



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

March 2017

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We Find Ourselves Here

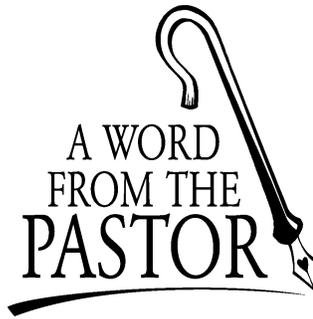
Think back to 10 years ago, or maybe 20. Would you have imagined back then that you'd be where you are now? In this job. In this congregation. With these friends. Doing the sort of volunteering you do. Did your life pan out as you expected it, or have there been some surprises. It's amazing where we find ourselves, sometimes, isn't it?

We find ourselves here. It's unexpected. It's strange. It's wonderful. We find ourselves here. And here is where God uses us. Too often in our world we are lured by the romantic notion that there is a place we are "supposed" to be. That there is some ideal job, some ideal home, some ideal community, some ideal life we're supposed to occupy. And, that's true. Sort of. Maybe. This sense of the ideal has helped us find love and carefully consider careers. It's made us seekers.

But it's also made us wanderers, continually unsatisfied with our current life. Focused more on where we should be, and perhaps not enough on where we are. Exasperated and unfulfilled, we always seem to be looking for something else, for the life, the work, the people we're "supposed" to have.

But I don't think that's how God works. Sure, God might have people and vocations in mind for you. But, even more than that, God sees you where you are, walks with you where you are. Calls you to work and care and love where you are. And where you are is, well, here. We find ourselves here.

It can be daunting or it can be depressing or it can be thrilling to live and work exactly where we are. We find ourselves here, wondering if the task is too large, if the shoes of those who came before us are too big. We wonder if perhaps this isn't the place for us. If this isn't where we are supposed to be. But guess what folks, you're



here. I can't tell you if God brought you here, but I can tell you that God sees you here. And that God is here, too. And that God is calling you here. We find ourselves here.

And here is where we find ourselves. Where we discover, in some sense, who we really are. Here, not the places we want to be, or think we should be. No, it is here, in the places and situations and relationships and communities that we happen to fall into that we discover who we are. Perhaps not so much individually as communally. As people. It is here that we discover humanity. We find ourselves here, and it is here that we find ourselves.

Adapted from Pastor Daniel's address to the 2017 Family Promise Hope, Hearts, and Home.



The Abundant Life Team service project was a success! See the article in this newsletter.

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

You are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter by purchasing an Easter lily. Just sign up on the sheet on the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall and pay your \$10 to ALC (write lily on the memo line). Thank you!

Announcement regarding Krista Larson

We regret to announce that Krista Larson will no longer serve Ascension as organist and choir accompanist. Krista's 16 years of service to Ascension are greatly appreciated, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



What's Happening

The annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 12. Attendees received a copy of the 2016 Annual Report and were given updates by Board Directors. Additional copies are available in the Narthex or in the church office.

Ash Wednesday services are March 1. We will be continuing our soup suppers and Lenten worship services the following weeks leading up to Holy Week. This year's theme will be "Beneath the Cross".

Note Daylight savings time begins March 12. Spring those clocks ahead one hour. Sorry, one less hour of sleep.

See the article later in the newsletter for our World Hunger appeal this year.

"A Community of Grace, Called to Serve."

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

Capital Campaign Contributions and the Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit.

A percentage of the amount you contributed to the Capital Campaign in 2016 qualifies as a state income tax credit. You received a Colorado Department of Revenue Form 1317 in the same envelope containing your Ascension annual contribution statement. On line 4 of Form 1317, Ascension certifies that 22.5% of your Capital Campaign contribution qualifies as an income tax credit. Simply stated, a tax credit comes right off the top of the state income tax due. If your tax credit exceeds your 2016 tax liability, you can carry forward the excess amount to 2017. Follow the instructions at the bottom of the form for submitting the form with your Colorado income tax return. For more information, go to www.revenue.state.co, enter "FYI Income 35" in the search engine, and select the most appropriate result.



The February 16 CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Dan Holt led devotions from the book of I Corinthians and talked about process and how things get done differently. At Ascension our process is not to get things done right away but to make sure things get done well.
 - We shared Lenten traditions highlighted by John Hayes sharing a tradition his wife Kathy Hayes grew up with that involved making a German pastry enjoyed on Fat Tuesday.
 - Board Directors gave brief updates on current activities and future plans.
 - Pastor Dan mentioned the theme for Lent this year would be "Beneath the Cross." He also let Council know he would be having hip replacement surgery at the end of March.
 - Pastor Daniel note he and Pastor Dan just got back from a theological conference today. Excellent speakers this year. He started a book club and has had great response.
 - Rex Rudy reported we are off to a good start to 2017 with revenues and expenses.
 - Donna Crump gave an update on the strategic Planning efforts. Council voted to provide monies to do a Ministry Site Review in preparation for a strategic planner.
 - Rex noted he had been working with Teresa on how to apply budgeted monies for her health insurance. Elisa Thompson and Doris Stokes had also been part of the process.
 - The Board of Stewardship motioned monies from the Al Mosher gift be split up with 70% going to endowment, 10% for recommended use by the Board of Social Outreach, 10% towards funding of new playground equipment for the CLC, and 10% go towards paying down the mortgage.
 - Pastor Daniel Smith 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.
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Notes from the Music Room

Music is very important for children. In the Splash packs we send out to the very youngest members of our congregation, a CD of music is a key part. After all, we have to teach babies to enjoy sitting and reading books with us, beginning the connection to the written word, but few children with normal hearing have to be taught how fun and exciting music is. Music taps into something deep and emotional in us. As babies grow into toddlers and children, they begin to sing together, and do every week at Sunday School. This singing provides a fun social and cooperative experience, an excellent way to remember words that teach things (most of my early understanding of God came from Bible songs), and a way to express oneself creatively. This March, I'll be singing with the children, preparing for Palm Sunday, and I am very excited to share a new song with them. Consider sharing a song with a young person in your life - an old hymn or a favorite recording or an uplifting praise song, all of these and many more can be great ways to connect the family of the church, share something beautiful and meaningful with a new generation, and just to enjoy the abundant life that God gives us.

Soli deo Gloria,
Megan Miller

WELCA Day of Fellowship Planned

The Southeast WELCA group is hosting a day of fellowship at Grace Lutheran Church, 1128 E Boulder, Colorado Springs on Saturday, April 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is \$45 and includes a continental breakfast, salad luncheon and a copy of the book "Exploring Lutheranism as a Way of Life" by Pastor Daniel Erlander. Pastor Julie Britsch will be our study leader. If you plan to attend, please bring 2 bars of soap, a toothbrush, heavy duty comb & nail clipper for personal health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Registration forms available on the kiosk. Questions – call Sally Walker at 570-0103.

US & THEM WE:

ANNOUNCING: ELCA WORLD HUNGER LENTEN OFFERING THEME FOR 2017

Woo Hoo! We are officially kicking off our 2017 World Hunger Campaign with the theme of "Quench Thirst, Quench Poverty." All over the world, access to clean water is a challenge that threatens the health of families, the safety of livestock and crops, and consequently, the welfare of communities. With God's blessing, through our 2017 ELCA World Hunger Offering we hope to do something about it.

For \$2500, we can buy a well that will provide clean, clear water for people in need! For \$5,000, we can buy 2 wells. For \$7,500...ok...you get the picture. Additionally, we can purchase things like water purification tablets and/or irrigation canals. All of these options will provide impactful and possibly lifesaving change to those who go without clean water every day, and you are invited to be a part of it.

On March 5, kiddos will be making their own take-home banks from recycled water bottles. They can fill the bottles with spare change (bills and checks can fit, too!) and bring the bottles back on Palm Sunday (April 9). Additionally, we will have a great visual sitting in the Narthex (thank you Greg Gulliksen and Craig Kelly!) to remind you look for the ELCA World Hunger stories and offering envelopes in your bulletins.



ALSO, we will be bringing back our coloring contest. This is a great opportunity for **everyone**. We will have different categories and entry fees for kids and adults, so dust off your crayons and brush up on your stay-in-the-line skills, because our prizes are going to be absolutely fabulous! Stay tuned for more details on this.

We are excited to see how many wells we can purchase this year. Thank you, Ascension, for all your support in the past. We look forward to working with you as we strive to love our neighbor as ourselves through this Lenten offering. And the next time you wash your hands, or drink a refreshing glass of water, or take a shower...give a "thank you" to God for the blessing of clean water. Let's share that blessing with others! Let's "Quench Thirst, Quench Poverty" together.

Sharla Saunders – Director, Board of Social Outreach

Grace! Join the Conversation!

As a way to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the BOPE is sponsoring a conversation about the gift of Grace! that we all receive in our lives today. The format for Grace! will be similar to that of the CARE event from 2016, featuring video and discussion for all ages. This event will take place on Sunday, March 12, 9:15 am – 10:15 am. Are you interested in participating? If so, a sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center, though sign-up is not required to attend. Questions? Contact Lisa Coltrin, lisamcoltrin@yahoo.com.

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:

Sabine Wachs – birthday
Dave Steinhauer – 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.ascensioncos.org

SENIOR LUNCHEON comes early!!! We head to "Red Robin" (Barnes & Powers), Friday, March 3, 11am. Join the fun and good company! Sign up on the kiosk in the fellowship hall. To carpool, make resses, get a map, or ask questions, call Susan (573-4776). We head to "Panino's" April 21 and "P.J.'S Stagecoach Inn" on May 12. Look forward to seeing you!!

Save the Date! For the Small Groups Fair in April



The Small Group Team is excited to be hosting a **Small Groups Fair** in the Fellowship Hall between services on Sunday, April 23rd. This will be an opportunity to see the various groups we have to offer, visit with the leaders of the groups, and sign up!



On Sunday February 19, the MS and HS youth enjoyed an Intergenerational Show & Tell. The older adults shared with the youth about their own experiences growing up as a teenager. This is an effort the class looks forward to continuing in various ways in the future and asks you to consider being a part of the conversation. It is a gift to be brothers and sisters in Christ, walking together in faith in Jesus Christ and we all have something to offer one another along the way!

On October 29, 2017 we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, but over the course of this year, there will be a series of events,

classes, and materials made available to our Ascension family to give us a better understanding of the reformation. This month we are reviewing Luther's Small Catechism. Here are Luther's own words that motivated him to write his Small Catechism: *"The deplorable condition in which I found religious affairs during a recent visitation of the congregations, has impelled me to publish this Catechism, or statement of the Christian doctrine, after having prepared it in very brief and simple terms. Alas! what misery I beheld! The people, especially those who live in the villages, seem to have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and many of the pastors are ignorant and incompetent teachers. And, nevertheless, they all maintain that they are Christians, that they have been baptized, and that they have received the Lord's Supper. Yet they cannot recite the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments; they live as if they were irrational creatures, and now that the Gospel has come to them, they grossly abuse their Christian liberty."* I spent 30 years in our nation's Air Force and our military is very good at creating checklists to standardize practices so they are consistently performed. Luther's Small Catechism is similar to these checklists because he wanted Christians to know and understand the basics of their Christianity. The following is a summary of a portion of the Small Catechism. Next month will contain the rest of the summary.

I. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

as the Head of the Family Should Teach Them in a Simple Way to His Household.

The First Commandment

Thou shalt have no other gods.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The Second Commandment.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may not curse, swear, use witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment.

Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment.

Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long upon the earth.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may not despise nor anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve, obey, and hold them in love and esteem.

RE•FORMATION
THEN • NOW • ALWAYS

The Fifth Commandment.

Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

The Sixth Commandment.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in words and deeds, and each love and honor his spouse.

The Seventh Commandment.

Thou shalt not steal.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them by false ware or dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and business.

The Eighth Commandment.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may not deceitfully belie, betray, slander, or defame our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

The Ninth Commandment.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may not craftily seek to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, and obtain it by a show of right, etc., but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may not estrange, force, or entice away our neighbor's wife, servants, or cattle, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

What Does God Say of All These Commandments?

Answer: He says thus: **I the Lord, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments.**

What does this mean?

Answer: God threatens to punish all that transgress these commandments. Therefore we should dread His wrath and not act contrary to these commandments. But He promises grace and every blessing to all that keep these commandments. Therefore we should also love and trust in Him, and gladly do according to His commandments.

II. THE CREED,

as the Head of the Family Should Teach It in the Simplest Way to His Household.

The First Article.

Of Creation.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason, and all my senses, and still takes care of them, he also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals and all that I have; He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and defends me from all evil; and all this he does out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve and obey him.

The Second Article.

Of Redemption.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, in order that I may be [wholly] His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

The Third Article.

Of Sanctification.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; one holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.

III. THE LORD'S PRAYER,

as the Head of the Family Should Teach It in the Simplest Way to His Household.

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

Answer: God would thereby tenderly urge us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him confidently with all assurance, as dear children ask their dear father.

The First Petition.

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

Answer: God's name is indeed holy in itself; but we pray in this petition that it may become holy among us also.

How is this done?

Answer: When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God also lead holy lives in accordance with it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven. But he that teaches and lives otherwise than God's Word teaches profanes the name of God among us. From this preserve us, Heavenly Father.

The Second Petition.

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean?

Answer: The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also.

How is this done?

Answer: When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and yonder in eternity.

The Third Petition.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

Answer: The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is this done?

Answer: When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us hallow the name of God nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith unto our end. This is His gracious and good will.

The Fourth Petition.

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

Answer: God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked men; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Answer: Everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as meat, drink, clothing, shoes, house, homestead, field, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful magistrates good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The Fifth Petition.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

Answer: We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor deny such petitions on account of them; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we pray, neither have we deserved them; but that He would grant them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much, and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. So will we verily,

on our part, also heartily forgive and also readily do good to those who sin against us.

The Sixth Petition.

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

Answer: God, indeed, tempts no one; but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us, nor seduce us into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice; and though we be assailed by them, that still we may finally overcome and gain the victory.

The Seventh Petition.

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

Answer: We pray in this petition, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from all manner of evil, of body and soul, property and honor, and at last, when our last hour shall come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this vale of tears to Himself into heaven.

Amen.

What does this mean?

Answer: That I should be certain that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and heard; for He Himself has commanded us so to pray, and has promised that He will hear us. Amen, Amen; that is, Yea, yea, it shall be so.

IV. THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM,

as the Head of the Family Should Teach It In a Simple Way to His Household.

First.

What is Baptism?

Answer: Baptism is not simple water only, but it is the water comprehended in God's command and connected with God's Word.

Which is that word of God?

Answer: Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Matthew: **Go ye into all the world and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**

Secondly.

What does Baptism give or profit?

Answer: It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are such words and promises of God?

Answer: Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Mark: **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

Thirdly.

How can water do such great things?

Answer: It is not the water indeed that does them, but the word of God which is in and with the water, and faith, which trusts such word of God in the water. For without the word of God the water is simple water and no baptism. But with the word of God it is a baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Ghost, as St. Paul says, Titus, chapter three: **By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that, being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.**

Fourthly.

What does such baptizing with water signify?

Answer: It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts, and, again, a new man daily come forth and arise; who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

Answer: St. Paul says Romans, chapter 6: **We are buried with Christ by Baptism into death, that, like as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

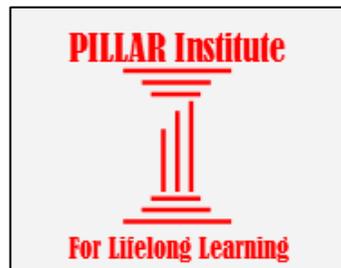


Ruth Circle

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. Our study comes from Galatians, entitled Christian Faith and Christian Freedom, *Heirs of the Promise*. Hostess for the March 9 gathering is Cheryl Johnson. 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.

Ascension Lutheran Church and the Board of Lay Ministry are grateful to continue partnering with PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning in the New Year! The next



workshop is Course #1193 on Medicare ABC&D, a two-part course on Wednesday April 5 and Thursday April 6, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am

To Register, please call PILLAR at [719.633.4991](tel:719.633.4991).

This course is FREE for ALC members, with a food can donation. Friends welcome!

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. Our next opportunity to engage with IHN will be on 7-14 May when we host at Ascension. Because of Easter Sunday, we will have an abbreviated Sign-up schedule for when we host so if you know in advance that you'd like to help with IHN in May, please contact John or Kathy Hayes at (719) 572-1052 or at kittypawz@aol.com.

Funeral Luncheon Committee Co-Directors Update

When an Ascension member passes away and the funeral is held at our church, we offer the grieving family a luncheon following the funeral ceremony. We have many volunteers who provide salads and desserts for these luncheons. We are in need of new Co-Directors for our Funeral Luncheon Committee to oversee these luncheons and coordinate required food items with our volunteers. We use Co-Directors so if one is unavailable to support the luncheon, we have the other Co-Director to lead our group of volunteers. We've been averaging about four funerals per year and normally they occur on weekday afternoons. If you are interested in becoming one of our Co-Directors, please contact John Hayes at blazehayes@aol.com or at (719) 572-1052. UPDATE: Val Rudy has agreed to become one of our Co-Directors, so we're only in need of one additional Co-Director. Val, thank you so much for your continued involvement at Ascension.

Baby Care Kits on Their Way!



The Abundant Life Team service project was a success! Thirty-nine Baby Care Kits were assembled and have been donated to Lutheran World Relief. They will be distributed

to refugees, disaster victims, and pregnant women all over the world. \$50 was also donated to help with shipping costs. Thank you to all who participated! The donations are tracked, and we should hear in 6-9 months about which countries received our items.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Mark your calendars and join us for Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00 Wednesdays starting March 8 through April 12. This time of fellowship will be followed by Lenten Worship Services at 7:00 p.m. The Board of Worship will host the first supper on March 8.



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.

****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.

****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.

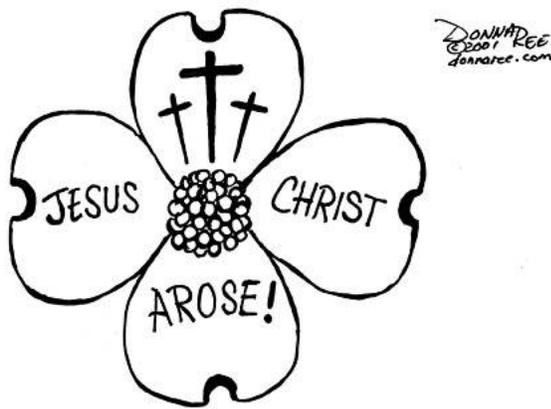
****Pop can tabs** help the Ronald McDonald House. They may be placed in the container in the cupboard in the Welcome Center.

BECOME INVOLVED...

****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.

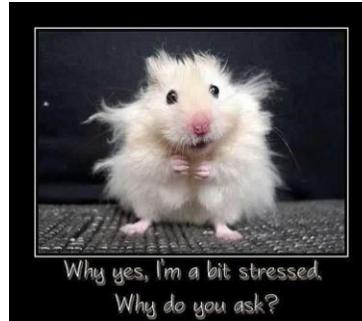
Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet at 5:30PM on March 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 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.



EASTER... IT'S NOT ABOUT THE BUNNY.

Youth News



We are grateful for Community Partners like Penrose St. Francis. This past February, John Zondlo, the Penrose St. Francis Healthy Church Coordinator, led the HS youth in Bible studies that looked to Jesus' example in handling stress. The group also learned about the

effects of stress on one's mind, body and spirit and were engaged in prayerful practices to help destress.

Before you know it, April will be here and for the Youth Board, that means the annual GARAGE SALE Youth Fundraiser! We invite you to start cleaning those closets and cluttered spaces (you know which ones!) And as you clean, here's information you need to know about the sale. What do funds go towards? The funds for this year's Garage Sale will go towards those youth planning to attend the July 2017 service week in Kenosha, WI.

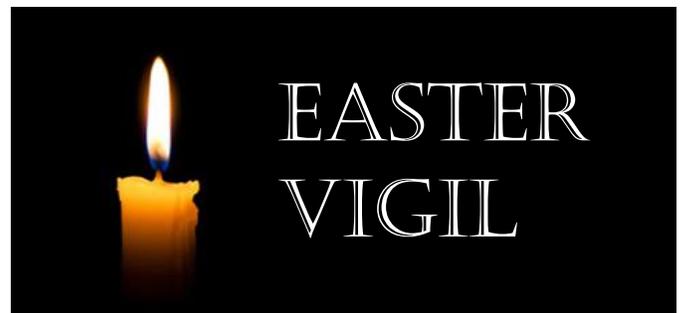
Saturday, April 8th

Early bird entrance for \$5 at 7:30am

All others entrance at 8am

Start bringing in your items Sunday, March 5th to church. Last time to bring in will be 6:00pm on Friday, April 7th. Contact Kirsten Johnson at (719) 440-5896.

Please NO mattresses, box springs, household chemicals, televisions, computer monitors, broken toys and/or electronics, car seats



**Easter Vigil,
led by HS youth:**

This year, HS youth are planning a Saturday night Easter Vigil service (4/15, 6 pm), not the Sunrise service. The Sunrise service will still be offered, only it will not be planned by the HS youth. We invite all to come and experience this unique worship service. We'll hear stories of Jesus' life from the Gospel of Luke and light candles in anticipation for Easter Sunday. All are welcome!



AIA March 2017 Issue #3
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 – 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@ascensioncos.org

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clc@ascensioncos.org (CLC)

ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)

Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

April newsletter deadline: March 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, Jerri Butschky, Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Tom & Sandra George, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Marian Kerr (Sister of Dee Yocum), Katie Lancaster, Krista Larson, Teddy & Lynn Lockner (Great-grandson of Ruth Anderson & his mother), Jeff Sebben, Braydon Self, Jerry Smith, Cathy Stanley, Joshua & Virginia Stanley (Parents of Marilyn Gulliksen), Heidi Woerdeman, Bill Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas.