



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

January 2017

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Living a Post-Election Life

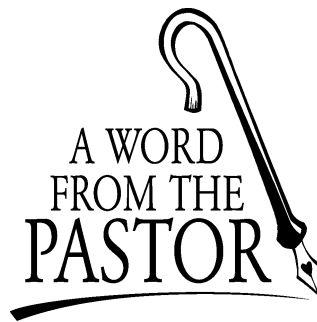
An odd question comes to my mind as 2017 begins: Now what? After following an election horse-race that lasted longer than many horses even live, I'm struck wondering: What do we do now? We, people of faith, how do we live a post-election life? After a month or two of reflection, I'm making three commitments.

Engage Faith

There's a myth that our faith should be relegated to an hour on Sunday and should certainly not influence our public or political thinking. But, while the separation of church and state is necessary and good, our faith still matters in this world. It roots our morality. It binds us together in community. It gives us an identity from which we live. Our faith calls us to pray for one another and for our elected officials. Our faith calls us to seek righteousness. Our faith calls us to start with a trust in God's unfailing grace, not in our own devices. And so, to live a post-election life, I can think of no better first step than to engage more deeply in my faith. To read scripture, to receive the sacrament, to pray – not removed from the world, but for the sake of it.

Stand for Justice

Politicians of all stripes like to win our support by appealing to our self-interest. But, the truth is, I'm probably going to be fine. My salary (thank you!), family, community (thank you!), and standing in society all mean I'm less vulnerable than most. I am not at risk of deployment, oppression, or suffering from rising seas. But many are not in my boat. Christ calls us to consider, not ourselves, but our neighbor in need. And so, as people of faith, we must stand for justice. We must demand it from our elected officials. We must clear the path for God's justice through our works of love. We must speak against injustice down the block and across the globe. Justice is the vocation within each of our vocations, and it is no less



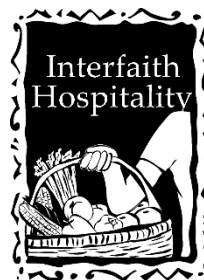
a part of a post-election life than it was a part of 2016. Indeed, justice is as important as ever.

Listen

One hard truth I learned in 2016 was that there are a lot of people in this country that I don't *truly* know. And it isn't just those who see the world through different political eyes. I also don't know what it's like to be black and feel like the justice system isn't just. I don't know what it feels like to watch the only job my father and grandfather ever had be shipped overseas and wonder what's in store for me. I don't know what it feels like to suffer harassment on account of my gender or sexual orientation. I don't know what it's like to pick between rent and food. I – we – need to seek out and listen to the voices of those who are different than us. Not to agree, necessarily, but to understand. Because through understanding, we might grow more compassionate in 2017 than we were in 2016.

May God grant me the courage, strength, and wisdom to engage my faith, to stand for justice, and to listen to fellow children of God. And may God do the same for you.

Pastor Daniel



Interfaith Hospitality Network

Thank you for your continued support of this vital program to provide safe housing for homeless families in Colorado Springs churches. As a charter member of IHN, we have been supporting this vital program since the 1990s. The next

opportunity to help with IHN will be January 17-18 when our mission partner church (Beth-el Mennonite) hosts the families for a week. There will be sign-up sheets for volunteers to support our IHN commitments in the Narthex between services on January 8th and the 15th. If you have any questions about this program, feel free to contact John or Kathy Hayes at (719) 572-1052 or at kittypawz@aol.com.



What's Happening

Thanks to all who participated in our Advent activities this year. It is truly a blessing to see so many of our faith community involved in various ways. Here are a few ways in which you all served during Advent. Provided gifts to the Pueblo State Hospital, prayed for the children of the CLC, caroling at homes of our shut-ins, bringing us God's message during the Sunday School Christmas program, sharing of musical talents for our Cantata, and all of the groups who provide service to others. We are truly a blessed congregation.

On December 4 the congregation approved our operating budget of \$803,960 for 2017.

No CPC meeting summary is included in this newsletter as no meeting was held in December.

“A Community of Grace, Called to Serve.”

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

Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting for Ascension will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2017. Reports by each Board and the audited 2016 financials will be presented. The CPC will be making a recommendation to the congregation on how to spend any additional funds from 2016. All are highly encouraged to attend and see what your Congregation Planning Council is planning for 2017. Be watching the February newsletter and worship bulletins for further information.

Congregational Meeting



Notes from the Music Room

Happy New Year! I feel like I often

start the new year in a fog. After the lights and people and excitement at Christmas, it feels hard to find my bearings again. It feels too quiet. And too dark. Christmas is, it seems, the only time of year when sane adults can break into song—Christmas carols, that is—without being seen as very eccentric, at best. Throughout busy December, I find my joy and peace in my music and loved ones, especially those moments when I can share music with my loved ones. But when January comes, work and old routines seem to pull me back, and dark, dreary winter really sets in.

So, this year I'm making it my intention to keep this communal music as part of my daily life. In the opening of Robert J. Morgan's *Then Sings My Soul: 250 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories*, he remembers the healing, calming, renewing power of singing a simple hymn. This is therefore my goal: every day I will sit down with a hymn, whether from memory, from my hymnal, from an online hymnal like Hymnary.org, or from a YouTube recording. I will not hide this; I will invite family and friends to sing with me whenever possible. I will ensure my children hear me singing, and begin teaching them a hymn or two to remind them of God's eternal love and presence in their lives and to help them find ways to praise and pray to God.

It takes less than one minute to sing a verse of a hymn. No matter how hectic, I can surely find time for one, if not four verses in my day.

Megan

RUTH CIRCLE

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30am for fellowship and casual Bible Study from the WELCA *Gather* magazine. We will begin a new study this month, January 12, from the book of Galatians, entitled Christian Faith and Christian Freedom, *No other Gospel*. If you are new to Ascension or just looking for a casual Bible Study group, we hope you will come and join us! And if you have any left over Christmas goodies that you would like to bring to share, please do so. Copies of the study are available in the church office.

US & THEM WE: Happy New Year from your Board of Social Outreach. As we move into 2017, we want to make you aware of 3 new ministries that have sort of “popped” up over the past several months at Ascension:

- 1) Quilts for New Beginnings – this group of hard working “Ascensionites” and Beth-El Mennonites meets every Wednesday, 9-1, at Ascension. Together, they create warm, beautiful quilts for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) families and Lutheran World Relief. Thanks, New Beginnings! You are making a beautiful difference in people’s lives! Want to help? No experience necessary, just willing hands and heart!
- 2) Handmade, Heartfelt - Check out the wide variety of “Handmade, Heartfelt” cards on the rack in Fellowship Hall. “Buy” any that you like and leave a donation in the box attached to the side of the cabinet beside the rack. The donations will go toward a gift for KPC Kids Place in 2017, as well as additional supplies. A different nonprofit will be chosen for the proceeds each year. These cards are absolutely gorgeous, and an easy way to purchase something lovely and handmade that also helps serve a greater purpose.
- 3) Ascension Little Pantry – Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team Grant and some hard work from Bob Kelly, a “Little Food Pantry” will soon be installed on our property, in the area in front of the Children’s Learning Center (CLC). Whether one is in need or would like to donate, access to this pantry will be easy and non-intimidating. And who knows – maybe it will inspire other churches/individuals/organizations to do the same!

These are all such great examples of the many ways you are reaching out to bridge gaps between us and our neighbors. Have an idea? Let’s talk! We’d love to hear about it!

Thanks, Ascension, for all the ways you reach out to others in His love.

Sharla Saunders – Director, Board of Social Outreach

BECOME INVOLVED...

****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.

****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 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!

****Quilts for New Beginnings** – 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.



**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:

Craig Kelly - birthday

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

BECOME INVOLVED (cont.)...

****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 and Volunteers are needed.** Our church has been supporting bingo at the Terrace Garden Healthcare Center for almost 35 years. We call three games of bingo from 10:00-11:00AM on the third Wednesday of each month for the interested residents. We normally have about 10-15 players. We call out the numbers until every player wins in each game. After they win, we help them (if needed) to the prize table where they can pick out a prize of their choice. The prizes are all donated by members of the Ascension family. We could use some of the following prizes: gently used men and women's clothing, board games, some small containers of ladies' perfumes, adult coloring books/crayons, and lady's jewelry. Please mark items as "Bingo Prizes" and place them in the Terrace Garden Bingo box located on the counter behind the Welcome Center. *We are also in need of some additional volunteers* to help the residents with their bingo cards and to help them determine which prize they would like to have. The residents really look forward to our bingo each month and it is rewarding to help them each month. Please contact John Hayes at 572-1052 or at blazehayes@aol.com if you'd like to help or 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.



500th Anniversary of the Reformation

On October 29, 2017 we will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the reformation, but over the course of the next year, there will be a series of events, classes, and materials made available to the Ascension family to give us a better understanding of the reformation. We plan to include articles in this newsletter throughout the next year to give us better insight into the Reformation. This month we'll learn about Martin Luther's 95 Theses that were intended to change the Catholic Church, but are now considered the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Martin Luther's 95 Theses

In early 16th-century Europe, some theologians and scholars were beginning to question the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. It was also around this time that translations of original texts—namely, the Bible and the writings of the early church philosopher Augustine—became more widely available.

Augustine (340–430) had emphasized the primacy of the Bible rather than Church officials as the ultimate religious authority. He also believed that humans could not reach salvation by their own acts, but that only God could bestow salvation by his divine grace. In the Middle Ages the Catholic Church taught that salvation was possible through "good works," or works of righteousness, that pleased God. Luther came to share Augustine's two central beliefs, which would later form the basis of Protestantism.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Church's practice of granting "indulgences" to provide absolution to sinners became increasingly corrupt. Indulgence-selling had been banned in Germany, but the practice continued unabated. In 1517, a friar named Johann Tetzel began to sell indulgences in Germany to raise funds to renovate St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Committed to the idea that salvation could be reached through faith and by divine grace only, Luther vigorously objected to the corrupt practice of selling indulgences. Acting on this belief, he wrote the "Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," also known as "The 95 Theses," a list of questions and propositions for debate. Popular legend has it that on October 31, 1517 Luther defiantly nailed a copy of his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church. The reality was probably not so dramatic; Luther more likely hung the document on the door of the church matter-of-factly to announce the ensuing academic discussion around it that he was organizing.

The 95 Theses, which would later become the foundation of the Protestant Reformation, were written in a remarkably humble and academic tone, questioning rather than accusing. The overall thrust of the document was nonetheless quite

provocative. The first two of the theses contained Luther's central idea, that God intended believers to seek repentance and that faith alone, and not deeds, would lead to salvation. The other 93 theses, a number of them directly criticizing the practice of indulgences, supported these first two.

The 95 Theses

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.



1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.
2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.
3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.
4. The penalty of sin remains as long as the hatred of self (that is, true inner repentance), namely till our entrance into the kingdom of heaven.
5. The pope neither desires nor is able to remit any penalties except those imposed by his own authority or that of the canons.
6. The pope cannot remit any guilt, except by declaring and showing that it has been remitted by God; or, to be sure, by remitting guilt in cases reserved to his judgment. If his right to grant remission in these cases were disregarded, the guilt would certainly remain unforgiven.
7. God remits guilt to no one unless at the same time he humbles him in all things and makes him submissive to the vicar, the priest.
8. The penitential canons are imposed only on the living, and, according to the canons themselves, nothing should be imposed on the dying.
9. Therefore the Holy Spirit through the pope is kind to us insofar as the pope in his decrees always makes exception of the article of death and of necessity.
10. Those priests act ignorantly and wickedly who, in the case of the dying, reserve canonical penalties for purgatory.
11. Those tares of changing the canonical penalty to the penalty of purgatory were evidently sown while the bishops slept (Mt 13:25).
12. In former times canonical penalties were imposed, not after, but before absolution, as tests of true contrition.

13. The dying are freed by death from all penalties, are already dead as far as the canon laws are concerned, and have a right to be released from them.
14. Imperfect piety or love on the part of the dying person necessarily brings with it great fear; and the smaller the love, the greater the fear.
15. This fear or horror is sufficient in itself, to say nothing of other things, to constitute the penalty of purgatory, since it is very near to the horror of despair.
16. Hell, purgatory, and heaven seem to differ the same as despair, fear, and assurance of salvation.
17. It seems as though for the souls in purgatory fear should necessarily decrease and love increase.
18. Furthermore, it does not seem proved, either by reason or by Scripture, that souls in purgatory are outside the state of merit, that is, unable to grow in love.
19. Nor does it seem proved that souls in purgatory, at least not all of them, are certain and assured of their own salvation, even if we ourselves may be entirely certain of it.
20. Therefore the pope, when he uses the words "plenary remission of all penalties," does not actually mean "all penalties," but only those imposed by himself.
21. Thus those indulgence preachers are in error who say that a man is absolved from every penalty and saved by papal indulgences.
22. As a matter of fact, the pope remits to souls in purgatory no penalty which, according to canon law, they should have paid in this life.
23. If remission of all penalties whatsoever could be granted to anyone at all, certainly it would be granted only to the most perfect, that is, to very few.
24. For this reason most people are necessarily deceived by that indiscriminate and high-sounding promise of release from penalty.
25. That power which the pope has in general over purgatory corresponds to the power which any bishop or curate has in a particular way in his own diocese and parish.
26. The pope does very well when he grants remission to souls in purgatory, not by the power of the keys, which he does not have, but by way of intercession for them.
27. They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory.
28. It is certain that when money clinks in the money chest, greed and avarice can be increased; but when the church intercedes, the result is in the hands of God alone.
29. Who knows whether all souls in purgatory wish to be redeemed, since we have exceptions in St. Severinus and St. Paschal, as related in a legend.
30. No one is sure of the integrity of his own contrition, much less of having received plenary remission.
31. The man who actually buys indulgences is as rare as he who is really penitent; indeed, he is exceedingly rare.
32. Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers.
33. Men must especially be on guard against those who say that the pope's pardons are that inestimable gift of God by which man is reconciled to him.
34. For the graces of indulgences are concerned only with the penalties of sacramental satisfaction established by man.

35. They who teach that contrition is not necessary on the part of those who intend to buy souls out of purgatory or to buy confessional privileges preach unchristian doctrine.
36. Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters.
37. Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church; and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters.
38. Nevertheless, papal remission and blessing are by no means to be disregarded, for they are, as I have said (Thesis 6), the proclamation of the divine remission.
39. It is very difficult, even for the most learned theologians, at one and the same time to commend to the people the bounty of indulgences and the need of true contrition.
40. A Christian who is truly contrite seeks and loves to pay penalties for his sins; the bounty of indulgences, however, relaxes penalties and causes men to hate them -- at least it furnishes occasion for hating them.
41. Papal indulgences must be preached with caution, lest people erroneously think that they are preferable to other good works of love.
42. Christians are to be taught that the pope does not intend that the buying of indulgences should in any way be compared with works of mercy.
43. Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better deed than he who buys indulgences.
44. Because love grows by works of love, man thereby becomes better. Man does not, however, become better by means of indulgences but is merely freed from penalties.
45. Christians are to be taught that he who sees a needy man and passes him by, yet gives his money for indulgences, does not buy papal indulgences but God's wrath.
46. Christians are to be taught that, unless they have more than they need, they must reserve enough for their family needs and by no means squander it on indulgences.
47. Christians are to be taught that they buying of indulgences is a matter of free choice, not commanded.
48. Christians are to be taught that the pope, in granting indulgences, needs and thus desires their devout prayer more than their money.
49. Christians are to be taught that papal indulgences are useful only if they do not put their trust in them, but very harmful if they lose their fear of God because of them.
50. Christians are to be taught that if the pope knew the exactions of the indulgence preachers, he would rather that the basilica of St. Peter were burned to ashes than built up with the skin, flesh, and bones of his sheep.
51. Christians are to be taught that the pope would and should wish to give of his own money, even though he had to sell the basilica of St. Peter, to many of those from whom certain hawkers of indulgences cajole money.
52. It is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the indulgence commissary, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security.
53. They are the enemies of Christ and the pope who forbid altogether the preaching of the Word of God in some churches in order that indulgences may be preached in others.
54. Injury is done to the Word of God when, in the same sermon, an equal or larger amount of time is devoted to indulgences than to the Word.
55. It is certainly the pope's sentiment that if indulgences, which are a very insignificant thing, are celebrated with one bell, one procession, and one ceremony, then the gospel, which is the very greatest thing, should be preached with a hundred bells, a hundred processions, a hundred ceremonies.
56. The true treasures of the church, out of which the pope distributes indulgences, are not sufficiently discussed or known among the people of Christ.
57. That indulgences are not temporal treasures is certainly clear, for many indulgence sellers do not distribute them freely but only gather them.
58. Nor are they the merits of Christ and the saints, for, even without the pope, the latter always work grace for the inner man, and the cross, death, and hell for the outer man.
59. St. Lawrence said that the poor of the church were the treasures of the church, but he spoke according to the usage of the word in his own time.
60. Without want of consideration we say that the keys of the church, given by the merits of Christ, are that treasure.
61. For it is clear that the pope's power is of itself sufficient for the remission of penalties and cases reserved by himself.
62. The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.
63. But this treasure is naturally most odious, for it makes the first to be last (Mt. 20:16).
64. On the other hand, the treasure of indulgences is naturally most acceptable, for it makes the last to be first.
65. Therefore the treasures of the gospel are nets with which one formerly fished for men of wealth.
66. The treasures of indulgences are nets with which one now fishes for the wealth of men.
67. The indulgences which the demagogues acclaim as the greatest graces are actually understood to be such only insofar as they promote gain.
68. They are nevertheless in truth the most insignificant graces when compared with the grace of God and the piety of the cross.
69. Bishops and curates are bound to admit the commissaries of papal indulgences with all reverence.
70. But they are much more bound to strain their eyes and ears lest these men preach their own dreams instead of what the pope has commissioned.
71. Let him who speaks against the truth concerning papal indulgences be anathema and accursed.
72. But let him who guards against the lust and license of the indulgence preachers be blessed.
73. Just as the pope justly thunders against those who by any means whatever contrive harm to the sale of indulgences.
74. Much more does he intend to thunder against those who use indulgences as a pretext to contrive harm to holy love and truth.
75. To consider papal indulgences so great that they could absolve a man even if he had done the impossible and had violated the mother of God is madness.
76. We say on the contrary that papal indulgences cannot remove the very least of venial sins as far as guilt is concerned.
77. To say that even St. Peter if he were now pope, could not grant greater graces is blasphemy against St. Peter and the pope.
78. We say on the contrary that even the present pope, or any pope whatsoever, has greater graces at his disposal, that is,

the gospel, spiritual powers, gifts of healing, etc., as it is written. (1 Co 12[:28])

79. To say that the cross emblazoned with the papal coat of arms, and set up by the indulgence preachers is equal in worth to the cross of Christ is blasphemy.
80. The bishops, curates, and theologians who permit such talk to be spread among the people will have to answer for this.
81. This unbridled preaching of indulgences makes it difficult even for learned men to rescue the reverence which is due the pope from slander or from the shrewd questions of the laity.
82. Such as: "Why does not the pope empty purgatory for the sake of holy love and the dire need of the souls that are there if he redeems an infinite number of souls for the sake of miserable money with which to build a church?" The former reason would be most just; the latter is most trivial.
83. Again, "Why are funeral and anniversary masses for the dead continued and why does he not return or permit the withdrawal of the endowments founded for them, since it is wrong to pray for the redeemed?"
84. Again, "What is this new piety of God and the pope that for a consideration of money they permit a man who is impious and their enemy to buy out of purgatory the pious soul of a friend of God and do not rather, because of the need of that pious and beloved soul, free it for pure love's sake?"
85. Again, "Why are the penitential canons, long since abrogated and dead in actual fact and through disuse, now satisfied by the granting of indulgences as though they were still alive and in force?"
86. Again, "Why does not the pope, whose wealth is today greater than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build this one basilica of St. Peter with his own money rather than with the money of poor believers?"
87. Again, "What does the pope remit or grant to those who by perfect contrition already have a right to full remission and blessings?"
88. Again, "What greater blessing could come to the church than if the pope were to bestow these remissions and blessings on every believer a hundred times a day, as he now does but once?"
89. "Since the pope seeks the salvation of souls rather than money by his indulgences, why does he suspend the indulgences and pardons previously granted when they have equal efficacy?"
90. To repress these very sharp arguments of the laity by force alone, and not to resolve them by giving reasons, is to expose the church and the pope to the ridicule of their enemies and to make Christians unhappy.
91. If, therefore, indulgences were preached according to the spirit and intention of the pope, all these doubts would be readily resolved. Indeed, they would not exist.
92. Away, then, with all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, "Peace, peace," and there is no peace! (Jer 6:14)
93. Blessed be all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, "Cross, cross," and there is no cross!
94. Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell.
95. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace (Acts 14:22).

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet at 5:30 PM on January 21st 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 help 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.

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: Bi-monthly on Monday at church 7:00 pm.

Contact: Pastor Dan Holt, 634-1694 or office@ascensioncos.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@ascensioncos.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 the church.

Contact: Rich & Judi Johnson, 264-8196, or jrajohnson@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@ascensioncos.org

Quilts for New Beginnings

No experience necessary to make pillowcases and quilts for Family Promise and also for World Relief. We'll teach you all you need to know. Kits are available for those who would like to contribute, but cannot attend.

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 news letter & 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 from 9:45-11:15 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
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

February newsletter deadline: Jan. 15

*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, Jerri Butchky, Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Tom & Sandra George, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Carol Kohne (Sister of Karen Rubinow), Katie Lancaster, Hazel Quindt, Jeff Sebben, Jerry Smith, Cathy Stanley, Joshua & Virginia Stanley (Parents of Marilyn Gulliksen), Carol Thompson, Heidi Woerdeman, and all of our men and women serving overseas.