



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

December 2018

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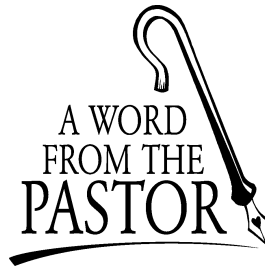
Advent

We wait.
As smoke filled wind makes its
way east,
As cold nights infiltrate cars
that double as homes,
As news from the warfronts fade into tragic
regularity.
We wait.

We wait.
As our hearts yearn for a world we thought would
be here by now,
As our minds struggle to comprehend the world
shifting beneath us,
As our faith clings to a world you promise is yet
coming.
We wait.

We wait.
As hope is born again in friendships mended.
As hope is born again in swells of hymns and
rhythms of carols.
As hope is born again in hearts we once thought
cold.
We wait.

We wait.
With candles that mark time.
With candles that resist the temptation to fast-
forward.
With candles that expect a birth ancient and novel.
We wait.



IHN

Did you know that thanks to people like you since October 2017 IHN/Family Promise has helped 61 families? That is 216 individuals and 137 children, and, of that, 78% have moved to stable homes, permanent housing and some to home ownership.

Because of people like you Family Promise can help even more families with new programs to prevent of homelessness. This is in addition to the intensive case management wrap-around services they already provide homeless families.

Because of people like you, for more than 20 years, IHN has housed more 550 families.

THANK YOU!

**Ascension will host the week of December 16. Signup will be between services at the welcome desk. We are once again asking for gift cards to help cover expenses for the week's families will not be hosted during the holidays.

Blessings! Ron and Debbie Mohler

Lutheran Disaster Response Aiding California

California has experienced devastation from severe wildfires. As people who know the difficulty of wildfires, we wanted to give you the opportunity to support those in need through our Lutheran Disaster Response. They are working right now to address immediate needs, including providing food and other necessities. You can donate to Ascension and put Lutheran Disaster Relief in the memo line of your check.

Pastor Daniel

Board of Social Outreach



What's Happening

The November 13th CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Daniel Smith led a devotion from the 6th chapter of Mathew on what Jesus taught us about the important things in life.
- Jerry Dollar provided an update on the God's Grace in Action Estimate of Giving Campaign. He stressed that Giving Estimates came in very strong and that we should expect 2019 Offerings to be at \$550,000.
- In her treasurer's report, Ann Marie Hindley noted that October Offerings were at 83% of budget which caused year-to-date giving to decline to 96.5% of the projected budget at the end of October. Cash reserves remain strong. She also noted that the CLC surplus for the year has slipped because of lower than expected attendance.
- Jerry Dollar then discussed that an anonymous donation was received to replace the KPC playground equipment. Even though KPC is administered under Lutheran Family Services, the gift was presented to Ascension because we still own the KPC facility. A motion was approved to accept the donation to replace the KPC playground equipment.
- The CPC was also updated on the status to replace the CLC playground equipment. Three bids were received and are being analyzed. Ascension has put aside approximately \$26,000 to fund this replacement. An anonymous donor is willing to contribute another \$20,000 for this project. The CLC Director, Teresa Adams, is requesting a \$7,500 grant to cover the remaining costs. A final decision to proceed will occur when the grant is approved.
- Ann Marie Hindley presented an updated 2019 proposed budget. The budget changed slightly from the October CPC meeting based on Board Director updated requests. The CPC approved presenting a 2019 budget of \$825,000 to the Congregation at the upcoming December 2nd Congregational meeting.
- The CPC set the agenda for the upcoming December 2nd Congregational Meeting.
- John Hayes provided an update on the status of the Purpose Mapping Visioning Team. Work continues on updating the Ascension Mission Statement focusing on the three areas of Belonging, Faith Formation, and Purposeful Lives. Pastor Daniel presented an update on the Purpose Mapping Leadership Team to be led by Jon Thompson.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayers of concern followed by the Lord's Prayer.

- Our 3-year Capital Campaign is finishing December. At the upcoming Congregational Meeting we will hear a summary of the completed activities and the expenditure of the funds collected. Thank you to all who contributed and to those who continue to give. Your dedication and stewardship enabled needed improvements to the Children's Learning Center (CLC) and the sanctuary, along with a reduction to our mortgage.
- The CLC continues to positively impact the surrounding community. The families we serve have significant challenges and depend on the stable environment provided by our center. The 17 preschoolers and 25 school-age children who attend know that Jesus loves them. This is one ministry that specifically targets our closest neighbors as most of the families live nearby.
- Don't forget to submit your family photos for the online Church Directory. Make sure we can see your faces well enough so we can recognize you. No recent photo? Dennis Bagenstos will happily take one for you.
- Ron Mohler is collecting used camping gear for the homeless. If you have tents, sleeping bags, or other camping items laying around collecting dust, this is an excellent opportunity to help a community in need.
- Mark your calendars now. The CPC will present its 2019 budget at the **December 2nd** Congregational Meeting. Please attend the meeting being held between services to vote on the proposal.

Congregational Meeting December 2

The **congregational meeting** will be on December 2nd at 9:15 am. The agenda is:

- Sign-in at tables and pick up copy of 2019 budget
- Call to Order
- Opening Devotions
- Approval of 6/10/18 Congregational Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Marshall Nielsen as Director of Parish Education
- Purpose Mapping Update Board Reports
- 2018 Operating Budget Review
- 2019 Operating Budget Approval
- Capital Campaign Update
- Closing Prayer

Christmas Giving Opportunity

If you haven't already, please consider picking up a tag for the Christmas Giving program for the Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo! The wish lists are hanging on trees in the fellowship hall. You do not need to buy everything on their list - it's just a couple of ideas for you from them. All gift bags will be picked up from the church on December 12th. The Board of Social Outreach is sponsoring this opportunity. Please contact me for questions or more information about this program. Aimee Calderon, aimeebuesing@yahoo.com.

Buy a poinsettia for the sanctuary!

Buy a poinsettia for \$15 and help decorate the sanctuary! Sign up on the sheet located on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. The sheet includes a space to note if the purchase is in someone's honor or memory. The list of those who purchase the plants will be in the Christmas bulletin. There are just 15 plants available for purchase, and you can give your payment to Arlayne in the office.



Colorado Gives Day

Rainbow Trail raised \$77,266 on Colorado Gives Day in 2017. Please help us reach our goal of \$85,000 for 2018. You are all a true blessing to this place and this ministry!

Save the Date! Colorado Gives Day is Dec. 4, 2018.

Find out more about more about this program

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PRE-SCHEDULE YOUR GIFT!!!! The pre-scheduled donation feature is now available! This feature is for a one-time donation on Colorado Gives Day. Pre-scheduled, one-time donations for December 4, 2018, will qualify for a boost from the FirstBank Incentive Fund. To pre-schedule, donors will simply click the "donate" button on Rainbow Trail's ColoradoGives.org page and then then choose the radio button that says "CO Gives Day."

Storytelling Night January 11!

Mark your calendars! The 2nd Annual Ascension Storytelling Night is coming on Friday, January 11 at 7:00 PM. You don't want to miss it!!

Property and Grounds Update

Thank you to all the members who helped clean up the grounds on November third. We were cut short by snow, but much work was done.

The switch that automatically opens the inside entry doors is malfunctioning and we are pursuing repairs.

Our board has received a significant amount of input regarding our housekeeping and we wanted you to know we will be meeting to review the contract and ensure all areas covered by the contract are getting done. If you are not aware, there is a communication book that Ernesto looks at nightly. If you are seeing gaps in our housekeeping, please jot a friendly note so Ernesto can address the issue. As always, please clean up after using our facility so it is ready for the next group. Thank you.

Brad Chewakin, Property and Grounds Director

Lutheran Camping Ministry is for You

The Camping Ministry has a magic all its own. Surrounded by the wonders of God's creation and with a small group of people, youth and families can renew their lives and grow in understanding of God's world and Christ's love.

Our Ascension congregation has an excellent opportunity to go camping this summer—at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. Openings are available for youth and families.

The summer programs at our Lutheran Camps are designed to provide Christian growth experiences for everyone. Here Bible Study, nature study, campfires, camping out and worship are all rolled into one experience that means fun, excitement, and Christian development.

Those interested in a camping experience at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp can get more information on the rainbowtrail.org website or from Brad Chewakin, Ascension RTLC Ambassador at chewakin@msn.com.

Rainbow trail registration is open now for winter retreating and summer 2019 camps. Registration is limited to ELCA members only until January 1. Registering early is best to guarantee a spot in 2019.

Organ Evaluation Committee – Let Every Instrument Be Tuned For Praise

Dr. Daniel London is Rev. at Christ the Episcopal Church in Eureka, California. A sermon of his, inspired by Episcopal's quite new pipe organ, was recently published in the *American Organist*.

The sermon was based, in part, on the words of the Fred Pratt Green hymn "When In Our Music God Is Glorified." Here's how Rev. London closed his sermon.

"Whenever we sing together here accompanied by these magnificent pipes, I encourage us to contemplate the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who is especially present in the wind, even in the very wind that blows through these ranks of pipes to make music. So I wonder what kind of organ pipe are you? Are you a flute? Or a reed? Are you metal or wood? Are you one of the visible pipes proudly displayed at center stage? Or are you hiding behind the scenes but still a very important part of the instrument. Are you soft and soothing? Loud and flamboyant? Or are you one of those pipes that makes a noise that is felt more than heard? Are you one of those pipes that shakes the entire building? If you don't know, then I hope we as a church can help you discover that. And whatever you are, we need you to join our ranks and become part of the ensemble so that the great divine artist can perform his masterpiece with us and through us as a community."

The Organ Committee has now heard final presentations from four highly-respected organ builders. And we are now ranking them and the instruments they have recommended according to ten different categories. We will keep you informed.



*Ascension Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund*

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

Phil and Sandy Trent - Birthdays

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

**the family and friends of Dee Huth, who died on November 7 in her home.

SPECIAL RAFFLE

The youth were given a beautiful 90x90 quilt as a raffle item. The makers of the quilt have requested, that due to the weather and the time put into making the quilt, that we hold a "Special" raffle for just the quilt. Raffle tickets can be bought between services through December 2nd. We will hold the raffle after that. Tickets are \$5 each and all proceeds will benefit the youth programming.



THANK YOU...

THANK YOU! A huge thank you to all who braved the weather and joined the youth at Ascension for our Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle and Variety Show. Thank you also to all who donated items for the raffle. We had over 90 items and baskets to be raffled off! All proceeds from the evening will go towards our youth programming as well as for scholarships for every youth who attends the Rocky Mountain Synod Youth Gathering in January. Thank you for your continued support!

Temple Beit Torah Thank You

On behalf of myself and Temple Beit Torah, I want to thank you and your entire congregation for your words of support, solidarity and encouragement. It is always reassuring to know that our Christian brothers and sisters stand with us against bigotry, hatred and violence. Thank you for your words of healing and fellowship.

Shalom, Jeff Adler, President: Temple Beit Torah

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. Our December 13th meeting will be at 9:30am. You are asked to bring non-perishable items, such as, mac & cheese, crackers, oatmeal, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, tuna, and toiletries, listed in the *Ascension in Action Newsletter* for Mercy's Gate Food Pantry. We will be starting a new book on January 10th, 2019 titled *Fierce*. If you are new to Ascension or just looking for a casual Bible Study group, we hope you will come and join us! Please see Nancy Shatto for a book, 719-426-9444 or njshatto@yahoo.com.

Worship Service Opportunities

Would you like to be part of Ascension's worship service periodically? The Worship Board is looking for more volunteers to be a Communion Assistant or a Lector, particularly at the 10:30 service. If you would like to give either of these jobs a try, email Ellis Conoley (ellisconoley@gmail.com) or Sue Trinko (ts.trinko@gmail.com).

Advent Concert Dec. 9

"Behold!" An Advent Concert will be presented by The Roman Catholic Chamber Choir on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 3:30 pm at St. Mary Cathedral (22 W. Kiowa St.). A free-will offering will be taken. (Megan Miller & Susan Curtis sing in the choir!)

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.

****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. Contact Bonnie Vawter, 579-6707, with any questions.

****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.

****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 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.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet on December 15th 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 or atkittypawz@aol.com if you have any questions about this group.



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Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA
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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

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d.smith@ascensioncos.org (Pastor Smith)

m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org (Mary Stoneback)

music@ascensioncos.org (Megan Miller)

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ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)

Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

January newsletter deadline: Dec. 16

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler, Dennis Caldwell, Zeb & Andy Dyer (sons of Clarice Lakota), Tom & Sandy George, Isaac Grimes, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Hazel Quindt, Judy Resh (sister of Dee Yocum), Jeff Sebben, Jerry Smith, Phylis Smith, Virginia Stanley, Bruce Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas.