



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

June 2019

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We Have Our Preferences

We have our preferences. To be human is to value things from the perspective of our family history, cultural influences and education. To be human is to have personality type that will influence how we see things. These influences are behind the variety of our preferences.

It is not surprising that we have a variety of preferences around our worship music. Currently, our worship music is drawn from traditional Lutheran sources with contemporary influences. This has led us to rely on an organ to lead our worship music. As our organ evaluation group discovered, our hybrid organ is failing and not worth continued repairs. After 32 years of use, the electronic circuits that control the bass speaker have gone out. And some of the pipes are not working.

Since that time, we have had members research organs for us to consider. Still others helped by creating a survey. Our thanks for all these and their hard work! From the 125 surveys returned, it is clear that most people prefer that we continue to use an organ. The survey had people largely divided between a 10 rank Keg pipe organ for around \$300,000 and an electronic Allen for around \$120,000. Because we lack clear congregational direction at this point, our leadership is planning further member interviews to find out preferences and giving support. The hope is these interviews will guide us on which of the two organs to recommend for a congregational vote.

This is one of those situations where we are not all going to get what we want. In the midst of our disagreements over our preferences for an organ (or anything else), it is all the more important to look to God. In God's Word, it is clear that what matters to God is how we treat each other. Further what matters is that we continue to come together to hear God's Word, share in his supper, sing our thanks for the many blessings we have and follow our calls to serve others.



A WORD
FROM THE
PASTOR

Pastor Dan

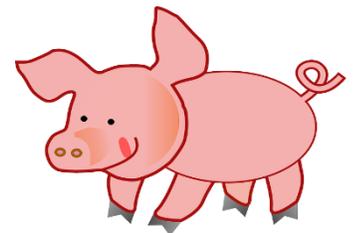
Summer Wednesday Services Begin June 26

The best part of summer in Colorado is heading up to the mountains to enjoy the warm, sunny days and cool, crisp nights. But since most of us work during the week, that means spending Saturday and Sunday away from home. And church. Wouldn't it be great if we could hold a service on Wednesday evenings out on the patio, sing some camp songs, listen to friends tell their faith stories, and then ... just spitballing here ... have a campfire and s'mores? Wish no more! Starting June 26, we'll do just that! 7 pm on the patio! Bring your guitar, your camp chair (or use one of ours), and your favorite flip-flops (no ties allowed).

No service on July 3, since you'll probably be making potato salad that night anyway. Rain? Hey, we'll just run inside. But, we're still making s'mores... Questions? Contact Dennis Bagenstos.

US & THEM WE:

We said, "200?" and you responded, "Nah! Let's make it over 300!!!" And you did! Through offerings and filling up those adorable little piggy banks with checks, cash, and loose change, you raised enough money for our 2019 ELCA World Hunger



Offering to purchase about **318 piglets!!!** These little piggies will indeed go to market, and families will be blessed to have this source of income. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Ascension family! Your generous hearts will bless many!

Blessings,
Sharla Saunders - Board of Social Outreach



Pastor Dan opened the meeting with a reading similar to those studied by the Contemplative Prayer Group

- Ann Marie Hindley reported healthy financial figures but noted that the CLC is continuing to lag behind expected revenues and is in the red by about \$4,000. Revenues are expected to pick up during the summer. The CLC will raise employee wages and their rates to counter employee retention challenges and improve their Profit/Loss line. She also noted that we sent an \$80,000 check from the Capital Campaign program to pay-down our mortgage. This was Ann Marie's last Council meeting as she and her family are relocating to northern Virginia. Ann Marie, thank you for your great service to Ascension. Russ Johnson was approved by the Council to be our new Treasurer. Russ, welcome aboard and thank you for graciously accepting this call.
- Pastor Dan attended a training session for the Stewardship for all Seasons program at the recent ELCA Rocky Mtn Synod Assembly meeting in Albuquerque. He explained that this program is expected to increase congregational giving by 10%. Board Directors were asked to develop spending ideas through their boards and present them at the July Council meeting for approval.
- John Hayes gave an update on our Strategic Visioning Process. Three of our first set of 90-day goals are completed. Andy Saunders agreed to lead our Belonging Pathway team to help improve the way Ascension welcomes newcomers and integrates new members into our community of faith. Andy is building his team and expects to have it in place in June. Pastor Dan and John drafted up the next set of 90-day goals and are coordinating them with Andy.
- John Hayes led a discussion on our Ascension Child and Youth Protection Policy letter. A few minor changes are being made to update this policy. Board Directors were reminded to give Arlayne the names of volunteers who need to have First and Second Level Background Checks completed on them as well as signed copies of the Ascension Child and Youth Protection Covenant.
- John Hayes led a discussion on the status of the Organ Replacement efforts. The Organ Committee is continuing to work with the congregation to advise everybody on the various options. A recommendation will be made to the Council on which option is most favored by the congregation. The Council will then make a recommendation to the congregation at an upcoming Congregational meeting.
- Pastor Dan concluded the meeting with a prayer.



What's Happening

- The new CLC playground is finished! Take a peek from the outside deck in back. Teresa Adams, Director of the CLC, thanks everyone for the continued support.
- Summer vacations plans are in full swing. Simply Giving, our automatic recurring donation program, is an easy and secure method to maintain consistent financial support while you are away. The service makes weekly or monthly payments directly from your bank account. The church office can help you set it up.
- For those who stay in town, our Boards and Small Groups remain active over the summer. It's a perfect time to get involved.
- The Chancel Choir and Hand bell Choir will take a break from June through August. Thank you Megan and Dolores for leading these musicians and enriching our worship experience.

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.

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.

A Large Gift to Support our Mission and Vision

During a visit one summer, my grandmother grabbed her pocketbook and with a smile on her face announced, “Come on girls, we are going to the toy store!” On the way, she told my sisters and me to think about what we’ve always wanted because she was going to buy it. There were no limitations. Our eyes grew wide with anticipation as we envisioned the possibilities.

I had a similar feeling when I learned that Ascension is blessed to receive a generous gift of \$225,000. This gift is intended to spur us on to greater generosity in support of our mission as a congregation. It also gives us the opportunity to make new impactful steps toward creating faithful community!

Beyond being used for our mission, the anonymous gift has come with a few other stipulations. The giver wants us to spend it and not leave it undesignated in a bank account. We’ve also been asked to refrain from using it to cover ongoing operating expenses like salaries (sorry Pastors), organ replacement, the Endowment, or mortgage reduction.

To honor those minimal stipulations, the council is looking to use the gift toward three areas of expanded mission: Internal Ministries (e.g. helping us in outreach and creating belonging pathways), External Ministries (e.g. support for top social outreach concerns) and Ministry Excellence (e.g. downstairs kitchen renovation). Over the next few months, our Boards will begin making recommendations that align with our mission and vision. The Council will then establish priorities to determine the way forward.

As a 7-year old girl, I grabbed the first exciting thing that caught my attention at the toy store. Years later, our council has a more purposeful and thought-out plan for this generous gift. My hope is that we don’t lose the excitement of a young girl shopping with her grandmother.

Donna Crump
President, CPC

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

- **to Scott Crump & family at the death of his father.
- **to Renee Kocourek & family at the death of her mother.
- **to Marilyn Gulliksen & family at the death of her mother, Virginia Stanley.
- **to John Hayes at the death of his uncle.
- **to Kathy Elsdon & family at the death of Ron (former members).

Notes from the Music Room



I was recently asked about the difference between two of our most frequent sacred musical words: Hallelujah and Alleluia. Is “Alleluia” the one we don’t say in Lent and “Hallelujah” the one best said with Handel’s Messiah?

Hallelujah is a Hebrew two-word command (Hallelu Jah) telling you to praise God with joy in song. The Jah is from the shortened form of the name of the creator, sometimes referred to as Jahweh. Hallelujah appears frequently in the Psalms, calling the congregation to join in with the praise and worship.

However, Greek was the language of the early Christian church, and the Greek dialects at the time were dropping the “h” letter. So in early church writings and Christian liturgies, the “h” was dropped to leave “alleluia,” and the “y” sound of the Hebrew “j” was replaced with an “i.” This a-word also came to refer specifically to the part of the liturgy where Alleluia is spoken or sung (like our gospel acclamation). In the modern Western Christian churches, this liturgical Alleluia is omitted throughout Lent, though it is still used by Orthodox Churches.

So, when you want to call upon people to praise the Lord, Hallelujah or Alleluia will both work. But if talking about the liturgical words we use throughout the church year, you’re talking about the Alleluia. Hallelujah!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Megan Miller

THANK YOU...

****The Youth Board** would like to thank the Ascension faith family for supporting the youth and making this year’s Easter Pancake breakfast a success. Because of your generous donations, middle school and high school youth will engage in activities and retreats that support their faith in Christ, build community and love, and serve God and neighbors.

****from Pastor Daniel** – I’m going on Sabbatical! Sabbatical is a time for renewal for rostered leaders, and Ascension grants sabbaticals every seven years. Can you believe I’ve been here seven years?! This summer I will take time to explore writing, family faith, and running. I’ll be gone May 13-August 11. Thanks to Ascension for providing this opportunity and to the rest of the staff and volunteers who are taking on more in my absence.

****from Carol Thompson** – Thank you for your continued prayers and efforts that make it possible for me to get to church. God’s blessings to all!

An Overview of Spiritual Gifts in Motion: Part I 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 the next three newsletters, we are pleased to introduce you to all 24 spiritual gifts. This month, we begin with the first 8 gifts:

The Gift of Administration

Characteristics

- Is good with details
- Likes to organize projects
- Keeps and analyzes data
- Coordinates people to accomplish a goal

Bible Example

- Joseph, during times of famine (Genesis 41-42) organized resources to help others during an

The Gift of Advocacy

Characteristics

- Speaks and acts on behalf of those whose power to change their living situations is limited by human systems
- Understands the dynamics of organizations and systems and works to orient them to meet human needs.

Bible Example

- Abraham advocated for any who might have been righteous when he bargained with God over the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18: 17-33).

The Gift of Artistry

Characteristics

- Express themselves through visual images or through dance and movement

Bible Example

- Artisans were commissioned to build and decorate the Temple (Exodus 36-39).

The Gift of Discernment

Characteristics

- Has a natural ability to sort through available information and isolate ideas or situations to clarify one’s thinking and understanding
- Is often sought out for advice

Bible Example

- Peter and Phillip used discernment in dealing with the magician Simon in Samaria (Acts 8: 5-25).

The Gift of Encouragement

Characteristics

- Ability to reach out and help others through hard times
- Sees God’s presence in a situation and helps others become aware of it as well

Bible Example

- David’s actions in facing Goliath were an encouragement to the other soldiers (1 Samuel 17).

The Gift of Evangelism

Characteristics

- Has a natural ability to share their experience of God and Jesus Christ
- Inspires and challenges others to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Points out God’s grace and hope for daily living

Bible Example

- Paul uses the gift of evangelism as he realize the needs of the jailer, and refuses to take advantage of the situation. In doing so, he earns the right to share his faith in Jesus Christ with the terrified man; and this leads to the jailer’s conversion to Christianity (Acts 16: 16-40).

The Gift of Faith

Characteristics

- Sees the Spirit at work in everyday life
- Believes the Spirit works through them
- Is ready and willing to trust and follow God even with little or no idea of what lies ahead

Bible Example

- As an honorable man, Joseph considered doing what his culture told him to do when he learned of Mary’s pregnancy. Yet his faith in God made him take a different course (Matthew 1: 18-25).

The Gift of Giving

Characteristics

- Recognizes God’s gifts and can turn them around and give to others
- Finds ways to give time, talent, and treasure that God has generously given to them
- Experiences great joy as they see God’s domain extended into the lives of others

Bible Example

- The believers willingness to share their material goods with one another is a picture of giving in the church. Many were willing to make great personal sacrifice as the demonstrated this gift
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RUTH CIRCLE

We will be taking a summer break during June and July. We will begin again August 8, 2019 discussing a chapter in the book *Fierce* by Alice Connor. 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 or a book at 719-426-9444 or njshatto@yahoo.com.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet on a TBD date in June 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 Churs 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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July newsletter deadline: June 16

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler, Katie Bui (Daughter-in-law of Anita Arends), Tom & Sandy George, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Betty Hatcher, Hazel Quindt, Judy Resh (Sister of Dee Yocum), Jeff Sebben, Ken Shodeen, Jennifer Smalley (CLC Staff), Colleen (Jon) Steinhauer (Daughter-in-law of Dave Stenhauer), (Bruce Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas.