



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

May 2019

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Time for Sacred Moments

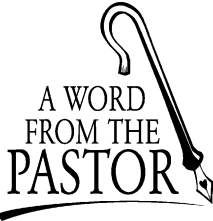
Recently, we hosted Pastor David and Gloria Anderson to speak to us about the importance of faith formation in the home. They have written books and spoke at many conferences about this. Faith formation is what we do to impart and support our faith. As Christians, we are people of faith and want to spread that faith. Yet, I find the term, faith formation, doesn't inspire me.

My wife noted that a lot of what we are doing with faith formation is making time for sacred moments. Sacred moments are those moments where we experience something of the holy and divine. I long for sacred moments. They inspire and deepen us in our life with God.

The space and time we create for worship are in support of sacred moments. Through visuals of the cross, altar, altar paraments and so forth, we are creating space to help us connect with the holy and divine. Most importantly, God works through the Word, Holy Communion and Baptism to connect us to sacred moments where we know God's gracious love for us. Through songs, music, prayers, and offering, we are responding to the holy and divine love.

David and Gloria Anderson lifted up how critical it is to our faith to have sacred moments in the home. The sacred moments that we have gathered in the church draw from the sacred moments we have gathering at home. For this reason, their ministry is to guide and offer resources to create the time and space for sacred moments at home. For those of you living alone, they would say home is whoever you have your closest relationships with. They recommend and provide resources for doing four practices: **1. Caring Conversations**, **2. Devotions** (scripture reading, reflection and prayer), **3. Service** and **4. Ritual and Traditions**. One of their resources is in our bulletin each week, "Sharing God's Story." Take that home and try starting with the Caring Conversation at your meal time. There are sacred moments for you.

Pastor Dan



Join Us May 5 for an Important Church Organ Meeting

Ascension is holding an extremely important Church Organ Meeting between services on May 5.



We will present results of the Organ Survey, hear from a church organ expert who will discuss our various options and talk about trends in Lutheran Church music, and have a Q&A session.

This is a very important meeting in the current and future life of Ascension. Please make every effort to attend.

Baccalaureate Sunday

Please join us as we celebrate these 10 young adults as they graduate from high school, during the coffee hour on Sunday, May 26th. There will be baskets for each youth if you would like to bring a card or encouraging note to wish them well in their future endeavors. Many of these youth were baptized here at Ascension!

Luke Britsch, Air Academy High School
Ethan Coltrin, Discovery Canyon Campus High School
Jackson Flemr, Rampart High School
Evelyn Gillum, Coronado High School
Anika Hagen, Coronado High School
Katie Johnson, Lewis-Palmer High School
Megan Johnson, Lewis-Palmer High School
Rebecca Knoche, Sand Creek High School
Karissa Kocourek, Pine Creek High School
Ethan Thompson, Village Hybrid Program at Academy Online High School

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

**to Karen Johnson at the death of her uncle.

**to Nicholas McCann at the death of his brother.

**to Gail Tucker & family at the death of her father.



What's Happening

- Pastor Daniel Smith opened the meeting with a reading from Matthew 10 that highlights how we welcome Jesus when we welcome others. Council members shared specific times in their lives that they felt welcomed.
 - Ann Marie Hindley reported healthy financial figures but noted the CLC continues to struggle with revenues at 84% of budget. She also noted CLC expenses were at 88% of budget so that while revenue is down, so are expenses. Additionally, Ann Marie made a \$50,000 mortgage payment in the month of March per the wishes of Clara Remele's estate.
 - Brad Chewakin shared plans for two repairs that will be funded from the Capital Replacement Fund: two windows in the sanctuary and a boot replacement to the elevator.
 - Pastor Dan presented his thoughts on a book, "Community: The Structure of Belonging" by Peter Block. The topic applies to our mission and visioning goals by emphasizing community and belonging.
 - John Hayes announced the completion of the Waypoint Visioning team and the start-up of the Belonging Pathway Team that will be led by Andy Saunders. The rest of the team will be formed in the coming month.
 - Donna started an on-going review of church policies with a look at the Child and Youth Protection Policy. Directors were asked to work with Arlayne in the church office to ensure paperwork is complete for all who need background checks.
 - Pastor Dan Holt closed the meeting in prayer.
- Ascension Lutheran Church was named Congregation of the Year by Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) at a Gala in Highlands Ranch on April 26th! The honor was bestowed for our support of LFSRM over the years.
 - Thanks to all who donated to this year's World Hunger campaign. Look for an announcement from Social Outreach for exact numbers but for now let's just say we filled quite a few piggy banks.
 - Pastor Daniel will be on a well-deserved sabbatical from May 13th – August 12th. Keep him and his family in your prayers.
 - Safe travels to Gabrielle Brown, Scott and Teresa Allen, Deacon Mary, and Pastors Dan and Daniel as they travel to Albuquerque, NM to represent us at the Mountain Synod Assembly.
 - Instead of hosting Family Promise (IHN) for the usual one-week timeframe, Ascension is hosting for 2 back-to-back weeks from May 12-26. You can sign up to help between services or online. While there are numerous ways to help, the easiest is to be an overnight host. All you have to do is sleep!
 - 9 seniors will graduate high school this month. We send our heartiest of congratulations and pray they will stay in touch with us as they move forward in life!
 - The Organ Committee wants to hear your thoughts on the expected upcoming organ replacement. Please fill out a survey and attend the May 5th presentation between services.

ELCA Spring Gathering June 8

ELCA Spring Gathering at Mount Calvary on Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pastor Julie Britsch will lead the group in understanding & practicing ways to read the Bible using the "book of faith" initiative of the ELCA: devotional reading, historical reading, literary reading & Lutheran theological reading. A continental breakfast will be provided as well as a catered sandwich luncheon. Eric & Elisa Wicks will offer a short performance of Baroque music during the gathering. Cost is \$35 which includes the luncheon. Registration forms can be found on the kiosk in the Fellowship Room. Questions: email me at slwalker@q.com or phone me at 570-0103. Thanks, Sally Walker.

Small Group Fair May 12

The leaders of Ascension's Small Groups are excited to be hosting a **Small Groups Fair** in the Fellowship Hall between services on Sunday, May 12. This will be an opportunity to see the various groups we have to offer, visit with the leaders of the groups, and sign up!



Used eye glasses collected at the Welcome Desk!

Ascension continues to collect old eye glasses to pass along to those in need. Please place any of your old glasses in the box behind the Welcome Desk. Thank you!

Easter Lilies Beautify Sanctuary and Honor Families

Thank to the following for purchasing Easter Lilies!

Gulliksen Family, in honor of our parents
Nancy Shatto, in honor of my parents
Trinko Family
Rich & Judi Johnson
Ellis & Evelyn Conoley, in honor of our parents
Kathy Mayer, in honor of my grandmother and mother
Lucille Walker, in honor of Steven
Albertson Family, in honor of our parents
Wilson Family, in honor of Buzz Howe
Sara Petz
Dave Steinhauer, in honor of Kim
Alice & Jim Deloughry, in memory of our parents
Donna Kortemeyer, in honor of my husband

Quilt Tying – June 1 at Ascension

We will be tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief & the Mennonite Central Committee. We will begin at 9 a.m. & end by 12 noon. Light snacks & beverages will be provided. Women, men & children are invited to be part of the group making the world a warmer place. A signup sheet will be in the fellowship room on the kiosk. Questions: email me at slwalker@q.com or phone me at 570-0103. Thanks, Sally Walker.

Ascension Hosts Two Weeks of IHN in May

Interfaith Hospitality Network sign-ups are now available for the two weeks in May when we will be hosting guest families here at Ascension. We will be hosting May 12-26. Sign-ups are starting early this time since May is a busy month, and we are doing two weeks instead of one. There are a number of different ways you can help. All of the details are online at www.ascensioncos.org, including a link you can click on to sign up!

Blessings and Thanks! Ron and Debbie Mohler

THANK YOU...

**to ALC for your support in the Youth Board's Annual Garage Sale in March. With your gracious support of stuff and shopping, the youth raised over \$1800 to support faith-building retreats, fun and services.

**to everyone who has looked after us during Darcy's recovery from her foot injury and subsequent surgery. You have been a Godsend and we are grateful for our church family. Tom & Darcy Johnson

**to all who came out to support the LFSRM 5th Anniversary Celebration with the KPC Respite Center. Tours of KPC and food and fellowship were enjoyed by all. Thank you for celebrating with us.

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 are using the book, *Fierce* by Alice Connor. Our hostess for 9 May 2019 is Nancy Stannard who will lead our discussion on Mary Theotokos. 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.

Sanctuary Banner - Vibrant Faith

For over a year the worship board has been planning to install a large banner in the front of our sanctuary to bring color and life to our worship space. The executive committee designated existing memorial funds for the banner and the worship board set up a team to determine options. We decided to wait until the sanctuary remodel was completed to ensure the banner design would incorporate the new look of the sanctuary. Beginning in the fall, after the carpet was installed and the window coverings finished, the worship board created a team to research and interview potential banner artists. After selecting an artist, another small team worked with her to create a design for a banner on the front wall of the sanctuary that extends from near the ceiling to and around the cross. It incorporates all colors of the church seasons and works well with the cross and the natural view out our windows. The design isn't quite ready to show to the congregation, but it is beautiful.

While the banner process was underway, a separate process evaluating the organ began. As you now know, we are looking at organ replacement options, and some of those options include an organ placed at the front of the sanctuary. An organ is a much larger investment and integral piece to the worship life of Ascension. So, if we decide to move forward with an organ with the pipe ranks placed at the front of the sanctuary, the banner will be altered to fit with the pipes, or we won't place a banner at the front. If we decide not to have an organ with pipe ranks placed at the front of the sanctuary, then the banner will be made and installed sometime this summer. Either way, we look forward to visually enhancing our worship space.

If you have questions about the banner or the organ, please speak with me or the organ survey team. Better yet, come to the May 5th presentation!

God bless, Pastor Daniel

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet on a TBD date in May 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.

Spiritual Gifts in Motion – A New Journey Begins

The Board of Stewardship is pleased to announce that the Ascension Time and Talent Program is underway for 2019 with our **Spiritual Gifts in Motion** Campaign! We will be kicking off this year's program with food, fellowship, and information; between services on Sunday, May 19.

In the past, we asked that all members identify those areas where they felt they could give of their time and talent. The traditional approach was to complete a survey, where specific service opportunities were listed. It always proved to be an efficient way to reach out, but it tended to feel a little uninspired.

For the Spiritual Gifts in Motion 2019 Program, we invite you to join us on a journey of self-discovery. We will use the process created by Midland Lutheran College in their "A Spiritual Gifts Inventory" booklet. This program has been used by the ALC Youth Group in the past.

Our new approach no longer asks "what do you want to do?" Rather we ask "what are your spiritual gifts?" There are 24 spiritual gift areas identified in the Midland program. It is our intent to guide the ALC congregation on a journey to learn what each gift entails and how it can be applied within as well as outside the church. The goal is not reaching the destination, but rather enjoying the journey.

This new approach requires additional effort and a longer period of time. This said; we will be leading a journey across a period of four months. We will launch the journey at the May 19th between-services event and will culminate with distribution and collection of the new Spiritual Gifts Inventory in late September.

In preparation for our journey together; we are pleased to briefly introduce the following 24 spiritual gifts:

Administration	Leadership
Advocacy	Mercy
Artistry	Music
Discernment	Networking
Encouragement	Prayer
Evangelism	Service
Faith	Shepherding
Giving	Skilled Crafts
Hospitality	Teaching
Intergenerational Relations	Technology
Knowledge	Wisdom
Listening	Writing

We will be examining each of these spiritual gifts in greater detail during the months of June, July, and August! We look forward to seeing you between services on Sunday, May 19th. Thank you! Your Stew Crew

BECOME INVOLVED...

****Flower Chart** – The 2019 Flower Chart is posted in the office for you to sign up on for a special Sunday for you or a family member, or a special occasion. Check with Arlayne for more info.

****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.*

****COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Help Needed!** The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to clean up communion just once a month after the second service on the second or fourth Sundays of the month. If you can help, contact Dorathy Reed at dreed0258@gmail.com or 262-210-1200.



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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
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Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

June newsletter deadline: May 19

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler, Katie Bui (Daughter-in-law of Anita Arends), Ron Elsdon (Former member), Tom & Sandy George, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Cheryl Johnson, Darcy Johnson, Hazel Quindt, Judy Resh (Sister of Dee Yocum), Jeff Sebben, Ken Shodeen, Jennifer Smalley (CLC Staff), Betty Snow (Mother of Terry Snow), Virginia Stanley (Mother of Marilyn Gulliksen), Bruce Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas.