



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

May 2016

Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Come and See ...

At his Ascension, the Risen Lord for most of us in the Lutheran feel uncomfortable talking about have not had to be too public in our large families, and people moving into our area have all helped us be sustained and even grow as a church. We mostly just needed to keep our doors open and welcome those coming in. As those sources dry up, we would do well looking again at what it means to witness.



told his disciples that they will be his witnesses. I think tradition feel like we have not done too well at this. We Jesus. I think part of that comes from the fact that we witness for the last couple hundred years. Immigration, and people moving into our area have all helped us be sustained and even grow as a church. We mostly just needed to keep our doors open and welcome those coming in. As those sources dry up, we would do well looking again at what it means to witness.

Witnessing is reporting what we have seen and heard. It is a speaking to what we have experienced. The witnessing that Jesus asked his disciples to do was witnessing to him. It is not a theological discussion so much as a personal telling of what we have seen, heard and experienced of Jesus.

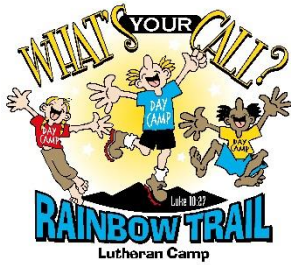
Jesus told them that they will be his witnesses. It was a statement of fact and not a wish. We are in fact witnessing. We are witnessing to our neighborhood children through our Children's Learning Center. They hear Bible stories and sing Christian songs. As much as we do not directly talk about Jesus in our social outreach, people can still know we are Christians by our love. We are witnessing through social media through posting video on Facebook from members talking about their faith. We hope to expand our witnessing there.

I also believe that God would have us expand our witnessing through inviting. Inviting implies that we have experienced something worth sharing. In John 1, Andrew invited Nathanael to meet Jesus saying,

“Come and see.” Come and see that there is community where you can be known and loved. Come and see that there is a community reaching out to serve the least ones. Come and see that somehow in the midst of them is the Risen Lord. Come and see that in a world of trouble and sorrow that God is gracious to you. Come and see how God has the last word even in the face of death through our Risen Jesus. Witness happens as we invite someone to come and see.

Pastor Dan

Rainbow Trail Day Camp



Ascension is hosting a Rainbow Trail Day Camp at Ascension Lutheran Church from June 20-24 for the children of the ALC, the CLC (Children's Learning Center) and surrounding congregations. The day camp will run from 9 am – 3 pm, Monday – Friday. We're also looking for volunteers for the week (shift/one-day options available). If you are interested in helping with the week, please let Mary Stoneback ([303.475-4886](tel:303.475-4886)) by Sunday May 1. There are a variety of ways you can help!

More Information:

Registration opens: Sunday May 8th – June 12th

Cost: Preschool (\$12 per camper), K – those going into 6th grade (\$16)

Week's Theme: What's Your Call? Based on Luke 10:27

*Day Camp fee due at registration. Thank you!

Tell a friend about Day Camp, friends are welcome!



What's Happening

The nominating committee continues to meet with the Pastors and leadership of the congregation concerning calling congregation members to sit on boards, be board directors, and sit on the executive committee. If you receive a call by the nominating committee to serve at Ascension please give prayerful consideration to the opportunity to contribute to the ministries of the congregation in this capacity. During the next term Council will dig into and establish our vision at Ascension for the next five, ten, even twenty years.

It was great to see so many people at the Small Group Fair. Did you sign up for a small group? Did any look interesting to you? There are so many ways to get connected at Ascension. Hope you get to attend a small group this summer. Thanks Bev Godec for keeping our small groups alive.

Congratulations to all of our youth being confirmed this year. You did it!

Congratulations also to those graduating high school and college.

What an awesome community of faith we have. You all gave so generously to our World Hunger drive again this year. I am not sure which came first, the chicken or the egg, but I do know there will be many people who will have chickens to lay eggs thanks to all of you.

A big shout out to all who also gave towards our Compassion child Alemitu and for helping her and her community work though the drought they are facing.

Be watching the newsletter and bulletin for upcoming summer activities.

“A Community of Grace, Called to Serve.”

Peace be with you, Greg Gulliksen, President CPC
[637-9313 / greg.gulliksen@gmail.com](mailto:greg.gulliksen@gmail.com)

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

- Pastor Dan Holt led devotions.
- Pastor Daniel was out on daddy duty. Pastor Holt gave an update on the health of the congregation.
- Board Directors gave brief updates on current activities and future plans.
- Rex Rudy reported on the April financials and discussed our upcoming mortgage reset.
- Pastor Dan gave an update from the building committee. They are about ready to go out to bid.
- Greg lead a discussion concerning how much from cash reserves to put towards the renovation project.
- Andy Saunders gave an update from the Communication/Technology committee stating the website is almost ready to launch.
- Ron discussed a restructuring of the Deacon Ministry at Ascension the board of Lay Ministry had been reviewing with Pastor Holt. There will be a meeting of Deacons in April to discuss the revised structure of the deacon program.
- 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.

MILESTONE MINUTE

Congratulations to Bill Ayen for being selected the 2015 Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains Distinguished Volunteer of the year. He was presented the "*Eagles Wings*" award at their annual Benefit Gala.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

**to the family and friends of Pastor Obed Sunde, who passed away on March 25. He was pastor here in the early 1960s and served at Mt. Calvary for many years.

Building Committee Update

The Building Committee was hard at work in March and April reviewing design drawings, considering options, and preparing for the release of the construction package for bids. This should happen about the time this Newsletter is distributed. We anticipate that bid review will be complete by the end of May with a Congregational Meeting scheduled for June 5 (9:15 AM) to approve the selected contractor and financing. Please put this important date on your calendar. If all goes as planned, construction could start mid-June with completion by late summer.

As a reminder, the plans include upgrading the bulk of the facility south of the hallway that connects the Fellowship Hall with the patio. The plans include new wall finishes, windows, window coverings, floor coverings lighting, and electrical wiring. The bathrooms in that area will be completely renovated and the kitchen will also be renovated. The second major phase of the project will include new floor coverings in the Fellowship Hall, Library, Conference Room, and Sanctuary areas plus new paint and window coverings in the Sanctuary. Work on a portion of this phase will be delayed until sufficient Capital Campaign donations are received.

The lead and asbestos testing results identified locations where problems exist. The good news is that the plans already had accounted for the possibility of contamination or we have been able to slightly modify plans to accommodate the results of the findings without incurring significant expense. This basically removes a big question mark from the project.

Capital Campaign contributions continue to be received at a fairly steady rate. So far 19 contributors have completed their pledges. THANKS! We will continue to monitor the amount of contributions received and then adjust the amount of work completed this summer to the funds available.

The facility will be a construction zone this summer. The CLC will occupy the bulk of the Lower Level. Fellowship Hall users will not have use of the kitchen. At times, other parts of the church facility will not be available. Hence, other than for Sunday Services, there will be very limited availability of this facility this summer. Please plan accordingly. Once the construction schedule is known, limited scheduling will be possible.

Bill Ayen, Building Committee Chair

Congregational Meeting



Congregation Meeting:

We will be holding a congregation meeting at 9:15am on Sunday, June 5, 2016. We will be voting on a Contractor and financing for our facility renovation project. Talk about milestones, this meeting will be a milestone for our congregation. We will also be voting on our next executive committee, board directors, and board members. All are highly encouraged to attend and take part in this aspect of our community of faith.

Agenda

Call to Order

Opening Devotions

Roll Call of Voting Members

Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes - February 21, 2016

2016-2018 Congregation Planning Council and Boards

Contractor and Financing Approval

Closing Prayer



Notes from the Music Room

As Lutherans, we are proud to have a liturgical focus in our worship. There is a pattern to our worship service, and we use centuries-old words to express our faith. The words are familiar; they anchor us. Ritual still has meaning. The very young and those on death's door know the words of the Lord's Prayer and the Creeds; these words bring us back to that place of togetherness. But sometimes we need to hear them in a new way. This year we have begun a new method of planning. We now have a worship planning team made of lay and clergy of a mix of ages, musical tastes, musical abilities, and personalities. Liturgy comes from a Greek word that means "work for the people," and our goal is to help the liturgy serve each of us as the people of God. Together, the team studies the upcoming readings and decides on what prayers, music, and changes to worship could best bring out God's message in the upcoming seasons. An unchanging liturgy is boring and doesn't speak to each scripture, to each season, or to each believer. Martin Luther once said, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music." He also believed that musical "notes bring the text to life." I hope that our work helps bring the Word of God to life in your life!

Megan Miller

What's coming up at Ascension for older adults and faith formation?

SUP, Thursday May 19, 12 pm – 1:30 pm

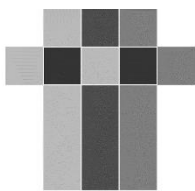
Special Guest: Principle Nancy Smith from Audubon Elementary School

Who's in our Neighborhood? Principle Nancy will talk about Audubon's mission as a neighborhood school and what it means for Ascension to be included as a community partner.

PILLAR Workshop #2, "How We Decide: The Role of the Rational and Emotional Brains in Decision-Making," led by PILLAR Instructor Phil McDonald and "Discernment: the process of recognizing God's voice in our lives," led by Spiritual Director Margaret Arms.

When: Thursday June 2, 1 pm – 3:45 pm

Cost: Free for Ascension members, with a canned good donation. *Contact PILLAR at 633.4991 to register and tell them you are from ALC.



FAITH
formation



PILLAR
Institute for Lifelong Learning

Beginning Summer 2016 ...

A cohort comprised of ALC members will begin a year-long Spiritual Gerontology Certificate through the Johnson Institute: Creative Faith Formation for Boomers and Elders. The goal of this educational path is to provide more offerings for older adults to continue to grow in their faith in Christ and go deeper into what it means to live faithfully in all seasons of life.

Coming Fall 2016 ...

PILLAR Workshop #3, sponsored by the Board of Lay Ministry. More information to come.

Monthly SUP Gatherings, planned by Ascension members for the congregation and friends.

Spiritual Well-being Survey

A team of ALC members dedicated to encouraging the congregation in living abundantly in Christ is connecting with the Penrose St. Francis Healthy Church Initiative. The Initiative seeks to connect health and faith. Their purpose is to “assist faith communities to build capacity within their members to more effectively serve – each other and the broader community – by enhancing the health – spiritual, emotional and physical – of their members.” This coming Fall, the team will lead the congregation in a “Spiritual Well-being survey” that will help the team identify the health issues and concerns shared by members and provide programmatic efforts which can help address the needs of the community.



Ruth Circle

RUTH CIRCLE

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30am for great fellowship and casual Bible Study from the *WELCAGather* magazine. Our Intergenerational Bible Study for the May 12 meeting is from the book of Luke, “*Mary & Elizabeth; Sisters across the Generations.*” Hostess this month is Elaine Glover. 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. And just a reminder, we do not meet during the months of June & July, but will start back up on August 11.

SENIOR LUNCHEON!

Colorado), Friday, May 6, 11:00 join the fun with friends. Sign up at questions, maps, carpooling, or



Senior Luncheon at "English Dockside" (1201 W. AM. The last get-together before summer break! Come the kiosk in the narthex. Give Susan a call (573-4776) with ressesies. Looking forward to YOU being there!!

CONGRATULATIONS...

****to Bill Ayen** for being selected the 2015 Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains Distinguished Volunteer of the year. He was presented the “*Eagles Wings*” award at their annual Benefit Gala in Denver on April 23.


US & THEM WE:

One of the organizations that Ascension supports is Mosaic. Mosaic is an affiliated social ministry organization of the ELCA. It was formed in 2003 by the consolidation of Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes, both of which were Lutheran ministries dedicated to the needs of people with disabilities and founded in Nebraska.

Mosaic is a faith-based organization serving more than 3,700 people with intellectual disabilities in 36 agencies located in 10 states. They also participate in international outreach, governmental affairs and church relations to fulfill their mission of, "Embracing God's call to serve in the world, Mosaic advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and provides opportunities for them to enjoy a full life."

As part of their mission to help support people with intellectual disabilities and empower the pursuit of their goals, some of the services that they provide are, affordable, accessible housing, children's services, vocational & skills training, host homes/foster care, 24/7 residential or hourly supported care, and job coaching and placement. Our local agency is currently looking at reaching out to Pueblo and possibly Castle Rock to work with those in need in those communities.

If you would like to find out more information on them, their website is www.mosaicinfo.org.

GUESS WHAT???? BOTH THE CHICKEN AND THE EGG ARE IN A MOOD TO CELEBRATE!  Thanks to your generosity, you raised more than \$6,500.00 for the 2016 ELCA World Hunger campaign!!!! Over \$600 of that was from the coins and bills (and even a few checks!) that filled the barn banks and were brought to church on Palm Sunday. Thank you, Ascension! Your gifts will bless hungry people throughout the world!

CONGRATULATIONS...

****to Pastor John Sorenson** on his retirement, after 41 years of ministry. He interned at Ascension under Pastor Rudolph in 1973-74.

CONGRATULATIONS...

****Welcome Zora Marie Smith, daughter of proud parents, Kristen and Daniel.** Zora Marie was born on March 29th. She's 6 lbs 7 ounces, just under 19 inches tall, a good sleeper and eater, and rocks her beanie. Her birth mother is recovering well. Kristen Daugherty Smith and I are grateful for her and for all your prayers these past days, months, and years. Pastor Daniel.

****Welcome Cassidy Ann Velloney** to our church family by Baptism on April 17. She was born on February 19. Her parents are Tim and Jessica Velloney.

THANK YOU...

****to everyone** who made the Middle School Sunday School Ethiopia Drought Relief Fundraiser a success! Thank you to Carol Bramschreiber and the MS kids who worked hard on behalf of our Compassion Child, Alemitu, who lives in Ethiopia. And thank you to the members of ALC who contributed. Enough funds were collected to provide over 3 months of food to a family of four living in a drought-stricken region of Ethiopia.

Come celebrate with Parish Ed!

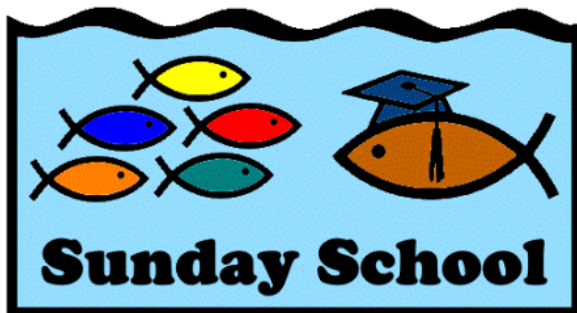
The Board of Parish Ed will be hosting two celebrations during coffee hour in May. On May 1, we will be honoring the confirmands and their families with a cake reception. Please celebrate with our young people as they step forth in faith! On May 22, we will be hosting a Sunday School Appreciation for all of the wonderful folks who give so much of their time and heart to helping our children and youth become strong and knowledgeable in the Lord. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Elisa Thompson. Elisat92@gmail.com or 641.5184.

BECOME INVOLVED....

****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.

****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!

Sunday School News:



May 15 is our last day of classes and **May 22** is our **Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Reception** in the fellowship area.

The Board of Parish Education would like to thank the following teachers for their service in bringing God's Story to our children each week! Words are just not sufficient for expressing our gratitude for the selfless hours of preparation, planning, patience, energy and love given by these people:

Sarah Bolser & Tina Krieg - PK through 2nd Grade

Judy Heeren - 3rd through 5th Grade

Ashley Brewer & Jeff Courtright - Opening Leaders

Carol Bramschreiber - Middle School

Mary Stoneback, with Patrick Deloughry, Pete Krieg and Megan Miller - High School

Thank you to Nancy Albertson of Thrivent Financial for bringing Ascension a special showing of the Milestones Project on Sunday morning, April 10!

The Milestones Project is an initiative designed to help parents teach their children to value and respect people who are different from themselves. Since its inception in 1998, more than 43,000 award winning photographs of the world's children have been photographed taking their first steps, celebrating their first birthdays or enjoying their first tooth. The goal is to impress upon people what the photos make so clear: no matter where we live or how we pray, we are all more alike than different!

**Please contact either of us with Sunday school questions, or if you would like to volunteer for next year. Thanks!

Lisa Coltrin - Sunday School Superintendent

719.650.2627 -- phone or text

lisamcoltrin@yahoo.com

or

Elisa Thompson

- Director, Board of Parish Education

719.641.5184 -- phone or text

elisat92@gmail.com

BECOME INVOLVED (cont.)....

****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.

****Knotty Kneedlers** – We continue to make small blankets and now sweaters for the Indian reservations, as well as prayer shawls. If you would like to become involved in this ministry, or just want to join us for fellowship and work on your own project, we meet every Wednesday at 1pm, in Fellowship Hall. Contact Bonnie Vawter, 579-6707, with any questions.

****Terrace Gardens Bingo - Prizes are needed.** We could use some of the following prizes: gently used men's clothing, some small containers of ladies' perfumes, adult coloring books, and crayons. 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.

****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.

YOUTH & FAMILIES

Check out the monthly Parent Connect for things happening 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 (youth@ascensionlutheranelca.org). Check-out May's issue for the May Youth and Family Calendar and more.



End of the Year Day Trip to Rainbow Trail!



High Ropes @ Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp – Day-long
(Not an overnight)

What: All MS & HS youth are invited to a day at camp, doing high ropes and team building activities!

When: Saturday, May 14, 7:30 am – evening

Where: Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, we'll meet at First Lutheran Church @7:30 am.

Cost: \$25

RSVP: Sunday May 8 to Mary,
youth@ascensionlutheranelca.org 303.475.4886



CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER – VOLUNTEER OPPS.

The center is a happening place and with the upcoming south end renovations, there are even more ways for you to get involved in the ministry and mission of the center.

The Center is currently looking for short-term volunteers to come in and get them boxed up and ready to move to the basement for the summer. If you have a few hours to spare, let Mary Stoneback know and she'll

coordinate a time for you. **12 pm – 2 pm is nap time. All shifts would take place before 12 pm and/or after 2 pm.*

Mary Stoneback (303.475.4886) or
youth@ascensionlutheranelca.org





AIA May 2016 Issue #5
Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA
2505 N. Circle Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Colo.Sprgs.,CO
Permit No. 731

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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
d_holt@ascensionlutheranelca.org (Pastor Holt)
d_smith@ascensionlutheranelca.org (Pastor Smith)
youth@ascensionlutheranelca.org (Mary Stoneback)
meganpfeiffermiller.com (Megan Miller)
t_adams@AscensionLutheranELCA.org (Teresa Adams)
clc@ascensionlutheranelca.org (CLC)
ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)

Our Website: www.ascensionlutheranelca.org

June newsletter deadline: May 15

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Dale & Dorothy Brown, Sharon Budd (Sister of Darcy Ayen), Brad Buhler, Dennis Caldwell, Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Tom & Sandra George, Ralph Hathaway, Benny Johnson, Bob Kuzma, Al Mosher, Hazel Quindt, Tiffany Malcom Roisland, Jeff Sebben, Arlene Schultz, Joshua & Virginia Stanley (Parents of Marilyn Gulliksen), Carol Thompson, and all of our men and women serving overseas, and their families.