



Ascension In Action

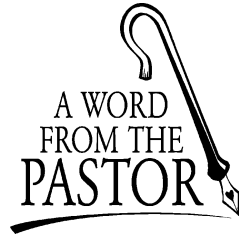
Ascension Lutheran Church

February 2019

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The world needs Ascension. The world needs you.

We sat around a table on a recent Saturday morning to lay out a vision for Ascension in the coming years. The team had worked on this for months, and this was our final big push, a weekend spent together. But there was a sentence uttered in the first 15 minutes of our meeting that has stuck with me. "Our world needs places like Ascension."



That same morning, volunteers gave up their Saturday to clean a basement room so our building can be better used for ministry. Our world needs places like Ascension.

That same morning, more volunteers sat in the conference room diligently reviewing our finances to be sure we were being good stewards of your generosity. Our world needs places like Ascension.

That same morning, our basement was used by a bunch of nurses for a medication class so that they might better fulfill their callings. Our world needs places like Ascension.

That same morning, the youth were gathering together to go to a synod youth gathering. Kids of all sorts of ages and popularity and interests going together to grow in faith and have some fun. Our world needs places like Ascension.

Meanwhile, leaders from Ascension gave up their Saturday and Sunday to listen for God's calling to Ascension. They poured over surveys and the history of the congregation and scripture and insights formed over months of working together to develop a plan, a vision for this church. Our world needs places like Ascension.

In the coming weeks and months you'll learn more about this vision. You'll learn about how Ascension is committed to being a place where *you* encounter God and where *you* are called by God to be light in a world of darkness.

It will be easy to think this is all about us. It will be easy to think that the point of this whole thing is to make Ascension stronger, more vibrant, and maybe even bigger. And I hope that all happens. But that's not why the leaders came in that Saturday morning, and it's not why we're setting this bold vision. No, we're doing this for the same reason we've done everything these past 64 years. Our world needs places like Ascension.

Pastor Daniel

Youth Garage Sale



Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 23rd for the Annual Youth Garage Sale. Start saving your items and watch the bulletin and What's Up for when you can start bringing in your goodies! All proceeds will benefit the youth traveling to Minneapolis in 2021 for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering.

IHN Update

Many thanks to all who assisted in December with IHN. This time we were able to host four families. All were single mothers, with a total of 10 children ages 3 to 15. Your generosity with your gift cards was greatly appreciated. With no other church hosting the week following us, the families were provided a room at an extended stay motel. The cards enabled the families to get food and cook for themselves.

It is very hard on the families to pack up and move every week, so this year we are trying something different. When we host in May and October it will be for two weeks at a time. We realize this is going to be a challenge and are praying that with your help we are able to do it. It really would help ease just a little of the stress on the families as they work to get back on their feet.

In February Beth el Mennonite church will be hosting two weeks, and we will be assisting them for a few of the nights. See further in the newsletter for details.

Again thank you all for all the help and support. You all rock! Ron and Debbie Mohler

CHURCH COUNCIL



The January 15th CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Daniel Smith led a devotion on a portion of our new draft Mission Statement about Ascension creates faithful community.
- The Treasurer's Report highlighted that we finished 2018 with a budget surplus of \$8,620. This surplus will be included as Revenues in the 2019 budget. It also noted that 2018 Budgeted Offerings were \$554,079 and we received \$550,134 (99.3% of budget). Cash reserves remain strong.
- The highly successful Capital Campaign ended on December 31, 2018 with a surplus of \$80,000. The CPC approved making a motion at the February 10th Annual Congregational Meeting to set aside up to \$10,000 of this surplus for landscaping work on the church property since this was one of the original tasks included in the Capital Campaign Task List. The remaining \$70,000 would be put against early retirement of our mortgage. We will celebrate the completion of the Capital Campaign at the Annual Meeting.
- Replacement Playground equipment for the KPC and the CLC is beginning to arrive and is being temporarily stored on the edges of the upstairs and downstairs parking lots.
- The Vision Waypoint Team will meet on January 19-20 to finalize much of their work and The Leadership Team will have their first meeting on January 20th. Both teams will brief their recommendations to the CPC and then the Congregation. Our various Boards will then begin implementation activities.
- Our pipe organ is getting to the end of its life and is non-repairable. Our Organ Committee, led by Jim Melzer, has talked to organ builders and other experts to determine replacement options. We will be presenting these options to the Congregation to determine the way ahead for Ascension.
- Our Director of Finance (Ann Marie Hindley) will be moving to the East Coast potentially as early as May. We asked our Nominating Committee to begin looking for replacement candidates for her. Ann Marie has done a marvelous job establishing new processes that integrate our part-time bookkeeper into our financial management and reducing the workload on our volunteer Finance Team.
- The CPC set the agenda for the upcoming February 10th Annual Congregational Meeting.

- The Worship Board announced that Lenten Soup Suppers will be on March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, and 10.
- The Youth-led annual Garage Sale will take place in the March-April timeframe (before Easter). Our Youth will lead this year's Easter Sunrise Service and then host the Pancake Breakfast.
- Pastor Dan closed our meeting with prayers of concern followed by the Lord's Prayer.



What's Happening

- Ascension's Annual Report will be presented in between services at the **February 10th** Congregational Meeting.
- Do you enjoy the Lenten Soup Suppers? Consider hosting one. Available dates are **March 13, 20, 27** and **April 3**. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex come February.
- We continue to live out the visioning team's proposed mission statement, "**In God's Grace, Ascension Creates Faithful Community.**" For example, the Girl Scouts, Colorado Springs Nurse Consultants, Mosaic (cooking and crafts), Community Bible Study, and the Neighborhood HOA are some of the external groups routinely using our facility.
- Ascension donated \$510 for disaster relief for those affected by the California Wildfires. Thank you!
- Look for a new keypad entry for the front door. The keypad will replace the numerous keys that have been distributed over the years. Contact Arlayne in the church office to be placed on a list of those who will need the code once it is installed.
- Ascension has a multitude of active small groups, focusing on discipleship, fellowship, service and support. They are a great way to get to know the members of Ascension. If you aren't participating, you are missing out. Already attending? Invite a friend!

THANK YOU...

Thank you for your donations to support those affected by the California Wildfires. Ascension sent \$510 to Disaster Relief for this cause.

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. We will be starting a new book, *Fierce* by Alice Connor. Our hostess for February 14, 2019 is Dorothy Reed who will lead our discussion on Tamar. If you are new 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, or a book, at 719-426-9444 or njshatto@yahoo.com.



Notes from the Music Room

February 23 is the birthday of the celebrated composer Georg Frideric Handel. What would we do without his Hallelujah Chorus? Handel was the son of a diligent and successful barber-surgeon and the daughter of a long line of Lutheran pastors. His elder half-brothers all followed his father into medical professions. Handel began his musical studies with the church organist in his hometown of Halle, Germany. But unlike his colleague Bach, who was also born in 1685 in eastern Germany, his ambitions took him first to university, then to Hamburg, Italy, and finally a new home in England! While Handel did not spend his life working directly for the church, many of his greatest compositions are religious ones, most notably, his oratorios, including *The Messiah*. Oratorios are very much like operas (which Handel also wrote), but they are performed in concerts without costumes and scenery. They usually had religious or mythological topics. Handel wrote about Solomon, Samson, Joseph, Joshua, Saul, Deborah, Esther, and others. He brought these Old Testament stories back to life through words and music. But his *Messiah* has become his most enduring legacy. The texts begin with the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah and continue to the resurrection. Handel composed the music in just 24 days in 1741, and it was premiered in 1742 in Dublin to a packed hall, with all proceeds going to charity. Dublin loved it, but London did not the following year. Thankfully for us opinion

changed, and by 1750 the first annual performances were given in London to benefit the Foundling Hospital, a tradition which outlived Handel himself and benefited many orphans. You can also thank Handel's lifelong faith for our hymns "Joy to the World!" and "Thine Be the Glory."

Soli Deo Gloria!

Megan Miller

~~US & THEM WE:~~

As I write this on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a day we honor this leader in our country, I think about equality and inclusion. These are important practices to remember and think about in our daily actions and decisions. There are so many that we can help and support just by responding in an inclusive and equal way and I think it's something we strive for through our own faith here at Ascension.

This brings me today to IHN. If you google IHN, you'll get InterCommunity Health Network, Integrated Health Network, Institute of Human Nutrition, and Interfaith Hospitality Network (with a few different locations noted!). We, at Ascension provide strong support through generous monetary donations and through time by hosting families with children that are temporarily in an unstable home situation that are most often homeless. IHN is also called Family Promise. Our hosting of families in Dec went very well. We had 4 very motivated and grateful single mothers. The kids ranged from 3 to 15 with only 2 boys in the whole bunch. We provided them with a safe place to sleep and food plus, gift cards were given to the families for Christmas. If you haven't been involved with this opportunity to volunteer (in a few ways), we on the Board of Social Outreach encourage you to do so! It is truly appreciated.

Beth El Mennonite Church has asked us to help out the weeks of February 10 and 17. So, we will be seeking volunteers to help on Tuesday and Thursday of those weeks. That will be February 12, 14 and 19, 21.

Blessings to all of you for your generous and thoughtful inclusion of these families in need.

Board of Social Outreach

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

**Rich & Cindy Gaona at the death of their nephew.
**family & friends of Luella Gulbranson at her death.

Lenten Soup Supper Sign-ups in Fellowship Hall

Hosting one of our Lenten Soup Suppers is a great activity for your board or small group! The Worship Board is looking for hosts for Ascension's Lenten Soup Suppers **March 13, 20, 27** and **April 3**. You can sign up on the board in the Narthex.



So what does hosting the soup supper entail? Chairs and tables need to be set up, supplies set out and drinks prepared. Paper products and drink mixes are provided. Following supper everything needs to be cleaned and put away and the trash taken out. You can find a detailed list on the sign-up board. Thanks for participating in this fellowship! Questions? Call Sue Trinko at 719-648-8336, email ts.trinko@gmail.com.

Property and Grounds Update

1. **Cleaning Service:** In December Brad met with our Jan-Pro contractor Ernesto and Cesar, their Operational Consultant to review our cleaning contract and address that many services do not meet our standards. This is a process and will be ongoing. If you notice something that needs attention, you can write it down in the Jan-Pro Communication Book that is on top of the refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen. This alerts the cleaners to areas that need attention. You can also leave me a note in the Chewakin mail box.
2. The church is cleaned two days per week and is typically done Saturday night and either Monday or Tuesday night after a Sunday service. The CLC is cleaned nightly.
3. **Paper products:** Toilet paper and paper towels have been running out very fast. We will be installing a locking 4 roll dispenser in the bathrooms so there is a more consistent supply. Extra supplies will be kept in a new place which is a shelf in the coat closet within the fellowship space.
4. **Responsible use:** When you are using any church space, please clean the area to pre-event levels. There are brooms/vacuums on each level for use. This allows the next group to enjoy the space between the twice-a-week janitorial cleaning.
5. **Safety:** Please make sure exterior doors are closed and locked when you are done.

6. **Security:** For security purposes and the fact that we have not changed keys in over 20 years, we will be implementing a keypad for our main entry door. Once this is done, the exterior keys will be re-keyed. Those who have keys will be a more limited group. There will be appropriate information pushed to the congregation before this occurs.
7. **Lighting** at our front door is not working and is on our short list to attend to.
8. The inside front door opener will be fixed in the soon. We are bundling some work to minimize service call costs.
9. If the upstairs bathroom auto doors are not working, check the switch below the pad. If the switch is off, they will not operate.

Please help us maintain our building by alerting us to any areas that need attention.

Respectfully,

Your Property and Grounds Team

Brad Chewakin, Director

Jeff Courtright

Renee Courtright

Rich Gaona

Craig Kelly

David Urlaub

Dallas Schrawder

Chris Tucker

Steve Reed

Shawn Catayas

Thank you to the Organ Evaluation Committee

The Worship Board would like to thank the folks who volunteered to be on the Organ Evaluation Committee led by Jim Melzer and comprised of Teresa Allen, Cheryl Johnson, Megan Miller, Dan Oltrogge and Gail Tucker.

The committee completed its task of determining the state of our organ. Basically, our current organ has served us well for many years but is almost to the point of no longer functioning. The committee received four bids on a "legacy" organ optimally designed for our sanctuary, which would greatly enhance the worship at Ascension, and is also investigating an off-the-shelf pipe organ option and an electronic organ option. The next step is to share these options with our congregation and determine what would be the best option for Ascension. Rich Johnson has agreed to head up this committee, which will include Sandra Bankes, Alice Deloughry, Rich Gaona, Dennis Bagenstos, Jim Melzer, and Sue Trinko.



****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.

****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.

****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. *We are always looking for volunteers to help us.* We've lost a couple of our volunteers because of deaths and moves. 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.

****COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Help Needed!** The Altar Guild is looking for a volunteer to clean up communion just once a month after the second service on the second Sunday of the month. Duties would include throwing the leftover bread and wine/juice outside under a tree, disposing of the cups, washing the trays as needed, and taking home soiled linens to launder. If you can help, contact Dorathy Reed at dreed0258@gmail.com or 262-210-1200.



Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet on February 9th 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 at kittypawz@aol.com if you have any questions about this group.



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Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA
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CHURCH STAFF

Normal Office Hours: 9-12 Mon-Fri (719) 634-1694

Pastor Dan Holt – off on Friday

Pastor Daniel Smith – off on Friday

Music Director – Megan Miller

Deacon – 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)

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ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)

Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

March newsletter deadline: Feb. 17

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler, Tom & Sandy George, Elaine Glover, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Darcy Johnson, Hazel Quindt, Jeff Sebben, Jerry Smith, Virginia Stanley, Carol Thompson, Bruce Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas.