



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

August 2019

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Being Generous

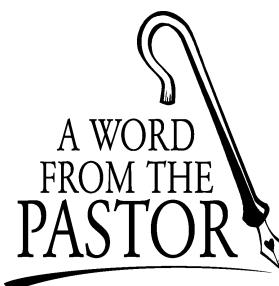
I find generosity is a trait in us that exists in tension with another trait, our self-centeredness. My self-centeredness can have the upper hand over my generosity. It thrives on my insecurities around not having what I want, being taken advantage of, or not having enough. Self-centeredness can lead to being hard hearted and closed. It can lead us to get what we want at a cost to other people. As much as my self-centeredness can have the upper hand, it does not win all the time. That part of me that is generous is still alive and well and wanting to do something generous.

As I think about this tension within, it brings me to wonder what helps me be less self-centered and more generous. First, I find that my faith in God's generosity helps me be generous. When I am aware and trusting that God gave me life, abilities, resources and unconditional love, I find myself able to be more generous to others. God told Abraham that he was blessed to be a blessing.

Second, I find generosity rises from being moved by others' need and hurt. As much as hearing or reading the news can move us some, being with a hurting person moves us mightily. Being near the hungry, refugees, and wounded pulls hard on our generosity. Generosity comes from our hearts moved by people and their stories.

Finally, generosity is reinforced by being generous. In being generous, we know and find satisfaction because we are contributing to the good of others. Our hearts are warmed as we make a difference in this world. Through trusting God's blessing, wanting to make a difference for others and wanting satisfaction in life, we will be generous.

Pastor Dan



What's Happening

- Gabrielle Brown is seeking candidacy and applying to Luther's MDivX program. Pray for her as she goes through this process and awaits notification of acceptance into the program.
- Mark your calendar for August 18th! Ascension Choir will be singing the National Anthem at the Vibes Baseball game and we will be sitting together with lunch on the picnic terrace.
- Sunday, August 4th is the last day to bring donated school supplies to support D11 and Lutheran World Relief.
- We look forward to August Temple talks when members highlight how and why they use their time and talent at Ascension.
- Spread the word - Teresa Allen is looking to start a youth hand bell choir for children 3rd grader or older.
- Pastor Daniel is back to work on August 12th. Be sure to attend church on August 18th to welcome him back from Sabbatical!

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

**to the Bramschreiber family & friends at the death of Jerry Bramschreiber.

**to Dee Yocum & family & friends at the death Bill Yocum.

**to Elaine Hellem at the death of her sister.

CHURCH COUNCIL



- Pastor Dan read a passage from Romans 12 several times to open the meeting. We discussed particular sections that called to us. Many felt the reading tied to what we are currently doing as we discern the way forward to create faithful community and with God's grace, shine light into darkness.
- In his Treasurer's Report, Russ Johnson reported healthy financial figures for the summer. Giving is just a little down and the CLC is at capacity. No surprises or concerns.
- The Council agreed to a promotion plan for the fall stewardship program, Stewardship for All Seasons. The plan includes funding of new and expanded programs identified by the Boards for 2020.
- In a Strategic Planning update, Donna and Pastor Dan expressed excitement following the initial meeting of the Belonging Pathways Group, led by Andy Saunders.
- Donna recapped the Organ Evaluation and Organ Replacement Committees' efforts over the last year and announced the electronics/bass portion of the organ is no longer functioning. While not good, the pipes should continue to work as they are for some time. The council agreed this limited functionality allows us time to develop more congregational unity on the way ahead. For now, we will establish a fund for the eventual replacement.
- The Council voted to continue with the installation of paraments behind the altar.
- The meeting was closed in prayer

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 using the book, *Fierce* by Alice Connor. Our hostess for August 8, 2019, is Darcy Ayen who will lead our discussion on Ruth. 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.

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: 3rd Thursday at 11 am at Mackenzie Place

Contact: Judy Conroy, 481-9605
or jnconroy@comcast.net

CONGRATULATIONS...

****to** Breanne Howe and Nicholas McCann on their marriage on June 23.

****to** Morgan Kelly & Chad Ferguson who were married in Salida on July 6.

Ascension at the Vibes Baseball Game



Ascension is having an outing at the Colorado Springs Vibes baseball game on Sunday, August 18th. The Vibes are the Single A minor league baseball team for the Milwaukee Brewers organization. The team is mostly comprised of brand new professional baseball players that were drafted out of college and high school in early June 2019.

We have reserved a section of the Family Picnic Terrace Area along the right field line at Sky Sox Stadium for Ascension members and our guests. The game starts at 1:30PM and we can enter the Picnic Area at 12:30 to begin eating our meal. The cost is \$27 per person for everybody over age 12 and \$18 for children between ages 2-12. The price includes all you can eat buffet (hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, and cookies) and drinks (Pepsi products; beers can be purchased at your own cost), parking, and admission to the game.

The Ascension Choir will sing the National Anthem at the start of the game (but choir members will have to pay as well).

If you'd like to reserve tickets, contact John Hayes at blazehayes@aol.com or call him at (719) 572-1052.

An Overview of Spiritual Gifts in Motion:

Part III of III

As we have shared with you previously, the Board of Stewardship is pleased to be following the Midland Lutheran College “Spiritual Gifts Inventory” program this year. This exciting new approach to time and talent will form the foundation for our 2019 Spiritual Gifts in Motion program.

Over the course of three newsletters, we are pleased to introduce you to all 24 spiritual gifts. This month, we continue with the last 8 gifts:

The Gift of Prayer

Characteristics

- Exhibits a certainty that God hears and answers their prayers
- Gives confidence and comfort to those for whom they pray

Bible Example

- When Peter was thrown in prison, several people got together and prayed for him. As a result of these prayers, God sent an angel to release Peter (Acts 12).

The Gift of Service

Characteristics

- Shows a willingness to work in settings to help others and to get what God wants done
- Considers virtually any job important if it shows others God’s love for them

Bible Example

- Stephen was called to be a deacon – a service oriented person – in the early church. He knew his actions gave him a special relationship with others where he could share the good news of God’s love for us in Jesus Christ (Acts 6-8).

The Gift of Shepherding

Characteristics

- Has a heart for the struggles and celebrations of all people
- Brings grace and hope as they are present in everyday lives of those in their community
- May teach, preach, console, confront, or just accompany

Bible Example

- Paul was constantly involved in shepherding others; as we see how his letter to Timothy encouraged and molded this young leader’s gifts (1 Timothy).

The Gift of Skilled Crafts

Characteristics

- Has expertise acquired through study and practice in building, creating, or repairing things

- Enjoys teaching others how to use their creative gifts in the crafts

Bible Example

- Paul used the skilled craft of net making to earn the money he needed to pay for daily expenses while he was engaged in ministry (Acts 19: 1).

The Gift of Teaching

Characteristics

- Able to communicate what one knows in a way people can understand
- Combines an understanding of content with insight into the needs and motivations of the learner to produce growth

Bible Example

- Jesus used the things of peoples’ everyday life such as coins, bread, wine, wheat, and fish to help them experience and learn the truths about God’s love for them (John 13: 13).

The Gift of Technology

Characteristics

- Is comfortable with computers and communication technology
- Embraces the increasing influence of technology in our daily lives

Bible Example

- Noah adopted technology to build the ark; learning from God’s instructions (Genesis 6).

The Gift of Wisdom

Characteristics

- Finds solutions to problems that others may not see
- Integrates personal experience and previous learning to find a solution to current situations that reflects their faith

- Helps people see beyond the obvious to the significant

Bible Example

- Solomon, the son of David, was recognized as one of the wisest people to ever live; yet he too had his flaws (1 Kings 4: 29-34)

The Gift of Writing

Characteristics

- Can interpret the Word in creative, inspiring, and well-understood written form

- Love to play with words and finds humor in language

Bible Example

- Paul was a prolific writer; sending letters to individuals and churches to encourage them and help them think clearly about God’s love for all (Galatians).

~~US & THEM WE:~~

1. **The Family Promise Walk** will be on **Sept 8th** this year. This is the fundraiser walk for Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network that has a shorter loop and a little longer loop downtown. It falls on the same day as the God's Work Our Hands event so you can choose to do the walk as an option for that this year! There will be signups for both events starting the week of August 4th. Join the fun!

2. You all do so much for our community! It's been a while since I have shared some of the Thank You letters and notes that we have received. I'm including a few parts of many letters that show thanks for your support of local organizations through your generous gifts and donations.

Thank you, Ascension Lutheran Church! Give Healing. Give Strength. Give Hope. You've done that with your recent gifts of \$2133, and \$2400 designated for Undesignated/General Ops. We are so grateful! --Lutheran Family Services (May and June 2019)

Thank you for responding to the needs of families in crisis with great love and life-giving generosity! We are profoundly grateful for your partnership in this KPC ministry and hope to continue to earn your trust and support. -- May 2019, Lutheran Family Services (KPC) for \$3200 donation.

We truly appreciate your donation of \$2000 in June 2019. Your support and contribution allows us to continue to meet the increased needs of families in our community, while expanding our community impact by walking alongside more families working toward self-sufficiency each year. This supposed our mission of providing hope and stability to families with children experiencing housing instability and homelessness. --Family Promise of Colorado Springs

As we finish up our 26th year at Pikes Peak Academy, God has been gracious to remind us why we love what we get to do with students 5 days a week, 8 hours a day for 36 plus weeks a year. Thank you for encouraging us with your support! Thank you for your part in sustaining this ministry of hope with young people at Pikes Peak Academy! -- May 2019, Pikes Peak Academy

Thank you again for Ascension's support of Rainbow Trails Lutheran Camp! Thank you so much for your recent fit of \$700 to Rainbow Trail's Annual Fund. Your continued support of the day to day operations of this ministry has been a true gift. Your gifts will

help as we host our retreats through the winter and spring, and begin purchasing the equipment for the upcoming summer. Thank you for the gift you give children in helping provide their week at camp. -- Rainbow Trails (Jan 2019).

Thank you for your gift of \$510 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With your Spirit-filled generosity you bring help and hope to families and communities reeling from disasters here in the US and around the world. (Feb 2019)

and finally, WHAT A GIFT YOU HAVE GIVEN! Thank you for your generous gift of \$9,552.88 to ELCA ministries through ELCA Good Gifts. Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you're equipping God's people - around the world and around the corner - with what they need to live abundant lives. Thank you for this incredible gift and your partnership in working for a world where all are fed! Your ministry makes a difference and we are grateful. --ELCA World Hunger Appeal, June 2019.

These are only some of the thanks for our congregation's support of many people and organizations that are so very grateful for your kindness!

Blessings - Karen Askinas - Board of Social Outreach



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

Anniversary - Jerry & Carolyn Smith - 60 years!

Birthday - Carolyn Smith

Former Ascension Member Accepts Call

We are pleased to announce that Pastor Chris Hjelmstad has received and accepted a call to serve at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Canon City, Colorado. Pastor Chris was a member here while she went through seminary and ordination. Over the last years, she has been serving several congregations in the Nebraska Synod. Congratulations and blessing for her and Shepherd of the Hills as they serve God together.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will next meet on August 10th 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.



****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.***

****Campbell's Soup Labels:** Please just cut the UPC bar code and the picture of the "point value boy" from the following products: Campbell's - 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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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 – on sabbatical until Aug. 12

Deacon Mary Stoneback

Music Director – Megan Miller

Office Administrator – Arlayne McKee

Child Learning Center Director – Teresa Adams

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Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

September newsletter deadline: Aug. 18

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler, Katie Bui (Daughter-in-law of Anita Arends), Dennis Conroy, Tom & Sandy George, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Betty Hatcher, Beth Mbise, Hazel Quindt, Judy Resh (Sister of Dee Yocum), Jeff Sebben, Colleen (Jon) Steinhauer (Daughter-in-law of Dave Steinhauer), Bruce Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Zach Carbonell.