



Ascension In Action

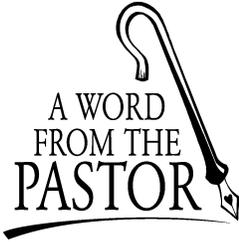
Ascension Lutheran Church

August 2016

Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Ask the Pastor

We have our “Ask the Pastor” sermon series going on this August. I thought I would take the opportunity here to answer one of those requests: “Pastor, why do we make the sign of the cross? Isn’t that Catholic?”



This question has some history behind it. After being excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church, Lutherans were left to figure out what they wanted to do and didn’t want to do. With time, they began to take some pride in not doing things that were considered too Catholic. It helped us with an identity that was different from the Roman Catholics. One practice that eventually made the chopping block was making the sign of the cross.

Currently, we as Lutherans have greatly improved our ties with the Roman Catholic Church. They have come back toward our understanding of being saved by grace. And we have picked up some of the practices that we had come to view as too Catholic. These moves were not just about being nice. Rather they and we have wanted to recover the goodness and depth behind them.

Making the sign of the cross for us is first and foremost a sign of our being baptized people of God. It signs on us that we are children of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is why we often do it with water out of the baptismal font. It is easy for us to slide into thinking that baptism was something done to us in some murky past that has little to do with us today. Luther taught that we are to remember our baptism every day in order to help us reinforce our identity as children of God through water and the Word.

Second, I believe that we are well served by more involvement with our bodies at worship. Worship is enhanced through having the whole person engaged: mind, heart, hearing, seeing and body. We could remember our baptism by just using words. But actions can help us be more deeply engaged with the meaning and message. These actions help us be participants and not just spectators.

Pastor Dan

Building Committee Update

So far the project has moved along at a good pace, and no surprises have arisen. It is difficult to tell exactly what will be completed by August 1 (am writing this on July 17), but we do know that the flooring in the Fellowship Hall, Narthex, and associated areas will have been replaced with carpet tiles, that the new windows are in and stucco will have been installed, and that the facility should be close to ready for final finish work and installation of cabinets, fixtures, etc. After three long years, we are near completion of this much-needed renovation project. It will then be time to celebrate!!

Capital Campaign Update

Through the end of June we had received \$231,000 in contributions. As we complete this phase of the project your continued support is very important as we need to 1) reimburse the church cash reserves from which we will borrow to complete the current contract, 2) accumulate monies to fund the needed renovations in the sanctuary, and then 3) to reduce the mortgage with the remaining contributions from pledges to the \$464,000 Capital Campaign.



What's Happening

We are looking forward to completing our south end renovations in August and having a safer and more inviting Children's Learning Center.

Hope all of you have had a chance to look at Ascension's new website. If not, please take a few minutes to look through the website: www.ascensioncos.org. There is a lot of information there.

August means that fall is just around the corner and the pace of activities will be picking up at Ascension. Blessing of the Backpacks; Rally Day; Gods Work, Our Hands service project, are just a few of the scheduled events. Be watching the newsletter and Sunday bulletin for additional activities

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



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

- Pastor Dan Holt led devotion and discussed how Ascension is a community and how we help each other.
- Pastor Smith talked about looking forward to the future and asked Council to share ideas about Ascension's future.
- Pastor Holt talked about leadership and the important role Council plays in leading the congregation. Pastor Dan also reported Ascension has had 6 funerals in the past 6 weeks.
- Board Directors gave brief updates on current activities and future plans as we look to the fall.

- Greg Gulliksen discussed using faith formation practices at Board meetings. He also gave a little insight on Council's orientation at the end of July.
- Rex Rudy reported on the June financials. He also explained how the financial reports are compiled for the benefit of new council members.
- Pastor Dan gave an update from the building committee. Construction is moving along. The sheet rock is close to being installed.
- Rex went through board budgets and how purchase orders are to be filled out and processed.
- Pastor Daniel asked Council what their itch was looking forward at Ascension. This will be discussed during orientation.
- Pastor Daniel 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.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

**to Cheryl Svoboda and Darcy Johnson at the death of daughter and sister, Julie Svoboda.

**to Jessica Collins at the death of her husband Tim Velloney.

**to the family of Rita Craft at her death on July 7.

CONGRATULATIONS...

**to former member Teresa Gorell on her marriage on July 16 in Texas to Joey Zanolini. Blessings to the happy couple. Teresa is the daughter of Dean & Jennifer Gorell.

THANK YOU...

**Dear Ascension members, we thank you all so much for your prayers, words of comfort and cards during the past few months. Bob had a successful pacemaker implant on July 7 and feels like a new man. Sally & Bob Walker

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 donor(s)
for gifts to the Endowment fund:

Judy & Dennis Conroy, Anniversary
Dee & Bill Yocum, Birthday Gift Away

More Legacies Created!

Thanks and God's blessings to the following donor(s)
for gifts to the Endowment fund **in memory of Benny
Johnson:**

Nancy & Bruce Albertson
Rich & Cindy Gaona
Clara Remele
Terry & Judy Snow
David Steinhauer
Jan Zellmer
Sue Trinko
Phil & Sandy
Charles & Betty Hatcher
Cheryl Johnson
Christel Walter
Lois Boschee
Nancy & James Stannard
Kay Richardson
Judy Leiseth & Dennis Bagenstos
Phil & Dee Erlander
Ilene Steinkruger
Sharon Versaw

Leave a Legacy

You can "Leave a Legacy" by leaving a lasting gift through the wise distribution of your accumulated wealth. Your funds or possessions can do double duty and work for you during your lifetime. Then they can go to care for family beneficiaries for a period of years and finally help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the many areas of ministry, mission, and education in your local church or church at large. For more information, contact a member of the Endowment Committee, one of the Pastors, or visit Ascension's web site; www.Ascensionlutheranelca.org

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES @ ALC

The board of Lay Ministry is grateful to offer the ALC congregation & friends the following opportunities to engage in fellowship, learning and service. We hope you will enjoy meeting others and are encouraged in your faith in Christ.

SUP Gatherings, a year-long opportunity for food, fellowship and learning from August to May.

SUP will take place monthly and will highlight different topics of interest and service gatherings. We hope these can be times to connect with others, learn something new and be encouraged in your faith in Christ. The main dish is provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

August 18, 12 pm - 1:30 pm, *Colorado and the Settlement of the West*

Guest speaker: Casey Pearce from The Museum of Mining and Industry

Mark your calendars for Noon Thursday August 18th as SUP kicks off with a special lunchtime event. Ms. Casey Pearce, Programming and Communications Coordinator for the Western Museum of Mining and Industry here in the Springs, will present a one hour program sure to enlighten and educate one and all. The presentation will start at 12:30. Casey is a Western Historian with multiple Master's degrees, and conducts special tours at the museum. Come, enjoy, and learn with friends and neighbors from the community.

September 15, 12 pm - 1:30 pm, *Perspectives on Welcoming the Stranger*

Guest: Dr. Eric Sandras (Dr. E) and Pastor Greg from The Sanctuary Church in Co. Springs

What does it mean for us to welcome the stranger? Who are the strangers in our midst? We invite you to come and enjoy a time of fellowship & conversation with Dr. Eric Sandras (Dr. E), and Pastor Greg from The Sanctuary Church in Co. Springs. They will share about their unique outreach to the neighbors in their midst. The Sanctuary Church is located on W. Colorado Avenue. As a community of believers, The Sanctuary leadership & members hope all come to know God's love and that 'it's ok to not be ok'.

Upcoming SUP Gatherings this Fall 2016:

Thursday October 20, 12 pm - 1:30 pm: *"Engaging Our Story"* – "What are some gifts we live through our Lutheran heritage?" "What does it mean to be a both/an church in an either/or world?" These are a few of the questions we'll consider in celebration of Reformation Sunday that are related to our Protestant Lutheran Identity.

Thursday November 17, 12 pm - 1:30 pm: *Planting Seeds of Abundance*: A gathering that focuses on health and faith (home safety, staying active, etc.) Food provided by *The Local*, the Seed's food truck. Gathering Cost: \$10. **No need to bring a side dish or dessert, all food is provided by The Local food truck.*

Thursday December 8, 12 pm - 1:30 pm: *Cookies and crafts for The Children's Learning Center (CLC)*: Come and make gift baskets for the CLC children, staff and families.

PILLAR & ALC PARTNERSHIP



PILLAR
Institute for Lifelong Learning

God's will, human convention, natural order and purpose-based relationships. **Course #3103.**

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

**The Board of Lay Ministry is grateful to continue partnering with PILLAR. Look for more PILLAR offerings in 2017.*

Workshop #3

When: Saturday
September 17,
10 am - 12 pm

Thus Says The Lord...Learning about what God says is right or wrong in the world. This

course will *rethink the Divine Command Theory* and considers

Faith Formation Learning Workshops

Beginning October 2016...

A cohort comprised of ALC members will begin a year-long Spiritual Formation 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 and elders to continue to grow in their faith in Christ and go deeper into what it means to live faithfully in all seasons of life. Workshops will be provided throughout the year by the team.

Health & Faith

Coming in November...

"The Abundant Life"

A month-long emphasis in health & faith

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 November, the team will lead the congregation in a number of learning opportunities, gatherings, fitness efforts and service projects aimed to help people of all ages connect their faith and health, encouraging abundant life in Christ. Watch for more information on how you can participate in the month-long effort.

SENIOR LUNCHEON returns in September. We head to "Rocco's." Details coming!!

SERVANTS WANTED!

We are in need of **Communion Assistants** for the 10:30 AM service especially. If you are willing to serve, please call Susan Curtis (573-4776) for details. Thank you!



Notes from the Music Room

"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." -Colossians 3:16

For centuries the church has asked what we should sing to God and even argued over what Paul meant by these three types of music: psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. The word "psalms" is pretty easy to understand. These are the Hebrew songs we find in our Old Testament, the very same Psalms that Jesus himself knew and sang. The original Hebrew word "tehillim" meant "praises," but the Greek word "psalmos" meant "plucking" and referred to the many psalms accompanied by string instruments, like David's own harp. Paul's next word for religious music, the Greek "hymnos" meant the same as that original Hebrew: song of praise. There have been many meaningful songs of praise written to God in the centuries since the book of psalms, and Paul encourages us to sing them. Lastly, Paul lists "spiritual songs." The word for songs is from the word ode (same in English and Greek!), sung lyric poetry, which was very popular in Paul's time and expressed highly personal emotion. So these spiritual songs must be songs inspired by the Holy Spirit, but of a more informal, personal type than the psalms or hymns. Many people have compared them to today's praise music, but also to Classical religious music, and anything else that is not a hymn.

So, is there anything further that we Lutherans want to know about this music? Martin Luther translated and paraphrased psalms as well as early Christian hymns into German for the people to understand and sing. He, like Paul, saw the power of song as a teaching tool in people's daily lives, especially in a heavily illiterate world! Luther wrote songs to teach the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and many other religious concepts. But he also appreciated the joy and comfort that came from music, often singing them by himself while playing the lute.

-Megan Miller

Ascension Stewardship Board

The incoming members of your Stewardship Board would like to thank the outgoing Board for their fine efforts these past two years. A special thanks goes out to former Director Rich Paradis for laying down such a solid foundation for us to work off of.

Your new Stewardship Board includes: Robbi Dollar, Christine Millard, Fred Schauer, and Will Strain. I am honored to serve as Board Director.

In His service,
Jerry Dollar

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. As a charter member of IHN, we have been supporting this vital program since the late 1990s. We will be helping our IHN partner church (Beth-El Mennonite) when they host IHN families in early September. Our days will be Tuesday, 6 September and Wednesday, 7 September. We will have sign-up sheets for our volunteers at our church services 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.

RUTH CIRCLE

It looks like Construction will not stand in our way, so we will plan on meeting on the usual August 11 date. We invite all ladies of Ascension to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30am for great fellowship and casual Bible Study from the WELCA *Gather* magazine. Since we have not met this summer, we will be doing the third lesson in a series, *Treasure in Clay Jars*, so you may want to look back at one of the previous months to get updated. We have no hostess for August, so if you have a snack item you would like to share, feel free to bring it. 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.



Mark your calendar...

There is an important Sunday School meeting

on August 28th between services for all parents with children that will be attending Sunday School this Fall. Rally Day is set for September 18th.

Tina Krieg
Sunday School Superintendent

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The Board of Parish Education and the Youth Board would like to give a BIG thank you to the many volunteers who made our Rainbow Trail Day Camp such an overwhelming success! Our week of Day Camp was filled with much growth for the approximately 55 children who attended and abundant blessings for all involved! A little over 60 Ascension members contributed to Day Camp. Thank you to each and every one of you; we could not have done it without you! A special thanks goes out to Mary Stoneback and Elisa Thompson for all of the hours that were spent before and during the week of Rainbow Trail Day Camp.

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 - Prizes are needed.** We could use some of the following prizes: gently used men and women'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. Thanks go out to our faithful volunteers who show up each month to help the residents with their bingo cards and to help them determine which prize they would like to have. Feel free to contact John Hayes at 572-1052 or at blazehayes@aol.com if you'd like to learn more about this Outreach program.

****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.

Join Holy Pedalers for Tour de Vineyards!

The Holy Pedalers, once again, are planning to participate in the Palisades organized bike ride, Tour De Vineyards, Saturday, September 17. A beautiful time to be driving to the Grand Junction area. If you are interested in riding with the group. Contact Bev or Carol Godec for more information re: motels, and ride details. It is important to make motel reservations very soon. The Wine Festival that is scheduled for the same time is one of the most popular events of the year for the Palisades / Grand Junction area, and motels in Grand Junction fill quickly. The group also rides in the Glenwood Canyon the following day before returning home.

Bev and Carol Godec

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on August 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 if you have any questions about this group.



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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

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@ascensioncos.org

d.holt@ascensioncos.org (Pastor Holt)

d.smith@ascensioncos.org (Pastor Smith)

m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org (Mary Stoneback)

music@ascensioncos.org (Megan Miller)

t.adams@ascensioncos.org (Teresa Adams)

clc@ascensioncos.org (CLC)

ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)

Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

September newsletter deadline: Aug. 21

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Chuck Blaney, Dale & Dorothy Brown, Sharon Budd (Sister of Darcy Ayen), Brad Buhler, Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Tom & Sandra George, Al Mosher, Hazel Quindt, Jeff Sebben, Joshua & Virginia Stanley (Parents of Marilyn Gulliksen), Bob Walker, and all of our men and women serving overseas.