



# Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

October 2018

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## Who are you?

*By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. (Thanksgiving for Baptism, ELW p. 97)*



You meet someone new on the ski lift (winter's coming, we might as well look forward to it). After a minute of pleasantries about the sunshine ("But we sure need more moisture") and the lift ticket prices ("How's a family supposed to afford this anymore?"), the lift stops and you realize you're going to need to go a little deeper to keep this conversation going.

So, you introduce yourself. But, what do you say? If you have to give someone a sense of who you are, what do you tell them about? Your family? Your job? Your hobbies? What makes you *you*? Is it the car you drive or your ethnicity? What defines your identity?

It used to be in America that our racial and religious identities were central and formed our other identities, like our politics or the communities we join. But, a recent and respected study has shown that, more and more, that's changing. Respondents to the survey were changing their answers their answers on questions about religion and even race to conform to their answers about politics. In other words, for some, political identity is starting to take the more central place.

Now I believe that we all have many parts to our identity that are important, including our politics. But when it comes to what is central, we have a different claim as Christians. We are not first and foremost Republicans or Democrats or Independents. Nor are we first and foremost Norwegian, Hispanic, or even American. We aren't Toyota or Ford, football or synchronized swimming. We are God's beloved. The words spoken to Jesus at his baptism are our words. They were the words spoken at our baptism, and are the central truth around which the rest of our lives spin.

It's a blessing, and it's a challenge. It's a blessing to always have that identity. No matter what comes of the communities you're part of, the political parties you've associated with, or what strange roots pop up in your AncestryDNA profile. No matter how well you succeed or fail as a parent or child, in your job, or among friends. You are a beloved child of God.

And that's also a challenge. Because if that's our central identity, then it's up to us to see how the rest spins around that. It's up to us to see how we can engage in our families and communities as beloved children of God. It's up to us to see how we celebrate and repent of our heritage as beloved children of God. It's up to us to vote and spend our money as beloved children of God.

As a community of beloved children of God, may God grant us the faith to seize that blessing and the courage to seize that challenge.

Pastor Daniel

## Fall Workday: "Many Hands Make Light Work..."

November 3, Saturday from 8-12, we will have our annual fall workday at the church. Please save this date and help us spruce up the exterior and interior in preparation for the winter. If it applies, Air Force football is away at Army.

More details will be provided as we get closer to this date, but typically it is helpful for you to bring gloves, rakes, shovels, a pitch fork (if you have one), outdoor brooms, electric blowers, wheel barrows, etc. There is a chance of some painting, so more to come on this.

If there is inclement weather, we will reschedule for the following Saturday, November 10.

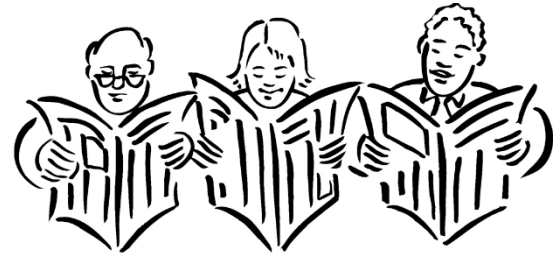
Please bring canned goods for Care and Share. With canned goods, Rocky Top Resources, Inc. will accept our landscape debris for free.

The September 11<sup>th</sup> CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Daniel Smith led a devotion on baptism with a reading from Matthew. Reflecting on our baptism and how it marks us a child of God can be an effective tool in times of struggle.
- Pastor Dan announced his recent election as co-dean (with Pastor Carrie Baylis) of the Southeastern Colorado Conference of the Rocky Mountain Synod. Pastor Carrie will work the contact with the Synod and Pastor Dan will do more of the occasional meetings with local congregations.
- Jerry Dollar distributed the plan for his Board's God's Grace in Action Estimate of Giving program. The stewardship drive will conclude at the end of October. Check your mailbox for your letter and Estimate of Giving card. The ability to submit your estimate of giving via the church website is a new feature this year.
- Ann Marie reported on our financial activity. The congregation continues to give generously with monthly offerings coming in as budgeted. The CPC has set preferred guidelines and is monitoring amounts for Operating Cash, Operating Reserve and Capital Replacement funds. These guidelines will ensure financial stability for our church.
- The Capital Campaign renovations are complete. Continued giving toward the campaign is expected through December. At the end of the year, we will apply all excess funds toward the mortgage.
- The council was informed of a generous gift from Clara Remele's estate. Clara left Ascension \$100,000 with \$50,000 to be applied to our mortgage and \$50,000 to be added to our General Endowment Fund.
- Directors were asked to work with their respective Boards for next year's Budget. Priority was emphasized for funding of programs that support our ministry and could potentially help us grow.
- John Hayes expressed confidence in the Share Vision Way Point Team and their work to merge our passions, gifts/capabilities, and community needs into an overarching identity statement. Our consultant, Kristin Wiersma, will provide an update to the congregation on October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- First Lutheran is hosting a free Synod conference entitled "Money and the Church: for the Life of the

World." Ann Marie will attend the conference and encouraged others to attend on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

- The meeting was adjourned with prayers of concern followed by the Lord's Prayer.



## What's Happening

The Board of Lay Ministry and the Board of Evangelism are working on a new on-line Church Directory. Please talk to Scott Allen or Dennis Bagenstos to have your picture taken. You may also submit one of your own pictures for use. The directory will be password-protected to control access.

God's Grace in Action 2019 Estimate of Giving Campaign will be held from **September 16<sup>th</sup> – October 28<sup>th</sup>**. Prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Ascension for 2019.

The Board of Social Outreach is supporting the LFS Innkeeper's Dinner on **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**. One of our ministries, KPC Kids Place, will be featured. Please talk to Karen Askinas if you are interested in attending.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Holiday Bazaar for crafters and home business consultants is scheduled for **October 20<sup>th</sup>**.

The Ascension Women's Retreat is scheduled for **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The retreat will be held at the church and will explore different forms of prayer and will also include a service project.

The youth sponsored Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser will be held at the church on **November 11<sup>th</sup>**. This is always a fun family event! Please consider attending to support the youth of Ascension.

### LADIES' LUNCH BUNCH

The Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet at Mackenzie Place on October 16 at 11:00 a.m. If you plan to attend, let Judy Conroy know by Sunday, October 13: [jnconroy@comcast.net](mailto:jnconroy@comcast.net).



## Ascension Book Club November 4

The next book in Ascension's *Faith Seeking Understanding Book Club* is *Does Jesus Really Love Me?: A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America* by Jeff Chu. The book explores Jeff's personal wrestling with faith and the church as a gay man, as well as perspectives from many others over the previous decades. The book can be found at the library, online, and probably at a bookstore or two here in town. We'll meet for a potluck lunch and discussion on November 4 at 11:30 at Ascension. As always, all are welcome to join us, and if you have a friend you think might enjoy this book or conversation, please invite them. Hope to see you there. Questions? Ask Pastor Daniel.

## Spaghetti Supper/ Variety Show/Raffle

**Sunday,  
November 11**



The annual Spaghetti Supper/Variety Show/Raffle is just around the corner! Join us at **5 p.m. on Sunday, November 11** (doors open at 4:30) for a night of fun and fellowship at Ascension Lutheran Church. Funds raised will support Middle and High School youth at Ascension, ensuring all, regardless of their financial situation, have the opportunity to participate in meaningful events. The Variety Show sign-up sheet will be posted on the Youth Board. Please contact Mary Stoneback at [\(303\) 475-4886](tel:3034754886) with any Variety Show questions. Tickets can be purchased in the Fellowship Hall between services in October. Ticket prices: Adult - \$10; Child (ages 3-10) - \$5; Family - \$30. Children under 3 are free.

## Helping Youth at Ascension

The Ascension Youth are asking for your help in making their Annual Spaghetti Supper/Variety Show fundraiser on **Sunday, November 11** a success. They are requesting donated items that will be raffled off between the acts during the Variety Show. Your donation is tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. Please drop off your donations at the front office Monday – Friday between 9am – 12pm or Sunday mornings. For any questions, please contact Carie Hagen at [\(719\) 332-3301](tel:7193323301). Thank you for supporting our 2018 Spaghetti Supper, Raffle and Variety Show!



Calling all crafters and home business consultants—and shoppers! Ascension Lutheran will be having their 15th annual Holiday Bazaar on October 20th. Please contact Kirsten Johnson at (719) 440-5896 or [kirstenej94@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenej94@gmail.com) for more information! Mark your calendars for this great event!



## God's Grace in Action 2019 Estimate of Giving Program is Now Underway!

Your Board of Stewardship is pleased to announce that the God's Grace in Action; 2019 Estimate of Giving Program launched on September 16th and will close on October 28th of this year. You can look forward to events where we will share additional information and answer your questions. There will also be future newsletter articles and updates in the weekly bulletin. Additionally, members of our congregation will share what stewardship means to them during the announcement portion of each service.

The God's Grace in Action Estimate of Giving Program begins today, September 16th. Estimate cards are in your respective church mailboxes now! Once completed, your card can be: (1) returned to the office, (2) placed in the offering plate, (3) mailed back to Ascension, or (4) deposited in the Stewardship mail slot. All Estimate cards are due by October 28th please; so the CPC can complete the 2019 budget.

You can now complete your 2019 Estimate Card online! Visit [www.ascensioncos.org](http://www.ascensioncos.org), click on the **Give** tab, and then click on the **2019 Estimate of Giving** sub-tab. This electronic form is a simple and secure way to complete your God's Grace in Action estimate! Thank you!

Your Stew Crew—Karen Rackley, Sharon Versaw, Tom Johnson, Robbi Dollar, Fred Schauer, and Jerry Dollar

**1 Peter 4:10** - *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

## Notes from the Music Room

Why is that one hymn so easy to sing and that other so hard? Hymns are in our blood as Lutherans; we all have our favorites and ones that we could do without. The Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal that we've adopted in recent years has a very varied wealth of hymns. So, why do we struggle with some?

Well, our first challenge may be pitch. Most non-trained singers aren't comfortable going more than a note or two below the staff (those 5 horizontal lines we use) and start feeling tight or screamy as we approach the top of the staff. Techniques to help: As you go lower, relax and feel like you sing in a foggy, sighing voice. As you go high, don't push; feel light and floaty, almost using a girly voice. (Yes, even you, men; I have yet to hear any man sound like a girl when doing this.)

Many of our other challenges come from the style of the hymn. A lot of our contemporary hymns have unusual rhythms and differences from one verse to the next. Techniques to help: Familiarity helps make these easier, but also remember that these pieces are usually not meant to be too "square." So, don't worry or blame yourself if your rhythms feel a little wishy-washy. Focus on the words and enjoy the community; often it comes together when we just listen to each other and sing on instead of trying to get it right.

One of our last challenges is hymns from different traditions. If you didn't grow up singing Scandinavian hymns, the jumpy, folk-inspired melody of "Thy Holy Wings" can be surprising and challenging to understand, and the same is even more true for hymns from all over the world in our hymnal. They use different traditions of harmony and rhythm, almost like different languages. Tips: Embrace this new thing. Again, don't stress about perfection, but if you can, immerse yourself in these unfamiliar hymns. If you need to, just listen the first time through. Look them up on YouTube. You may be surprised at how they begin to grow on you and feel less foreign.

Remember, there was a time when Bach was too modern and challenging for many congregants!

Soli Deo Gloria, Megan Miller

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## RUTH CIRCLE

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:30am for fellowship and casual Bible Study. We will be discussing Chapter 12 from the book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, by Joanna Weaver. Hostess for the October 11, 2018 gathering will be Kay Richardson. If you are new to Ascension or just looking for a casual Bible Study group, we hope you will come and join

us! Please contact Nancy Shatto for any questions at 719-426-9444 or [njshatto@yahoo.com](mailto:njshatto@yahoo.com).

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## Organ Committee Update

After listening to nearly a dozen organs from six different builders, the Organ Evaluation Committee is receiving proposals from three excellent organ companies. These builders have listened very carefully to our needs and have all proposed organs that are similar in size and have the type of sound that meets our needs. They have all proposed organs with about 15 ranks of pipes. Our current organ is smaller, but all of our builders and every musician that has played our organ agrees we need a larger instrument for our liturgy, congregational singing, to accompany the choir and for special church festival music. All of the builders have proposed designs putting the organ at the front of the church, in front of the sacristy. And all have incorporated our cross into their designs for the pipes. Our next step is to get final proposals from our three organ builders.

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## SUP

On Thursday October 18, 12 pm – 1:30 pm, we will welcome Joan B. Selman, Executive Director of Pikes Peak Hospice. She will talk about what Pikes Peak Hospice offers the community and help it be less of a taboo. Please bring a side dish, main dish provided. For planning purposes, please let Karen Rubinow know whether you'll be attending. Email Karen at: [nodak@sidkar.com](mailto:nodak@sidkar.com) We hope you can join us and bring a friend!

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## Interfaith Hospitality Network Update

We wanted to thank every one of the IHN volunteers for our assisted with Beth el Mennonite Church. Judy and Rich Johnson for helping serve dinner and providing dessert. Beth Mbise for the wonderful salad, Eugene Newbold for the fantastic soup, and of course Rex and Val Rudy as overnight host. Because of you these three families were able to stay together in their time of need.

Ascension will be hosting the week December 16<sup>th</sup> of this year. Without your help we would not be able continue to help displaced families stay together in a safe welcoming place as they transition permanent housing

You are truly a blessing.  
Ron and Debbie Mohler

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## Status of Ascension's Shared Vision Waypoint Team.

The Ascension Shared Vision Waypoint team members are Carol Bramschreiber, Sadie Hjelmstad, Tom Johnson, Stephanie Kaufman, John Hayes, Pastor Dan Holt, Pastor Daniel Smith, Kristin Wiersma (consultant). We have met four times so far and plan to meet twice a month until we're finished. We are keeping the Church Planning Council in the loop with our activities and we'll be meeting with the congregation on October 14th and November 18th to make sure we have concurrence with where we're going. The following is a synopsis of what we've accomplished so far and what we have yet to do. Feel free to approach any of our team members if you have any questions or comments.

### Activities accomplished:

- ❖ Reviewed previous work – Congregational Vitality Survey and Ministry Review Report
- ❖ Identified Ascension's Top 5 Strengths - Ascension is a community ...
  - + where people are welcomed, cared for, and belong.
  - + that reaches beyond itself in service.
  - + that trusts God and their faithful pastoral and lay leaders.
  - + where members take ownership in ministry and mission.
  - + grounded in Lutheran values, theology, and liturgy.
- ❖ Identified Ascension's Top 5 Weaknesses - Ascension struggles ...
  - + to invite others.
  - + to integrate new members into our congregation.
  - + with the high demands on lay leaders.
  - + to use technology to further our mission.
  - + to hear where God is calling us in the coming years.
- ❖ Identified Top 3 areas Ascension is Passionate about...
  - + serving for the good of the larger community
  - + valuing relationships in our faith community
  - + supporting and nurturing children and youth
- ❖ Identified Top 3 Gifts and Capacities that Ascension excels at...
  - + being guided by our Lutheran understandings of faith and life
  - + being responsible stewards of our money, time, and gifts
  - + adaptable and thoughtful leadership
- ❖ Identified Top 3 community needs. Our community needs ...
  - + a place of community and belonging.
  - + grace-based meaning in life.
  - + basic human needs met.

- ❖ Future activities
    - + Merging passions, gifts/capacities, and community needs into overarching Identity Statement
    - + Assess, clarify and amend if necessary the Ascension Mission Statement
    - + Identify values or missional motivators of Ascension
    - + Map ministry strategies to align with mission
    - + Draft measures of mission to allow focus
    - + Create a Vision Storyline with a long-range goal, 3-year goals, 1-year goal and 90-day goals
    - + Review current Ascension activities to see how they mesh with Vision areas
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## ~~US & THEM~~ WE:

Greetings from your Board of Social Outreach! A HUGE thank you to all those who participated in "God's Work. Our Hands." On September 9, in conjunction with other ELCA churches in the area, 140 volunteers worked on 15 projects in our city. We painted benches, cleaned, quilted, made cards, and moved mulch among many other projects. As one who pulled dandelions for 3 solid hours (which I felt the next day, I can promise you!), it was tempting to think about my aching back or the hot sun...and the usual Sunday nap I was missing. But then I also thought about those who do this kind of work on a daily basis for little pay or appreciation. And those who can no longer bend and stoop to pull weeds but wish they could tend their yards the way they used to. I thought about those who long to have a home and yard to take care of, but don't, because life's circumstances have not been as easy for them as they have been for me. And I think that's part of the point of service days like that – to realize that we have been blessed. Work days like that are a good time to reflect on the many blessings we have received, and then find a way to give back with our time, energy, and yes, our turn with a broom or paint brush. As we move into the Holiday season in the next few weeks, let's seek out those kinds of ways to bless others. When we give of ourselves, God is honored through our caring acts.

One ongoing opportunity is to help with stocking the food pantry. You know that Ascension gives generously to Mercy's Gate, but we actually have 2 pantries that help keep people fed. Our own Little Pantry (located by the CLC) gets a lot of use too! It's a great way to bless those who are in need but may not feel comfortable going to Mercy's Gate or coming inside our building to ask for help. So – watch those grocery ads and stock up on staple items! It's easy to do and truly helps make life easier for others.

Blessings, Sharla Saunders





## *Ascension Lutheran Church Endowment Fund*

Thank you and God's blessings for the following gift-away to the Endowment Fund:

### **Grace Buhler Memorial:**

Lois Boschee  
Rich & Cindy Gaona  
Ilene Howe  
Rich & Karen Rackley  
Terry & Judy Snow  
Nancy Stannard  
Dave Steinhauer  
Ilene Steinkruger  
Phil & Sandy Trent

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### **Celebrating Ascension's Generations**

On 19 August Ascension celebrated the Greatest Generation, those born 1928 and before. We were blessed and honored to have many of them at the celebration. These individuals embody a generation that lived through The Depression and War with stoicism and valor, and helped America become the beacon of freedom it is today. When Democracy was in peril, they responded and they will never be forgotten. Ascension's Greatest Generation are Beverly Broin, Luella Gulbranson, Charles Hatcher, Joan Magee, Dorothea Mazigian, Norm Miller, Hazel Quintt, Marcile Riber, and Bill and Dee Yocum.

The celebration included a feature video, posters of events that occurred during that period, and reflections from our honorees about life and faith. It was a true highlight for all generations to share and reminisce with these incredible individuals. Here are some of their thoughts: Marcile Riber stated, "We never knew we were poor. It's just the way people lived." She collected foil wrappers from gum and cigarette packs and flatten them out for the metal drives during WWII. "I know that God was always there watching over me," Hazel Quintt remembers vividly living through the great depression. Dorothea Mazigian feels people of her generation were strong, healthy people who are self-reliant. She has no regrets and "would not trade her experiences." She used to listen to the radio in the evenings for entertainment. Chuck Hatcher worked the family farm and grew up in a family of seven children. They ate what they raised which included: wheat, corn, and sugar cane. Chuck remembers that it was a safer time when he was young and people didn't have to lock their doors. Beverly Broin remembers memorable inventions growing up such as The telephone and radio. There wasn't TV until the 1950's. For fun,

Beverly danced The Big Apple and Suzy Q during high school. "It wasn't a great time for women and the primary professions for women were teaching, nursing and being a secretary."

Luella Gulbranson grew up on a farm and so if she I wasn't listening to country music, it was church music. Her favorite hymns to sing were "The Old Rugged Cross." She stated she wants to "worship God and live in his ways." Joan Magee remembers getting to see several new inventions because her father was an electrician. He sold appliances as they were invented. She remembers getting the electric refrigeration, stove and irons. When she had cancer she would say the Lord's Prayer and annunciate to herself, "thy will be done," and trusted God to get her through it as he willed.

Dee Yocum remembers there was no electricity or running water in the house growing up and had to pump water every day. She took strength from singing her favorite hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus. While laughing Dee shares, "that hymn got me through my teenage years!" In regards to her free time, Dee says, "there wasn't a lot of time to just have fun. You were busy doing the necessary things." Bill Yocum shared that before his family got electricity in 1939, kerosene lamps at night were their only source for light and a very dim light at that. "It has been a great time to have lived and to be alive and I take comfort in Psalm 21 and Psalm 121. I don't have to worry about the hereafter."

As part of the Generation Celebration's at Ascension, we will be honoring each successive generation in the coming months. Up next, those born between 1929 and 1945. Known as "the Silent Generation", however this is their time to shine and we certainly not silence them! This celebration will be between services on 4 November. We are beginning the planning for this now, and if you are in that generation and would like to share and participate, please contact Mary, Elisa or Jim. There are 100 of you at Ascension, so we look forward to a lively and informative and not silent celebration.

Elisa, Jim, Deacon Mary FTS ( Formerly Team Stretch)  
Faith Formation for Maturing Adults.

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### **Bridge Group**

Our Bridge Group will meet on a TBD date in October at 5:30PM 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](tel:7195721052) or at [kittypawz@aol.com](mailto:kittypawz@aol.com) if you have any questions about this group.

## BECOME INVOLVED...

**\*\*COFFEE 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.

**\*\*Ascension's Free Pantry:** Remember to pick up groceries for the pantry when you do your own grocery shopping. They can be placed directly in the pantry outside the CLC or in the cupboard in the Fellowship Hall. It's making a difference.

**\*\*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](mailto:office@ascensionlutheranelca.org).

**\*\*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 hats and scarves 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. We are also working on some great gifts to be sold at the annual Church Bazaar in October. 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 about 35 years. We call three games of bingo from 10:00-11:00AM on the third Wednesday of each month for the residents. We normally have about 15 players. We call out 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's clothing (sizes Large and higher), women's clothing (large and Plus sizes), sweat pants and tops (large sizes), hygiene products (body washes, lotions, tooth paste, shampoo, etc), playing cards, 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. The residents really look forward to our bingo each month and it is rewarding to help them. Please contact John Hayes at 572-1052 or at [blazehayes@aol.com](mailto:blazehayes@aol.com) if you'd like to help or learn more about this Outreach program. *Thank you for your continued support of this 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.

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:katy.snider@asd20.org)

### Ruth Circle

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us for fellowship and casual Bible Study. We are currently discussing the book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, by Joanna Weaver. If you are new Ascension or just looking for a casual Bible Study group, we hope you will come and join us!

**Meets:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall except for June & July.

**Contact:** Nancy Shatto, 426-9444 or [njshatto@yahoo.com](mailto:njshatto@yahoo.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](mailto:office@ascensioncos.org)

### Thursday Night Serendipity

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

**Meets:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 6:30 pm at the church.

**Contact:** Rich & Judi Johnson, 264-8196, or [irajohnson@aol.com](mailto:irajohnson@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bonnievawter@q.com)

### Ladies' Lunch Bunch

Ladies of Ascension meeting once a month to enjoy each other's company over lunch. There is no age requirement. Please RSVP to Judy Conroy by the Sunday before the lunch.

**Meets:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 11 am at Mackenzie Place

**Contact:** Judy Conroy, 481-9605 or [jnconroy@comcast.net](mailto:jnconroy@comcast.net)

### 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](mailto:jrajohnson@aol.com)

### Faith Seeking Understanding

We read books that usually address hot-button issues. The discussions at the end of each book are friendly, honest, and happen over a potluck. Our next book is "Does Jesus Really Love Me?: A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America" by Jeff Chu. We'll discuss it over lunch at church on November 4. All are welcome.

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

**Contact:** Pastor Daniel, 634-1694, or [d.smith@ascensioncos.org](mailto:d.smith@ascensioncos.org)

### 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](mailto:wklein636@msn.com)

## SERVICE & SUPPORT GROUP

### Quilts for New Beginnings

No experience necessary to make quilts for Family Promise and 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. – 12:30 p.m.

**Contact:** Anita Arends, 573-4747

### Terrace Gardens Bingo

Have fun helping nursing home residents play Bingo and win prizes.

**Meets:** Terrace Gardens monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 9:45-11:15 am

**Contact:** John & Kathy Hayes, 572-1052 or [blazehayes@aol.com](mailto:blazehayes@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:** TBD

### 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 [dannec664@aol.com](mailto:dannec664@aol.com) (*please contact Donna or Scott if you would be willing to help plan the trips*)

### 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](mailto:aimeebuesing@yahoo.com)





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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  
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ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)  
**Our Website:** [www.ascensioncos.org](http://www.ascensioncos.org)  
**November newsletter deadline: Oct. 21**



Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Sharon Budd (Sister of Darcy Ayen), Brad Buhler, Michelle Courtright (Daughter of Jeff & Renee Courtright), Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Tom & Sandy George, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Hazel Quindt, Jeff Sebben, Jerry Smith, Virginia Stanley, Bruce Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas.