



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church June 2016

Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Listening to those who haven't yet forgotten

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these as the kingdom of God belongs." – Jesus, Mark 10:14

I recently heard an old Hebrew proverb: Just before a baby is born, the angel Gabriel tells them everything, all the secrets of God and the universe. Then, Gabriel kisses them on the forehead, they are born, and they begin to forget.

It's a lovely story. You can sort of picture it, can't you. Gabriel whispering into a baby's ear. The tiny kiss. And as a brand new parent, I think I can safely say ... nah. I love my daughter dearly, and I can't wait to see the woman she will grow up to be, but did she know secrets of God and the universe just a few short weeks ago? The evidence seems to point to no.

Still, that last line captivates and haunts me: they begin to forget. Now, I am one who believes that as children grow they learn to be kind. They learn to have faith. They learn who they are. They learn to say please, and they learn to repeat the Lord's Prayer, and they learn to tie their shoes. Like an empty sponge soaking up water, they learn and learn and learn. But still, I wonder if there is some truth that in all of that learning they also begin to forget something. Maybe not the secrets of the universe, but the idea of mystery. Maybe not the secrets of God, but the feel of the angel's kiss on the forehead.

And it isn't just the poetry of that line that captivates me. There is a lot of cynicism in our world, a lot of disbelief. The harsh realities of life beat that cynicism into us, and the abundance of it seeps into



who we are, until it starts to feel normal. And then those who don't share in the cynicism are considered naïve, ignorant, childish. I don't know if we forget the secrets of the universe as we age, but maybe we forget to be comfortable with the universe having secrets. I don't know if we forget the secrets of God, but maybe we forget that there are secrets about God we just don't know. Secrets to marvel at and prod at. Secrets which give us hope for this world. Secrets which give more honesty to our prayers.

We can't go back. We can't ignore the realities of this world we've come to know. But we can invite that sort of infant knowledge into our community, into our presence, into our lives. We can sing songs with kids and pray prayers with them. We can let them tell us a Bible story, and look at their pictures of Jesus feeding the 5,000. We can remember that the children in our midst have something to show us, something we've all forgotten. We can't go back, but we can do that.

Pastor Daniel

Islam Study Continues

Through the Board of Parish Education, we will continue to study Islam between services on June 12, 19, and 26. We will try to have a variety of resources and issues to discuss. Please join us.

Help us to keep up with you

If you have a change of address please contact the church office with your new address and/or phone number. This is for students as well. Thanks for your help.



What's Happening

Thank you to all who have answered the call to serve as executive committee members, board directors, and board members.

It's Summer!!! That means there are many summer activities going on at Ascension besides our renovation project. There are still many ways to get involved with our faith community over the summer. Here are but a few.

Join a small group doing outdoor activities. It is an awesome way to get to know others in our community of faith.

Discover Ascension classes continue into June with a new member Sunday.

Adult education will be continuing discussions on Islam in June.

VBS this summer will be run by Rainbow Trail staff. Be watching for items to help support VBS.

Be watching the newsletter and bulletin for further summer activities.

“A Community of Grace, Called to Serve.”

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

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

Vote for 2016-2018 Congregation Planning

Council and Boards

Contractor and Financing Approval Closing Prayer

I would like to thank those who have served on Council the past two years and who will not be returning.

Phil Trent – Vice President

Stacy Jensen – Secretary

Brad Chewakin – Youth Board Director

Ron Elsdon – Lay Ministry Board Director

Andy Saunders – Evangelism Board Director

Rich Paradis – Stewardship Board Director

Gail Tucker – Worship Board Director

Thank you for sharing your time and gifts with the people of Ascension and to those who were touched by your service.



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

- Pastor Daniel Smith led devotions.
- Pastor Holt shared some activities from the Synod Assembly. He noted a number of our retired Pastors had reached milestone anniversaries of their ordination including his own of 30 years.
- Pastor Daniel said to be looking for activities this coming year celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Church.
- Board Directors gave brief updates on current activities and future plans as we head into the summer.
- Greg Gulliksen asked board directors to start getting information together to pass on to new board directors.
- Rex Rudy reported on the May financials.
- Pastor Dan gave an update from the building committee. Documents will be going out for bid this week. Greg read three resolutions from the Building Committee that would go before the congregation once the costs are known for the renovations.
- Rex gave a summary of financial activities.
- 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.

Building Committee Update

After almost 3 years (Paul Reu and Amy Torchinsky got the ball rolling in July 2013) we are getting ready for congregation approval of the winning contractor and of financing for the Facility Improvement Project. As of the time this article was submitted (May 16) the Regional Building Department review was completed and the bidders were working hard on preparing their bids. The bids will be reviewed the week of May 23 by the Building Committee followed by the CPC review leading to the recommendations coming to the congregation at the June 5 (9:15 AM) Congregational Meeting. Please attend this important meeting.

Capital Campaign contributions through May 8 totaled over \$205,000. THANKS to all for your support. We will continue to monitor the amount of contributions received and then adjust the amount of work completed this summer to the funds available.

REMEMBER!!!! 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



Notes from the Music Room

Anyone can sing. Did you know? Recent

research confirms what my own experience has always led me to believe: singing is more about singing regularly, than innate talent. A study presented in the journal *Music Perception* showed that, people improve dramatically in matching pitch and singing musical patterns correctly between kindergarten to sixth grade, when most children are singing regularly in school. However, that progress is largely lost by early adulthood in most people thanks to reduced singing throughout the teenage and adult years. As the study says, "Nobody expects

adults who haven't picked up their trumpet since 5th grade to play with any skill, but we think that we either "have" or "don't have" a singing voice." The problem is usually on the output side of things, not the input: you enjoy listening to the music on the radio, and can tell who is a good singer on American Idol, but you can't do the same things with your own voice that you can appreciate in others. If you're singing along with hymns in church, you're already doing the first step toward keeping your vocal muscles in shape. But what else can people do? In England, shower singers are uniting to form "Can't Sing" Choirs! By singing together, they get good vocal exercise, but above all, have fun! Stayed tuned for more about what Ascension will do to keep people singing.

Make a joyful noise!
Megan

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

**to Kevin & Tiffany Malcom Roisland at the death of their newborn daughter, Maren Elizabeth.

CONGRATULATIONS...

**to Micah Holt, who recently completed his Doctoral studies in Trumpet Performance and is now Dr. Holt.

**to Aaron Holt for graduating from CU with a Masters in Computer Science.

**to Shane Coltrin for his upcoming graduation from CSU in Fort Collins.

**to Erick Chewakin who graduated with a degree in Aerospace Engineering from CU.

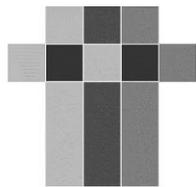
**to Hannah Welch, daughter of Clarice Lakota, for graduating as an RN.

THANK YOU...

****Ascension**, for the previous four weeks of parental leave! It was great to spend time meeting and bonding with baby Zora! I will be taking 2 more weeks of parental leave in August when Kristen goes back to school. And thank you, also, for the love and prayers for our family. Zora is already part of a very kind community. –Pastor Daniel

Mercy's Gate/Interfaith Hospitality Network

Thank you for your continued support of this vital program to provide safe housing for homeless families in the Colorado Springs churches. Ascension hosted four families (5 adults and 9 children) on May 8-15. 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 had an interesting welcoming experience for a new family during our week. The family joined us on Thursday night. They called to say they were running late because of traffic, but they should be at Ascension by 6:15 PM. When they hadn't arrived by 7:00 PM, we attempted to call them but only got their voice mail. At 8:00 PM, we received a call from them asking where our IHN area was located. They called us from the Fellowship Area of our church. They had arrived at 6:15 PM, but entered our church from the upstairs parking lot and were met by a Native American Dance Group that was using our Fellowship Area for a dinner and then Indian dancing. Our new family was warmly welcomed by the upstairs group and they joined their dinner—they thought it was part of their new IHN experience. But by 8:00, the four children were getting tired and wondered where their sleeping area was. That's when their Mom called to see where Kathy and I were. I can only imagine what their initial thoughts were about their Ascension Lutheran IHN experience. Our next opportunity to support IHN will be at Beth-El Mennonite in late August. Feel free to contact John or Kathy Hayes at (719) 572-1052 or at kittypawz@aol.com if you have any questions about IHN.



**FAITH
formation**

PILLAR Instructor Phil McDonald and
“Discernment: the process of

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

PILLAR Workshop #2, “How We Decide: The Role of the Rational and Emotional Brains in Decision-Making,” led by



PILLAR
Institute for Lifelong Learning

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.

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.

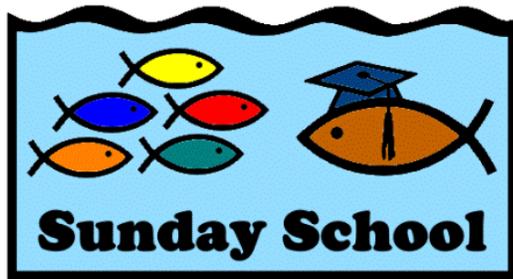
Monthly SUP Gatherings, planned by Ascension members for the congregation and friends.

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

There will be no Ruth Circle gatherings during June & July, but we plan on starting back up on August 11, depending on Construction details. Be watching for announcements.



Sunday School News:

- Thanks to ALC families, all of our wonderful Sunday school teachers, pastors, Mary and the Board of Parish Education for a great year! Learning God's Story together was a lot of fun!
- Hope kids can attend Day Camp at Ascension, June 20-24. *Register between services.*
- Planning has already begun for the 2016/2017 Sunday school year! *More information coming soon.*

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

Board of Parish Ed Extends a Hearty Thank You!

The Board of Parish Education would like to extend a heart-felt thanks to Judy Heeren and Lisa Coltrin. After *decades* of service, both will be stepping down from the Board of Parish Education. Both have been *extraordinary* Sunday school teachers and Lisa has also served as our Super Sunday School Superintendent for the past 2 years. They have both played key roles in Ascension's successful VBS and Christmas Programs over the years, too. Honestly, it would be impossible to exaggerate their service to the faith-formation of our church family. Ladies, you have greatly blessed Parish Education and those of us who have been privileged to serve with you!

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!

****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 you are 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** – 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.

Bridge Group. Our Bridge Group will meet at 5:30PM on June 18th 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 if you have any questions about this group.

Holy Pedalers

The Pedalers have started to ride. With the weather and new system of leaders it has been a slow start. We had 14 riders on our first ride and lots of great exercise and fellowship. We did the Pueblo reservoir May 14. The future rides will be posted to those on the rider email list and in the what's up weekly postings from the church. If you would like to join in the fun contact Bev Godec at 550-9202 or bgodec@msn.com



**SMALL GROUP
MINISTRIES
QUARTERLY UPDATE**
All are welcome; come join
in the fellowship!

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Contemplative Prayer Group

Discussions on theology and practice of contemplative prayer and contemplative silence together.

Meets; Monthly on First Monday at church, 7:00 pm.

Contact: Pastor Dan Holt, 634-1694 or office@ascensionlutheranelca.org

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 am.

Contact Katy for actual dates.

Contact: Katy Snider, 603-767-6274 or katy.snider@asd20.org

Ruth Circle

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

Meets: 2nd Thursday at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall except for June & July

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

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

One of the Pastors leads study on Bible or religious topics chosen by group, or scripture for the week.

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

Contact: Pastors Dan or Daniel, 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: Carol Thompson, 634-0670

Thursday Night Serendipity

Six-week studies with topics decided by the group.

Meets October through May.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6 pm at Beverly Broin's home.

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

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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 downstairs.

Contact: Arlayne McKee, 649-8265 or arlayne@juno.com

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

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 1 pm 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 am at Big Train Restaurant, 3050 N Nevada.

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

NONY (Not Old, Not Young)

We're a group at Ascension who don't fit in with the youth and don't fit in with the seniors, but want to hang out together. If you feel neither old nor young, you are invited, and so are your friends.

Meets: Occasionally. Dates will be advertised in the bulletin and What's Up

Contact: Pastor Daniel, 634-1694, or office@ascensionlutheranelca.org

Quilters for a New Beginning

No experience necessary to make pillowcases and quilts for Family Promise (formerly IHN). We'll teach you all you need to know.

Meets: Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Anita Arends, 573-4747

Red Hat Flashes

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

Meets: Monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at various restaurants. Actual location & time in church bulletin.

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

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 newsletter & bulletin

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

Walking Group

Walks at various venues.

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

Contact: Wini Klein, 636-1232 or wklein636@msn.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 10 am

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

SEASONAL GROUPS

Biking, Holy Pedalers

Most weekends, rides are scheduled. Group members can sign up to schedule and lead rides. Bike riding is mostly on trails, with some lightly traveled roads. Most rides include a stop for breakfast or lunch in support of fellowship.

Meets: Weekly, March – October, weather permitting. Most rides are on Saturdays with occasional weekday rides. Time & location by email & in Ascension Office's *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

Hiking/Snowshoeing

Breathe the fresh air and enjoy the pristine scenery as you explore Colorado's great outdoors.

Meets: Group will be notified by email when an outing is planned.

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



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Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Colorado Springs, CO 80909

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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 - off on Friday
Music Director – Megan Miller
Diaconal Minister of Faith Formation – 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

July newsletter deadline: June 19

*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, Jeff Sebben, Joshua & Virginia Stanley (Parents of Marilyn Gulliksen), Carol Thompson, and all of our men and women serving overseas and their families.