/2015:	\$113,079
Total Project Donations:	\$122,479

The Building Committee working with the architect to refine the facility improvement plans, to conduct detailed engineering studies, to develop construction bid documents, and to scope the work to match the anticipated cash available next summer when construction is scheduled.

Bill Ayen, Building Committee Chair

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## Quilters for New Beginnings

So far since late October, Quilts for New Beginnings have delivered 26 quilts, 14 receiving blankets, 6 burp pads, 6 bibs, and 17 pillowcases to the IHN House on Tejon Street. We also have delivered one quilt for the silent auction for the Hope, Hearts, and Home luncheon on February 21st. Regular attendees of this quilt group include Anita Arends, Clarice Bauer, Sally Walker, Carol Passon ( Ascension Lutheran) and Barbara Daugherty (Beth-El Mennonite). Others from both churches have contributed to this project by donating time in making pillowcases or burp pads, tying quilts, and donating fabric. It's never to late to join. Besides the auction quilt for the luncheon, we hope to have a table set up with a quilt including more information of how people can help out from the Colorado Springs Community within the IHN network.



Looking to make a difference in our Colorado Springs community? If so, then come and join our Quilt Group, **"Quilts for New Beginnings."**

We provide quilts for the graduates of the IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)-Family Promise program. This program seeks to end family homelessness in our community.

We meet every Wednesday morning from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church.

Come for all of the time or part of the time and let's help ensure some love and comfort to the family graduates of IHN. \*\*\*If you can't come on Wednesday mornings, call and ask how you can help (see below).

No previous sewing experience necessary—just a willingness to help. If you have more questions, please contact Barbara Daugherty at 264-1630 or Anita Arends at 573-4747



## SUP

Thursday, February 18, 12 PM

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### Ruth Circle

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:30am for great fellowship and casual Bible Study from the WELCA *Gather* magazine. Our study for the February 11 meeting is from the first & second book of Philippians, *Servant-shaped soldiers*. If you are new to Ascension or just looking for a casual Bible Study group, we hope you will come and join us! Copies of the study are available in the church office.

### RUTH CIRCLE

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:30am for great fellowship and casual Bible Study from the WELCA *Gather* magazine. Our

**PrimeTimeMinistries@Ascension**, is concerned with the spiritual, legal, medical, social & financial issues that are important to older adults.



### PrimeTime Ministries

**There's bad apples in everyone's barrow!** 2015 saw me write several times about fraud and elder abuse, and according to Betty Sexton of The Gazette, the older generations continue to be a major target and victims. Jesus was characterized in Luke 2: 41-50 as wise beyond his years. Furthermore, the Book of Proverbs encourages us to be wise and diligent in our lives! With that, please read on.

This time we will look into the abuses in the securities and financial sector: Yes, your trusted advisor, banker and his/her staff! The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) issued a report evaluating early results of the Senior Help Line (1-844-57-HELPS) it launched in April. In just

eight months, 2,500 calls were logged, resulting in \$750,000 of reimbursements. One of those 2500 calls logged was the son of a potential victim who called the Helpline because he was concerned about a person soliciting an investment from his elderly father. Helpline staff assisted the caller in performing a Broker Check search of the person and found that FINRA had barred him from association with any FINRA member firm. With this information, the son stopped his father from making a bogus \$110,000 investment.

It is not likely that I'm referring concerning your trusted advisor or banker, but 2,500 calls in eight months is hard to ignore. Is there a positive side to this message? You bet! Be wise and diligent! If you suspect any unusual variances in your investments and you want to "look into it," here's where to start: <http://brokercheck.finra.org/> or the Help Line 1-844-574-3577!

Shalom, Ron Cornell, Deacon 528-5142 or [roncornell@q.com](mailto:roncornell@q.com)

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### Seniors' Luncheon

SENIOR LUNCHEON at "La Baguette" (4440 N. Chestnut St.), Friday, February 12, at 11 AM. Join the fun and conversation! Sign up at the kiosk in the fellowship hall. Call Susan (573-4776) with questions, resses, a map, or to carpool. Plan ahead for Mackenzie Place on March 11, too! See you there!

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### Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet at 5:30PM on February 13th at Ascension. If your card playing skills are a little rusty or you would like to learn how to play this great game, we have cheat sheets and bridge instructors available to help. Feel free to contact John or Kathy Hayes at (719) 572-1052 or at [kittypawz@aol.com](mailto:kittypawz@aol.com) if you have any questions about this group.



Check out the February 2016 issue of the Parent Connect is out which includes the February Youth Calendar. <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B-bGhxxbzFWyfkNUZzc3WmptczkybnRfcFNIVVFkU3IkS05zNmIXRnc1SHhrRzFpbHVSQkE&usp=sharing>

THE 21ST CENTURY SURVIVAL GUIDE  
FOR CHRISTIANS



**Join the conversation...**

**Video Reflections of ALC members on Scripture now live at:**



@ Ascension Lutheran Colorado Springs

@ Living Faith Twenty-Four Seven

@ Mary Stoneback



## ON WISCONSIN...SUMMER 2016

You may or may not be a Wisconsin Green Bay Packers fan or ready to wear the 'cheese head' anytime soon and that's ok. Regardless of your team loyalty, the Youth Board is looking forward to welcoming a group of Wisconsin HS youth from Lord of Life in Kenosha, WI this coming July 15-23. We get to both host and plan service projects and activities for the group that both congregations will do together. Planning for this partnership begins in January 2016 and we're involving all HS youth in the planning. This is a great opportunity for the youth to help make the summer 2016 a special one for both ALC and Lord of Life, emphasizing 'We are Better Together'!



## Coming... **Sunday, March 27, 6 AM**

An Easter Sunrise Service led by the HS youth & the annual Youth Pancake Fundraiser

*Breakfast served at 7 am, following the Sunrise Service and from 9 am – 10:15 am. We hope you can join us for this time of celebration for our Lord's Resurrection!*

## BECOME INVOLVED...

**\*\*Funeral Committee** – Contact Pat Suter (641-4982) or Bonnie Vawter (579-6707) if you would like to be added to the list of volunteers to help with food or serving at funerals. We are always looking for volunteers!

**\*\*Coffee Fellowship Hour – Smell the Aroma!** Please help keep the coffee hours going by signing up to host a Sunday morning Fellowship Hour! All directions for coffee making are in the coffee station, or just ask for assistance. One or two people is all it takes, and it is so appreciated! See the sign-up sheet on the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

**\*\*Quilters for a New Beginning** – meets every Wednesday from 9-1 in the Fellowship Hall. They spread out quilts in all phases of creation, and if you'd like to help put together quilts for a good cause, come and join us. No experience necessary, just a good heart willing to learn and participate.

**\*\*Mercy's Gate – formerly Northern Churches Care** – Pantry items and toiletries are collected in the cupboard in the Fellowship Hall. Ongoing needs: crackers, mac & cheese, oatmeal, spaghetti, corn, green beans, spaghetti sauce, tomato products, tuna, gravy toothpaste, tooth brushes, face soap.

**\*\*Albertsons Community Partners** – if you shop at Albertsons, please pick up a Partners' card at the Welcome Center. The youth programs receive a percentage of your purchase.

**\*\*Knotty Kneedlers** – We continue to make small blankets for the CLC children and the KPC Respite Center, as well as prayer shawls. If you would like to become involved in this ministry, or just want to join us for fellowship, we meet every Wednesday at 1pm, in Fellowship Hall. Contact Bonnie Vawter, 579-6707, with any questions.

**\*\*Bulletin assembly** – the church office is looking for a few helping hands to assist with weekly bulletin assembly, one hour a week on Thursday morning. Please call the church office if you can help, 634-1694.

**\*\*Terrace Gardens Bingo - Prizes are needed.** Please mark items "Bingo Prizes" and place them in the Terrace Garden Bingo box located on the counter behind the Welcome Center. Questions?? Call John Hayes at 572-1052 or at blazehayes@aol.com.

**\*\*Campbell's Soup Labels:** Please just cut the UPC bar code and the picture of the "point value boy" from the following products: Campbells - soups, chunky soups, Healthy Request, Supper Bakes; Pepperidge Farm, Spaghetti-Os, Swanson, V-8 beverage caps and Prego Spaghetti Sauce. Thanks for continuing to collect these to help the people with disabilities.

**\*\*Prayer Ministry** – as we pray for people it helps us to have updates to keep us connected to the person and situation. If you have a prayer concern or would like to become a member of our Prayer Chain, contact the office, 634-1694 or office@ascensionlutheranelca.org.  
**\*\*Pop can tabs** help the Ronald McDonald House. They may be placed in the container in the cupboard in the Welcome Center inside the front doors.

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## Changes in Holy Pedalers Small Group

The Holy Pedalers is one of the first Ascension small groups. Many of our original group members are still riding. We are fortunate to have attracted more members over the years. In keeping with the focus of all Ascension small groups, we support fellowship, caring, and connection with like-minded people in our Christian faith. Besides our enjoyment of the sport and the out of doors we have had the opportunity to become closer as a group and have meaningful conversations about our lives, our faith, and our values.

This year, Carol and I have been talking with group members about changes we would like to make that would invite more participation of group members in the planning and leading of our rides. We held a meeting with the core group of riders in the fall to exchange ideas regarding the direction of the group. We want to insure the continuation of this enjoyable group. Our group decided to follow the lead of the Dining Out group by having riders sign up for rides they would like to plan and lead. God willing, Carol and I plan to continue riding with the Holy Pedalers and participating in this new structure.

We will be sending out more information on our sign-up process, list of responsibilities for ride leaders, Colorado biking laws, suggestions for keeping ourselves safe when riding our bikes, and our detailed list of prior bike rides. Aimee Calderon has been very helpful in developing a system for scheduling and putting together recommendations from the meeting for leading the biking group

As always we invite those of you who would like to ride and enjoy the fellowship of the group to join us.

Bev and Carol Godec

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**AIA February 2016 Issue #2**  
**Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
**2505 N. Circle Drive**  
**Colorado Springs, CO 80909**

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### **CHURCH STAFF**

Normal Office Hours: 9-12 Mon-Fri (719) 634-1694  
Pastor Dan Holt – off on Friday  
Pastor Daniel Smith  
Music Director – Megan Miller  
Youth and Faith Formation Director – Mary Stoneback  
Office Administrator – Arlayne McKee  
Consultant for Health Care – Dr. Dennis Caldwell  
Child Learning Center Director – Teresa Adams  
**E-mail addresses:** office@ascensionlutheranelca.org  
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ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)

**Our Website:** [www.ascensionlutheranelca.org](http://www.ascensionlutheranelca.org)

**March newsletter deadline: Feb. 21**

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Dale & Dorothy Brown, Sharon Budd (Sister of Darcy Ayen), Brad Buhler, Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Tom & Sandra George, Elaine Glover, Benny Johnson, Darcy Johnson, Bob Kuzma, Al Mosher, Hazel Quindt, Jeff Sebben, Ken Shodeen, Joshua & Virginia Stanley (Parents of Marilyn Gulliksen), Dee Yocum, Elyse Yocum (Granddaughter of Bill & Dee Yocum), and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Nick DePalma, and their families.