



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church December 2015

Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Comfort – An Advent Sonnet

*Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God – Isaiah 40:1*

O Comfort, voice from heav'n
through prophet said,
And so we flee from news of
death and strife.

Is Comfort found escaping fear and dread?
Is blind to sorrow same as finding life?

O Comfort, voice from heav'n through prophet
cried,
And so we fill our lives with food and thing.
Is Comfort found in stuff with ribbon tied?
Is life the same as excess, which we cling?

O Comfort, voice from heav'n through prophet
called,
And so we work and work and work some more.
Is Comfort found in scheduled time worn bald?
Is life not more than mandatory chore?

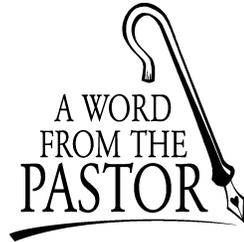
Our quest to fashion comfort leaves us wanting still.
And so we pray: O Comfort, come! Your word
fulfill!

*Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we look for God's
coming among us, may true comfort break into your
lives, fulfilling the promise of Advent.*

Pastor Daniel

THANK YOU....

**Thanks to our youth who led us in a wonderful All Saints' Day worship service, and thanks to Steve Passon for building the stand for the All Saints candles.



THANK YOU, thank you, thank you ...

for the much-appreciated, generous donations that were raffled off between the acts during the Spaghetti Supper Variety Show.



Thanks to all of you the raffle was a huge success. Your thoughtfulness means so much and we are so grateful!

We would also like to thank Patrick and Jim DeLoughry for your commitment to our mission and all of your hard work and dedication you put in ... your efforts were truly appreciated!

Also, a million thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers! Without you all we could not have done it. Thanks again for supporting our 2015 Spaghetti Supper, Raffle and Variety Show!

The Youth Board

Strengthening Our Foundation, To Serve In The Future

As of this writing (November 16), the Capital Campaign has received 94 pledges totaling over \$411,000. A big thank you to all who have pledged. You can still turn in pledges to both the 2016 budget and the Capital Campaign by completing a pledge card and returning it to the church. Cards are available at the Welcome Center.

The November 10 CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Daniel led devotions centered around healing.
- Both pastors gave updates.
- We shared experiences of healing.
- Greg Gulliksen and the Board Directors gave brief updates on current activities and future plans.
- Rex Rudy reported on the October financials. We continue to do well in keeping a good balance between revenue and expenses for the year.
- Rich Paradis gave an update on the capital campaign pledges as well as the operating budget pledges. We are on track to meet our goals for 2016.
- Council voted to approve a Call to Mary Stoneback as Ascensions Deaconal Minister. The recommendation will be presented to the congregation during the congregation meeting on December 6.
- Council reviewed the final draft of the 2016 budget and approved the budget to be recommended to the congregation at the December 6 congregation meeting.
- Pastor Dan 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.



What's Happening

Thank you to all who turned in a pledge card for our operating budget as well as our capital campaign this year. Your pledges make Council's job much easier to establish our operating budget for the next year.

A great big thanks to the youth and all who helped put on another awesome spaghetti dinner and variety show. It was a fun evening. Thanks also to those who contributed items for the raffle.

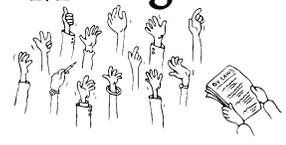
We celebrate the Christmas season with lots of special events at Ascension. Included are the gifts for the Pueblo State Hospital, already under way; Sunday School Christmas program, during services again this year; Christmas Choir Cantata; Caroling to our shut-ins with chili supper after; lock-ins, and the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior with Christmas eve services.

The next Congregational Meeting is scheduled for December 6 at 9:15am. The agenda is posted elsewhere in the newsletter.

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

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

Congregational Meeting



**December 6, 2015
9:15 am**

Agenda:

Opening Prayer
August 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Approval)

Capital Campaign Update
2015 Budget Revision (Approval)
Diaconal Minister Call (Approval)
CPC Updates
2016 Budget (Approval)
Closing Prayer

You're Invited!

Please join the Sunday School program for:

WHAT: *His Story for Christmas*, as told by ALC's children and youth

WHEN: Sunday, December 13, during 8:00 and 10:30AM service times

WHERE: ALC Sanctuary

Come and be a part of His Story by singing Christmas hymns and enjoying skits, music and dancing from our youth and children, and enjoy a celebration upstairs between services.

Ascension Lutheran Church – 1996 to 2005

Ascension continued to grow its ministries and adjust its staffing and facilities to support this growth during this period. Previous articles have highlighted the need to find a more productive use for the original sanctuary and Holiday House as well as adding staff. Both were accomplished during this 10-year period. A congregational survey conducted in 1996 showed that the highest priority areas were: Sunday School, Preaching/Teaching, Youth Ministries, Worship/Music, and Visitation.

Staffing changes included hiring Mike Tess as part-time Youth Director (1997), Pastor Holt as Associate Pastor (1998), Tiffany Malcom as Office Coordinator/Youth Director (1999), Wini Klein as Director of Worship and Music (2001), and Lorraine Spruth as Health Ministry Coordinator (2002). Both Wini and Lorraine were also commissioned and installed as Associates in Ministry (AIMs). In 2003 Pastors Hedstrom and Holt titles were changed to co-Pastors. Tiffany Malcom was changed to full-time Youth Director in 2004.

Planning for use of the original sanctuary as a Senior Center (Pikes Peak Room) led in 1998 to a “facelift” completed by a number of volunteers. Later it was determined that the level of use did not warrant dedication to this program. In 1999, committees were formed to consider recommendations for: Endowment Program revision, Constitution and By-Laws changes, and a Childcare and Preschool. In June 2000 the Children’s Development Center (CDC) was approved and it opened in September.

During this time two important outreach programs were started. In early 1997 Ascension was selected as one of the first host churches in Colorado Springs for the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Program. In September the first families were hosted at Ascension. In 2004 a lease with the Family Connections non-profit was signed allowing that organization to renovate the Holiday House and open the KPC Kid’s Place. Both of these remain key outreach programs for Ascension.

Among other initiatives during this period was the installation of air conditioning in the sanctuary (1996), Endowment Fund revision (2000), Columbarium approval (2003) and dedication

(2005), and the Holy Listening program for children and youth initiated (2003).

In October 2003 Action Teams to develop options for facility updates and/or changes were established. In June 2005 the proposed building addition (Fellowship Hall) was approved and a successful Capital Campaign (Imagine Ascension) was initiated.

Finally, in October 2004 “Community of Grace, Called to Serve” was approved. Of course, this still applies very well today.

Diamond Anniversary Steering Committee

Endowment Fund Update

A short time ago we approved a grant request from Parish Ed for some Bibles. We have since received a thank you note from each of the Board members. We want to share one of the notes with you so you can appreciate the value of your Endowment Fund.

Dear Endowment Committee:

Thank you for the generous gift of 15 Spark Story Bibles for our youngest Sunday school students. We are so grateful to be able to place an age appropriate, engaging Bible in the hands of each child in the 3 year old- 2nd grade classroom. Your gift has greatly strengthened our ability to make sure every child at ALC knows the key stories of the Bible.

With a grateful heart, Elisa Thompson.

Gee, do you think Endowment is getting it done for Ascension?! Thanks for your support.

ASCENSION LADIES’ LUNCHEON

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on Thursday, December 10, at 11:30am for our annual Christmas potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall. We honor our staff at this luncheon and have a special guest speaker, Mary Stoneback. The main meat dish will be furnished, so please bring a side or a dessert, as well as your own table service. And bring a friend for this special time of Fellowship!

Create A Legacy



Ascension Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund

God's People Using God's Resources
to Fulfill God's Calling

Gift's-Wills-Property-Insurance-Memorials-Estates

Legacies Created

Thanks and God's blessings to the following donors for gifts to the Endowment fund:

Ron and Bonnie Vawter, celebrating their anniversary and birthdays.

US & THEM WE:

One of the organizations that we support here at Ascension is Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network). Family Promise has multiple programs which are designed to help transition families out of homelessness. The core program is the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Through this program, families who qualify receive shelter, food, case management for medical issues, financial and credit guidance, computer literacy, and assistance searching for employment and housing. Over 80% of the guest families who have gone through the IHN program have successfully moved out of homelessness.

Family Promise also now has transitional housing. This can be used by families who have gone through the IHN program for up to 6 months if they need additional support before moving into independent housing.

On September 1st of this year, the Community Family Day Center was opened. This day center provides a safe place for families to bring their children while they are searching for employment and shelter. It has case managers and computers on site to provide assistance.

Here are some additional fun facts:

- IHN changed its name to Family Promise in 2014.
- IHN was originally started in 1996 with just seven participating congregations, but has now grown to 37.
- Our very own Pastor Daniel Smith served as the President of Family Promise.

- Those days when help is needed to host families here at Ascension are FUN, EASY and REWARDING (stay tuned for possible opportunities coming up)!

Aimee Calderon for the Board of Social Outreach

Sunday School News

The children and youth have been practicing lines, music and dance in preparation for telling *His Story* for Christmas—part of the 8:00 and 10:30 Sunday services, on December 13.

Please see below for important additional Sunday school dates:

- December 4— (Friday) Compassion International tour @4:30
- December 6—Rehearse Christmas program in class
- December 12—(Saturday) Christmas program rehearsal 9 AM-noon
- December 13—Christmas program during 8:00 and 10:30 AM services (celebration between services). Families--please bring a plate of snacks to share.
- December 20, 27 and January 3— No Sunday school. ***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!***

Notes from the Music Room

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" has a special place in our services this Advent. We are singing two verses of this ancient hymn each Sunday. The text is adapted from the "O Antiphons," which date back to at least the 8th Century and were sung at the Vespers services in the last week before Christmas Eve. Each antiphon becomes a verse in the hymn and greets the coming Savior using one of His names from the Old Testament prophesies about the Messiah. The first letter of each verse in Latin even spelled ERO CRAS backwards, which was Latin for "tomorrow, I will be," reminding all of the upcoming birth! They culminate with Emmanuel, a name which means "God is with us." We would probably never know this haunting song were it not for a 19th Century Anglican priest, John M. Neale, who had a passion for early Greek and Latin religious poetry. Neale found the text, translated it to English, and put the words to the tune of a 15th C. funeral processional used originally by French Franciscan nuns, and thus, the most famous Advent hymn was born. This December, as we sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," I will be pondering how God fulfills his promises to us and comes to be present with us every day of our lives.

Gloria in excelsis deo! Megan Miller



Family Promise/ Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

Thank you for your continued support of this vital program to provide safe housing for homeless families in Colorado Springs churches.

Ascension hosted three families (5 adults and 8 children) at our facility November 15-22. We had about 60 people help us in one way or another during that week by providing meals and supplies, serving meals, and interacting with our guest families. We welcome back the Krieg family and are thankful for their support by providing a complete dinner on Saturday evening. Our next opportunity to host IHN families at our church will be during Christmas week (December 20-27). We will be getting some support from other IHN churches that week, but there will still be opportunities for our church members to help. We'll have sign-up sheets in the narthex beginning on December 6th. Feel free to contact John or Kathy Hayes at (719) 572-1052 or at kittypawz@aol.com if you have any questions about IHN.

THANK YOU...

**Many thanks to my Ascension family for your kindness during my recent injury and recovery. Your prayers, positive thoughts, cards, rides, etc., were so important and appreciated. It's wonderful to belong to such a caring community. Jan Zellmer

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet at 5:30 pm on either December 12th or the 19th at Ascension (see the bulletin for final decision on date). 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 if you have any questions about this group.

SENIOR LUNCHEON makes our annual visit to the "Edelweiss" German restaurant (34 E. Ramona), Friday, Dec. 4, 11 am. Come! Enjoy lunch with new friends! Call Susan (573-4776) for ressesies, carpooling, map, or other information. Sign up on the kiosk in the narthex. Reservations strongly encouraged. See you there!



PrimeTime Ministry

Primetime Ministries is concerned with the spiritual, legal, medical, social and financial issues that are important to older adults.

Would you consider yourself influential? You never know!!! Let me tell you a story of a nice restaurant in my hometown of Fremont, NE. Jeanne and I were there to visit my Aunt Karen and Uncle Billy last month and we were having dinner together the night before we were to visit them. When we were finished, a young couple sitting behind us tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Excuse us, we noticed what a 'cute couple' you are, and we would like to invite you to have desert with us." Jeanne and I were surprised but happy that they made the effort to reach out to us. We said certainly and had a great conversation asking about each other's life. We guess they were in their mid 30s, had two kids that were with his parents that night. They commented they were going to the NU football game the next day. What else would you do in Nebraska on a fall Saturday afternoon?! They commented how we sat together, not across the table from each other, never checked our Smart (dumb) phones, held hands and gave them the impression that we really enjoyed being together. We said we like being together, sometimes more than others, and we experience life together! It was a most enjoyable evening. The conclusion, you never know what you do that influences others!

Ron Cornell, Deacon
528-5142 or roncornell@q.com

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.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES QUARTERLY UPDATE



All are welcome. Come join in the fellowship.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

LIGHT (Ladies in God's Hands Together)

A gathering of moms who support each other in our parenting roles.

Meets; Monthly on Sunday at church 9:15-10:15.

Contact Carol for actual dates.

Contact: Carol Bramschreiber at 573-4961 or carolbramschreiber@yahoo.com

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

One of the Pastors leads study on Bible or religious topics chosen by group.

Meets: Tuesday morning at church 10:30, except during the summer months.

Contact: Pastors Dan or Daniel at 634-1694 or office@ascensionlutheranelca.org

Tuesday Noon Women's Bible Study

Bring a lunch and eat while discussing a chosen Bible topic with a small group of women.

Meets: Tuesdays noon at church

Contact: Sandra Trent, 548-8987, ptpups@comcast.net

Thursday Night Serendipity

Six-week studies with topics decided by the group.

Meets October through May.

Meets: 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7PM at the Johnson's

Contact: Rich & Judi Johnson, 264-8196, or jrajohnson@aol.com

Ruth Circle

Women in fellowship and Bible study from *Lutheran Woman Gather* magazine.

Meets: 2nd Thursday at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall except for July & August. Special luncheons in June and December—actual dates in church bulletin.

Contact: Darcy Ayen, 488-0414, dkdayen@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Bridge — Come play bridge once a month with others who love this card game!

Meets: monthly Saturday night at the church. Actual dates in church bulletin

Contact: John & Kathy Hayes, 572-1052, or kittypawz@aol.com

Bunco

Have a blast with other people playing this fun dice game — no experience or skill necessary!

Meets: Friday nights at 7PM see church bulletin & news letter for actual dates. Meets in alternating homes

Contact: Ingrid Daniel, 573-6863, ildaniel@yahoo.com

Ascension Artists

Bring your current art or craft project or start a new one & work on it with other creative folks. We share and learn from each other.

Meets: Weekly Thursdays from 3:00-5:00 at the Church in the fellowship hall or down stairs.

Contact: Arlayne McKee at 649-8265 or arlayne@arlaynemckee.com

Dining Out

Group participants take turns selecting the date, time, and restaurant each month. The hosts then make reservations for all those who are able to attend.

Meets: Monthly on Thursday or Friday nights. Call to add your name to the email list. Actual dates in church bulletin and by email.

Contact: Laurel & Art Thorstensen 550-2882 or revmeme@hotmail.com.

Knotty Kneedlers

Bring your latest project and enjoy coffee & fellowship With others while working on it

Meets: every Wednesday at 1PM in Fellowship Hall

Contact: Bonnie Vawter, 579-6707 or bonnievawter@q.com

Men's Breakfast

Get together with other men for fellowship over breakfast.

Meets: Thursdays at 7:00AM at Big Train Restaurant, 3050 N Nevada.

Contact: Rich Johnson, 264-8196, jrajohnson@aol.com

Walking Group.

Walks at various venues.

Meets: Tuesdays & Thursdays mornings as weather Permitting. Please call to confirm special times & Locations as they can change from week to week.

Contact: Wini Klein 636-1232, wklein636@msn.com

Red Hat Flashes

Ladies 50+ invited to come out in red hats & purple to eat lunch & have a good time!

Meets: Monthly on Saturdays at various restaurants, Actual location & time in church bulletin.

Contact: Grace Buhler, 528-8976, fgbuhl@aol.com

Quilters For New Beginning

No experience necessary, all are welcome. We are currently making pillowcases & quilts for the Family Promise program.

Meets: Wednesday's 9 am to 1 pm at the church.

Contact: Anita Arends, 573-4747

Senior Luncheon

Dine at various restaurants around city. Good food and good conversation! 55 + are welcome. Couples and singles

Meets: 2nd or 3rd Friday's, September through May.

Locations & times in news letter & bulletin

Contact: Susan Curtis, 573-4776 or sbcurtisz@gmail.com

SERVICE & SUPPORT GROUP

Terrace Gardens Bingo

Have fun helping nursing home residents play Bingo and win prizes.

Meets: Terrace Gardens monthly, 3rd Wednesdays at 10am

Contact: Bev Godec, 550-9202 or bgodec@msn.com

SEASONAL GROUPS

Biking, Holy Pedalers

We generally alternate between road and mountain bike rides on trails and or roads. Ride distances determined by those going on the rides. To support fellowship we generally eat on or after the ride.

Meets: Weekly, March – October, weather permitting.

Most rides are on Saturdays with occasional weekday rides. Time & location by email & in Ascension Office, What's up weekly email

Contact: Bev Godec, 550-9202 or bgodec@msn.com

Camping

Bring your RV, motor home, pull behind trailer or tent and join other folks who enjoy the great outdoors for fellowship and fun! We will share calendar dates and great camping sites with one another via email.

Meets: During the late spring and summer months at different times and locations based on interest.

Contact: Donna or Scott Crump, 622-0927 or donnac664@aol.com

Snowshoeing

Breathe the fresh air and enjoy the pristine scenery as you explore snow covered areas

Meets: When snow is adequate--those who give email address to Aimee will be notified when an outing is planned

Contact: Eddie & Aimee Calderon, 387-7379 or aimeebuesing@yahoo.com

BECOME INVOLVED (continued)...

****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 blazahayes@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.



Coming in 2016...ALC partners with PILLAR

PILLAR
Institute for Lifelong Learning

The PILLAR Institute for Life-long Learning is a 501(c)3 organization in Colorado Springs whose mission is to foster lifelong learning as a part of the culture of the Pikes Peak region. The organization's vision is to be the premier provider of affordable lifelong learning programs for older adults in the Pikes Peak region through partnering with similarly focused organizations to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of the community.

PILLAR produces over 300 classes a year in the liberal arts and sciences. Three catalogs a year are produced. In addition, there are community lectures by community leaders, Living History portrayals, Reader's Theater performances, tours and trips. PILLAR will expand their course offerings to the community to include classes that emphasize matters of faith.

In 2016, Pillar will host three workshops on-site at Ascension, open to the congregation and the larger public. The workshops offered will be included in PILLAR's catalogue and they will publicize each event. Ascension's partnership with PILLAR is a



unique and meaningful way to engage both the members of Ascension and the larger community in learning about issues that affect both one's life and faith. As PILLAR's goals state, we are partnering in a way that helps make 'the Pikes Peak region a vibrant and remarkable community in which to live, to grow and to age.'

Workshop #1, sponsored by PILLAR
Institute for Lifelong learning at
Ascension:

Saturday March 12, 10 AM – 12 PM

“Collaborative Caregiving”

**with Kent Matthews, Care Manager
at Pikes Peak Area Council of
Governments Area Agency on Aging**

**The partnership with PILLAR is sponsored by a grant from Ascension Lutheran's Endowment and supported through the Board of Lay Ministry.*

“God's people using God's resources to fulfill God's calling.”

Check out the monthly Parent Connect for things happenign for the youth and families of ALC. We hope this can be a resource for you, the parent and your children to use in the home and be an encouragement for you as you continue to grow in faith in Christ together. Email Mary for more information. Check-out December's issue for the following:

- Upcoming happenings,
- Ideas for keeping Christmas sacred,
- December's Youth and Family Calendar.



Sincerely,
Mary Stoneback
Director of Youth & Faith Formation
youth@ascensionlutheranelca.org,
303-475-4886

*Follow ALC youth on
facebook@LivingFaithTwenty-Four Seven*



AIA December 2015 Issue #12
Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Pastor Daniel Smith
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Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Dale & Dorothy Brown, Sharon Budd (Sister of Darcy Ayen), Brad Buhler, Dennis Caldwell, Dennis Conroy, Ron & Kaye Crubaugh (Parents of Arlayne McKee), Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Sandra George, Luella Gulbranson, Bob Kuzma, Les Matthies (Brother of Carole Brownlee), Hazel Quindt, Ken Shodeen, Joshua & Virginia Stanley (Parents of Marilyn Gulliksen), Elyse Yocum (Granddaughter of Bill & Dee Yocum), and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Nick DePalma, and their families.

January newsletter deadline: Dec. 20