



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

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God's Word for our Hard Journey

I liken our journey through this life to walking across a bridge over a dark abyss. The bridge is a mere foot bridge with hemp rope for handrails and wooden slats to step on. When we are young and agile, we are carefree as we walk and even run on our bridge. We hardly notice the dark abyss below us. As we keep going we eventually step on a slat that is loose and our foot slips a bit – giving us a bit of a scare as we look into the dark abyss below. Soon we find another loose slat and another slat that doesn't feel very solid. Eventually we step on a slat that is in such bad shape that it breaks. We hang on to the ropes to stop our fall into the dark abyss. Our leg dangles below. We have to strain hard to pull ourselves back up. It dawns on us that the bridge's condition is getting worse and worse and that inevitably we will hit more loose and rotted slats. We can't help but try to keep going as best we can but know that no matter how good we are that at some point we will fall through. Our journey through life is one of increasing awareness that death is waiting below us. Something will happen that will cause us to die.

The reason for observing Lent into Holy Week is to walk in the shadow of this hard reality in order to experience what our Lord has to say and will do about it. Jesus taught us that if we lose our life for his sake that we will find it. In those words, he was confirming that we are going to lose our lives. But he was also affirming that in following his call we can lose them with purpose and meaning. He was also affirming that God's love would hold us through the worst of life. Then he lived out what he taught through going to the cross. He lost his life in a terrible death and yet God held him in love through it all, even when he felt forsaken. Jesus lived out his teaching in losing his life for our sake and found life in God's love for him. In our observances of these Holy Days ahead, we invite you to



join us in worship and prayer in order to experience again that in losing life after God's call we will find life, a life of purpose that is held in God's eternal love.

Pastor Dan

Funeral Luncheon Committee Co-Directors - STILL NEEDED

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 one Co-Director (Val Rudy is the other) 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 6-7 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.

Small Groups Fair April 23

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! See the list of current Small Groups 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!



The March 14 CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Daniel Smith led devotions from the book of Psalms and a reading used during the Catholic / Lutheran prayer service.
- Council shared stories of how the cross of Christ had impacted their lives.
- Board Directors gave brief updates on current activities and future plans.
- Pastor Daniel noted we had three funerals in a short time period. He is working with a group who are looking at ways to involve children in the worship service. He and a few others are in the process of hiring a new organist / accompanist.
- Pastor Dan spoke of the care deacon installation during the coming Sunday worship service. He is working on community building through more than our small groups.
- Donna Crump gave an update on the strategic Planning efforts. She mentioned she would be getting together with the person conducting the Ministry Site Review to discuss the process.
- Greg Gulliksen informed council of the members comprising the Capital Campaign Completion Team. He made a motion concerning the Charter for the group. The motion passed.
- Rex Rudy reported we a little behind with our giving this year. He is reviewing to see if there are any trends. He will discuss with the executive committee next month.
- Pastor Dan and Donna gave a summary of the Special Gifts Policy. Donna presented the Military Funeral Policy to council and made a motion for its acceptance. The motion passed.
- Our Deacon for Youth and Faith Formation Mary Stoneback made a presentation of the activities she has been involved with and gave council some insight as to some plans she has for the future for the ministries she is involved with.
- Pastor Dan Holt 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.

What's Happening

Come and see all the cool stuff Pastor Dan could buy at the Youth Garage Sale on April 8. Better get there before he does!

We are in the middle of our ELCA World Hunger appeal this Lenten season. We thank all who reach out to help thirsty people around the world. How many wells will this congregation provide money for to dig?

Soup suppers and Lenten worship services continue throughout the season of Lent leading up to Holy Week. This year's theme is "Beneath the Cross."

Palm Sunday services will be April 9th with Holy week services Thursday through Easter Sunday. Please plan on joining the youth as they lead the Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 15. Yes, there will be an Easter Sunrise Service. Join us as we enter the empty tomb and find that Jesus has risen. He Is Risen Indeed!!

The board of lay ministry is planning the Small Group fair on April 23. Come and find a small group to be part of.

"A Community of Grace, Called to Serve."

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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

**Richard Ingalls at the death of his Father.

**Gail Bagenstos & family at the death of her mother, Geneva Anderson.

**Mikki Andersen and family at the death of her mother, Ruth Andersen.

**Aimee Calderon at the death of her mother, Elizabeth Buesing.

**Rich & Cindy Gaona at the deaths of her Father and his Stepmother.

From Your Abundant Life Committee

When April arrives our hearts are usually full of thoughts of renewal and fresh beginnings. These are the days when the sun is shining... it may bring us April showers but the warm showers are refreshing and invigorating because we know the sunshine will return soon.

April is named for the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. The name for the month of April originally came for *Aprilis* which means to open. The name *Aprilis* is very appropriate because in so many places the trees and flowers begin to bloom and go on to flower during the month of April.

SO find those walking shoes and get out into the sunshine, find the park nearby and take a walk. If that is not your thing, just sit in the park and watch the birds returning. Either way you will recharge your "solar battery" and feel refreshed.

April brings us Easter this year, April 16 to be exact. Growing up in a strong Lutheran family and Lutheran school, Easter was a big deal and not for the candy and eggs. [Those were there but just for fun] We had a special musical part in Easter morning as the school choir. It was magical and moving when you felt the music ring out "Christ is risen, alleluia". If you have any memories of past Easters that moved you, I invite you to share them with someone...like your walking partner or the person sitting with you on that park bench "recharging your solar battery."

Have a blessed Easter and a refreshing month of April.
P.S. April is grilled cheese month
Sara Petz for the Abundant Life Committee

Notes from the Choir Room

In honor of the Reformation 500th anniversary, I find myself looking at an Easter hymn written by Martin Luther: "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" (ELW 370). This hymn was a favorite of Lutheran composers through the centuries. J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 4 is based entirely on this one chorale, and Pachelbel and Telemann also used it in their compositions. Luther wrote seven verses of a hymn, which were set by contemporary composer Johann Walter. Johann Walter was an orphan who, thanks to a local benefactor, was educated and went on to work as a composer and musician for Frederick the Wise of Saxony, one of Luther's most powerful defenders. Johann Walter edited the first protestant hymnal for choir, published in 1524 with a preface by Martin Luther. Walter is commemorated by some Lutherans on April 24th for his service to the music of the church. "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" not

one of the bright and sunny Easter hymns that we love to sing, but it is certainly one worth coming back to. Luther's text does not downplay Christ's suffering, but it puts the focus on his hard-won victory and God's love! In Luther's words:

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands for our offenses
given;
But now at God's right hand he stands and brings us life
from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right
thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Soli deo Gloria, Megan Miller

Our Time and Talents: "Spiritual Gifts in Motion"

Stewardship is about realizing how gifted one is and then properly using all the gifts – in this case our time and talent – in the right proportion. The core of stewardship is gratitude – a gratitude that overflows into giving as a way of thankfulness for all that God has given us. Stewardship is a Way of Life – where stewards start to look at everything good as a gift from God. Stewardship is about giving back. It's about offering up our grateful hearts to God.

First Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

We would hope that you will see that Stewardship is a way of life and that you will think about how to use your gifts of your time and talent – to give glory to God. In future newsletters and bulletins, your Stewardship Board will share additional details of the Ascension Lutheran Church 2017 Spiritual Gifts in Motion program with you.

Your Stewardship Board

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:

Quench Thirst, Quench Poverty

Ascension's Board of Social Outreach is out to create change in our world with your help. Having clean water available to people is one of the most powerful ways. When a community gains access to clean water, everything changes!! Women and children don't spend hours gathering water. The community is healthier. People can work, farm and go to school. And together, they build stronger economies and a future filled with Hope. The Sunday school children have water bottle banks to fill with change during Lent for this project. They will bring them to church on Palm Sunday and place them in the washtub beside the water pump. There is a bucket hanging from the water pump that you can place donations in until Palm Sunday. At both services that Sunday, we will bring the donations to the altar in praise and thanksgiving. If we can raise \$2500 or more, as many as 500 families gain access to clean safe water with the installation of a water well or spring box. What a give of Love! "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35



SENIOR LUNCHEON heads to "Panino's" (3015 New Center Point), Friday, April 21, 11 AM. Their newest location! Sign up at the kiosk in the fellowship hall or give Susan a call (573-4776). Reservations appreciated. Look forward to seeing you there! Next month -- P.J.'S Stagecoach Inn in Manitou Springs.

Quilt Tying Event a Success!



One of the 16 quilts tied was pieced together by Elaine Kelly.

Thanks so much to all who came to the event at Beth-El Mennonite church on Saturday, March 11. Over 30 men and women along with 8 children (Ascension represented by Enzo, Emma, Colton & Brooke) spent 3 hours tying & talking. Approximately 16 quilts were completed, and several were taken home for tying. Watch the church calendar for our next event. Thanks to Thrivent for their support and Wanda Hughes for making it happen.

Barb, Anita & Sally

Create A Legacy



Ascension Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund

God's People Using God's Resources
to Fulfill God's Calling

Legacies Created

Thanks and God's blessings to the following donor(s)
for gifts to the Endowment fund:

Chuck Hatcher - birthday
Clara Remele - 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



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, *For Freedom Christ has set us free*. Hostess for the April 13gathering is Nancy Shatto. 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.

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 the rest of 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 the completion from last month of a summary of Luther's Small Catechism.

V. HOW THE UNLEARNED SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO CONFESS.

What is Confession? Confession embraces two parts: the one is, that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the confessor, as from God Himself, and in no wise doubt, but firmly believe, that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess? Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the confessor we should confess those sins alone which we know and feel in our hearts. Which are these? Here consider your station according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, master, mistress, a man-servant or maid-servant; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, slothful; whether you have grieved any one by words or deeds; whether you have stolen, neglected, or wasted aught, or done other injury.

Pray, Propose to Me a Brief Form of Confession.
 Answer: You should speak to the confessor thus:

Reverend and dear sir, I beseech you to hear my confession, and to pronounce forgiveness to me for God's sake. Proceed!



I, a poor sinner, confess myself before God guilty of all sins; especially I confess before you that I am a man-servant, a maidservant, etc. But, alas, I serve my master unfaithfully; for in this

and in that I have not done what they commanded me; I have provoked them, and caused them to curse, have been negligent and permitted damage to be done; have also been immodest in words and deeds, have quarreled with my equals, have grumbled and sworn at my mistress, etc. For all this I am sorry, and pray for grace; I want to do better.

A master or mistress may say thus:

In particular I confess before you that I have not faithfully trained my children, domestics, and wife for God's glory. I have cursed, set a bad example by rude words and deeds, have done my neighbor harm and spoken evil of him, have overcharged and given false ware and short measure.

And whatever else he has done against God's command and his station, etc. But if any one does not find himself burdened with such or greater sins, he should not trouble himself or search for or invent other sins, and thereby make confession a torture, but mention one or two that he knows. Thus: **In particular I confess that I once cursed; again, I once used improper words, I have once neglected this or that,** etc. Let this suffice. But if you know of none at all (which, however is scarcely possible), then mention none in particular, but receive the forgiveness upon your general confession which you make before God to the confessor.

Then shall the confessor say: **God be merciful to thee and strengthen thy faith! Amen.**

Furthermore:

Dost thou believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

Answer: **Yes, dear sir.**

Then let him say: **As thou believest, so be it done unto thee. And by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive thee thy sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Depart in peace.**

But those who have great burdens upon their consciences, or are distressed and tempted, the confessor will know how to comfort and to encourage to faith with more passages of Scripture. This is to be merely a general form of confession for the unlearned.

VI. THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR,

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

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Answer: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself.

Where is this written?

Answer: The holy Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul, write thus: **Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread: and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.**

After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **Take, drink ye all of it. This cup is the new testament in My blood,**

which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

Answer: That is shown us in these words: **Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins;** namely, that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Answer: It is not the eating and drinking, indeed, that does them, but the words which stand here, namely: **Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins.** Which words are, beside the bodily eating and drinking, as the chief thing in the Sacrament; and he that believes these words has what they say and express, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

Who, then, receives such Sacrament worthily?

Answer: Fasting and bodily preparation is, indeed, a fine outward training; but he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: **Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins.** But he that does not believe these words, or doubts, is unworthy and unfit; for the words For you require altogether believing hearts.

HOW THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY Should Teach His Household to Bless Themselves in the Morning and in the Evening.

Morning Prayer.

In the morning, when you rise, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say: **In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may, in addition, say this little prayer:

I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray Thee to keep me this day also from sin and all evil, that all my doings and life may please Thee. For into Thy hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the Wicked Foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to your work with joy, singing a hymn, as the Ten Commandments, or what your devotion may suggest.

Evening Prayer.

In the evening, when you go to bed, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say: **In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may, in addition, say this little prayer:

I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast graciously kept me this day, and I pray Thee to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Thy hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the Wicked Foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to sleep promptly and cheerfully.

HOW THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY Should Teach His Household to Ask a Blessing and Return Thanks.

Ask a Blessing

The children and servants shall go to the table with folded hands and reverently, and say:

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord; and Thou givest them their meat in due season; Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

Note: To satisfy the desire means that all animals receive so much to eat that they are on this account joyful and of good cheer; for care and avarice hinder such satisfaction.

Then the Lord's Prayer, and the prayer here following:

Lord God, Heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts, which we take from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Returning Thanks.

Likewise also after the meal they shall reverently and with folded hands say:

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. He giveth food to all flesh; He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry. He delighteth not in the strength of the horse; He taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy.

Then the Lord's Prayer and the prayer here following:

We thank Thee, Lord God, Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for all Thy benefits, who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

TABLE OF DUTIES,

Consisting of Certain Passages of Scripture for Various Holy Orders and Stations, Whereby These are to be Admonished, as by a Special Lesson, Regarding Their Office and Service.

For Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers.

A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; not a novice; holding fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 1 Tim. 3, 2ff; Titus 1, 6.

Concerning Civil Government.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For the power which exists anywhere is ordained of God. Whosoever resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Rom. 13, 1-4.

For Husbands.

Ye husbands, dwell with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered. 1 Pet. 3, 7. **And be not bitter against them.** Col. 3, 9.

For Wives.

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord, even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord; whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. 1 Pet. 3, 6; Eph. 5, 22.

For Parents.

Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eph. 6, 4.

For Children.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Eph. 6, 1–3.

For Male and Female Servants, Hired Men, and Laborers.

Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service as to the Lord, and not to men; knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. Eph. 6, 5ff ; Col. 3, 22.

For Masters and Mistresses.

Ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening, knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with Him. Eph. 6, 9; Col. 4, 1.

For Young Persons in General.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time. 1 Pet. 5, 5. 6.

For Widows.

She that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. 1 Tim. 5, 5. 6.

For All in Common.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Herein are comprehended all the commandments. Rom. 13, 8ff **And persevere in prayer for all men.** 1 Tim. 2, 1. 2.

Let each his lesson learn with care,
And all the household well shall fare.

PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning

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. Here is some thanks we received from the IHN office following the last time we were involved with IHN: *"Thank you for all that you have done for our families this week. Please pass on our gratitude to all the other volunteers who have helped out also. With all the love, listening ears, support, hope, hugs, tears, laughter, meals, warm beds, and grace that you have offered to the families, you have given them more than you will ever know. Many many thanks and mounds of appreciation goes out to you and to the other volunteers who served the four IHN families this week. Your holy hospitality is a treasure! Well done, good and faithful servants. You have truly listened to God's call to live out Matthew 25."*

Ascension's next opportunity to engage with IHN will be on 7-14 May when we host at our church. 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.

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 Val Rudy, 577-4637, 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 9-11 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.

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

BECOME INVOLVED...

****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 (large and Plus sizes), 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 blazahayes@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.

Stabat Mater presented at St. Mary's Cathedral

Ascension members Dan and Megan Miller and Susan Curtis will be performing in the Roman Catholic Chamber Choir's program of Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater." The free program is on Sunday, April 2, at 3 pm in St. Mary's Cathedral.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet at 5:30 PM on April 22nd 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.

Holy Pedalers Season Starts Soon!

Our Holy Pedalers' bike riding season is coming, soon. Group rides usually begin around the end of April, depending on weather. Now would be a good time to take your bikes to a bike repair shop, of your choice, for a tune up. Better safe than sorry. Bev and Carol Godec

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

Thursday Night Serendipity

Six-week studies with topics decided by the group. Meets October through May.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 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. Please contact Aimee if you would like to plan an outing!

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

Save The Date! RTLCL Day Camp Is Coming!

For the second year in a row, ALC is hosting RTLCL Day Camp. RTLCL Day Camp will begin on Monday June 20 and wrap up with a Community BBQ on Thursday June 23, 5 – 7 PM. All members of Ascension are invited to the Community BBQ. Day Camp is open to children 3 years-old & potty-trained through entering 5th grade in August. Middle & high school youth and adults are invited to volunteer. The registration fee is \$12 for preschool kids and \$16 for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. If you have questions or would like to volunteer at RTLCL Day Camp, please contact Elisa Thompson (elisa92@gmail.com or 641.5184) or Mary Stoneback (m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org).



April is 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.

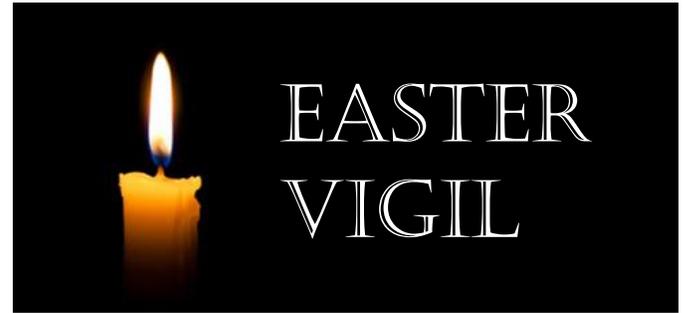
Saturday, April 8th

Early bird entrance for \$5 at 7:30am
All others entrance at 8am

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:

Saturday, April 15th

Join the High School youth Saturday evening, April 15, at 6 p.m. for an Easter Vigil service. 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!



Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 16th

Yes, the High School youth will be offering a pancake breakfast before the 8:00 am Easter service as well as between the 8 and 10:30 services. Join us downstairs for this delicious fundraising event!



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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

May newsletter deadline: April 16

*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, Ron Crubaugh (Father of Arlayne McKee), Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Tom & Sandra George, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Dale Hughes, Katie Lancaster, Krista Larson, Teddy & Lynni Lockner (Great-grandson of Ruth Andersen & his mother), Jeff Sebben, Jerry Smith, Cathy Stanley, Joshua & Virginia Stanley (Parents of Marilyn Gulliksen), Heidi Woerdeman, Bill Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas.