



Ascension In Action

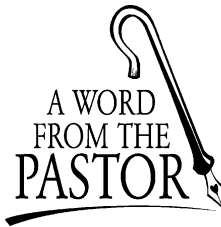
Ascension Lutheran Church

September 2019

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Over and Above for Faithful Community

Over the last two years, we have worked with a professional consultant to help us discern our mission. With your input into that discerning process, we named our mission to be "In God's grace, Ascension creates faithful community." We determined the three hallmarks of faithful community to be belonging, faith supporting, and purposeful living.



In view of our mission, we are approaching our stewardship differently this year. We have come up with a list of items that will help us live into our mission. We have estimated what it will cost to make those happen. We are asking you to support these specific increases so that we can improve belonging, faith supporting, and purposeful living. Some items include supporting ongoing fellowship for children, youth and families, developing a mentoring program, starting a youth bell choir, improving our social media outreach and subsidizing an intergenerational mission trip.

Why do we need to extend and expand mission at this time? We are in a secularizing time where faith is too often seen as irrelevant or even put down. Many follow social media which we are not skilled at using. People feel pulled after other demands and interests around work and play. They too often feel overwhelmed by their lives. They feel isolated and lonely. They don't know much about God and don't experience the love of God. They lack a sense of greater purpose and end up living for themselves.

Our mission aim is to create faithful community where belonging answers the loneliness and isolation, where faith support helps them know God's love and where they can hear a call from God to purposeful living. We have important work to do in this time and need your continued generosity.

Pastor Dan



Ascension at the Vibes Game

On Sunday, August 18, a little more than 30 members of Ascension attended the Vibes baseball game. We enjoyed the game (thankfully we sat in the shaded area of the right field Picnic Area), we enjoyed visiting with our Ascension family, we ate a nice picnic meal, and many of us sang the national anthem at the start the game. We did this last year in August and we're already planning to do it again next season.

Ascension Church Picnic

When: Immediately following our 10:30 am service on Sunday September 22nd.

Where: We will gather in the church basement.

Who: Our church family and invite a guest.

The Board of Lay Ministry will provide the main meat dish and beverages. The congregation is asked to bring a side dish and/or dessert. This is your chance to showcase winning family dishes and exchange recipes!

CONGRATULATIONS...

****to Brian Tichenor & Jennifer on his retirement from the Air Force after 27 years of service.**



What's Happening

Thank you to all those who shared their stories and commitment to serve at Ascension during recent temple talks prior to the start of worship. You are inspiring!

September 8th is a busy Sunday with God's Work Our Hands and the Family Promise Walk. Participate with many from Ascension and other local churches in making a difference in our community.

Ascension is a generous supporter of the Lutheran Family Services (LFS). The Board of Social Outreach has purchased a table for the LFS Innkeeper Dinner on September 13th. This fundraiser is fun and informative on the programs LFS provides to many in the Rocky Mountain region. Talk to Karen Askinas or a member of her Board if you are interested in representing Ascension at the dinner.

Several Youth ended their summer fun with trips to WaterWorld and the Sand Dunes.

Mosaic, an organization that serves people with intellectual disabilities, uses our facilities on a weekly basis. A fundraiser breakfast will be held on October 15th from 7:50-8:50. The Board of Social Outreach is a sponsor and has purchased a table at this wonderful event. Again, talk to Karen Askinas or a member of her Board if you are interested in representing Ascension.

US Air Force Academy Cadet Sponsorship Program

Every cadet entering the Air Force Academy is given the opportunity have a local sponsor family during their time at the Academy. The incoming Class of 2023 still has about 100 cadets who haven't been assigned a sponsor family because of a shortage of sponsor families. If you might be interested in sponsoring a cadet while they attend the Academy, you can go to the following web site to learn more about the program and how to apply to be a sponsor family: <https://www.usafa.edu/cadet-life/cadet-support-services/cadet-sponsor-program/>. You don't have to be connected to the military to be a sponsor family. Several families at Ascension have served as sponsor families and they have enjoyed the experience.

- Pastor Daniel opened the meeting with a scripture reading followed by a poem written while he was on sabbatical.
- In his Treasurer's Report, Russ Johnson painted a positive financial picture. Revenues are close to budgeted figures which is welcome news, especially toward the end of our slower, summer months.
- The Council began the 2020 budgeting process. Board Directors were tasked to review their 2019 budgets to make necessary adjustments and/or additions for new initiatives.
- John Hayes provided an update on our Strategic Planning efforts, to include upcoming plans for the Belonging Pathways Committee and Leadership Waypoint Team.
- 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 hostesses for 12 September 2019 are Joan Magee and Bev Broin who will lead our discussion on Eve. 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 jinconroy@comcast.net

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

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

Pipe Organ Update

The Congregation Planning Council has been concerned about the state of our organ for some time. It has substantial issues with tuning, sticking keys, missing pipes, volume control, and electrical components. Since its purchase in 1993, we've invested more than \$45,000 in the instrument and it has no resale value.

A significant number of people have put considerable effort into the process of determining the best way forward. A 6-person committee evaluated the organ to determine if it was economically feasible to repair and, if not, consider our options for replacement. After months of research, the committee unanimously recommended replacement with a pipe organ. Another 6-person committee surveyed the congregation on the preferred type of organ and to gauge the level of available financial support. Through the survey, follow-up calls, and discussions, we found the congregation evenly divided on which organ to pursue and how much to invest in our instrument.

The Council recently learned the electronics (bass portion) of the organ is no longer functioning. While this is bad news, we have found the remaining 6 ranks of pipes still work and should keep working as they are for some time. Ascension is fortunate to have a highly skilled organist who can make a subpar organ sound good, especially to those with a set of non-musical ears. However, imagine what she could do with a new instrument. Also, Teresa is not a miracle worker and, even though we are getting by, the organ will eventually need to be replaced. The good news is we don't have the immediate replacement crisis we once envisioned. The limited functionality of the organ allows us time to develop more congregational unity for its replacement.

The CPC recommends we use our current pipe organ for the next couple of years. We assume some risk with this path. The organ could have a debilitating problem that would result in only piano music for worship. It could take more than a year to plan, fund, order, build and install a new organ. We believe the risk is worth taking. The additional time will give space between capital campaigns and allow us to focus on implementing our new mission to create faithful community. We see this as our primary emphasis for the coming year. In the meantime, I have asked our Treasurer, Russ Johnson, to create a dedicated fund to start saving for the eventual organ replacement.

Thank you to everyone who has diligently worked to evaluate our organ, research options, and help with the survey presentations. In view of the factors stated above, the council feels that our decision to put replacement of

the organ on hold is the best way forward. Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Donna Crump
President, CPC



Ascension Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund

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

Memorials for Bill Yocum:

Troy & Marilyn Goodenough
Phil & Dee Erlander
Judith Resh
Rich & Cindy Gaona
Fred & Donna Schauer
Paul & Laural Fanelli
Dennis & Carol Caldwell
Ilene Steinkruger
Dave Steinhauer
Paul & Ruth Wiig
Ellis & Evelyn Conoley
Barbara A. Lindeman
Dennis & Robin Spath
Jeffrey & Virginia Schmidt
Kathy Mannerberg
Jan Zellmer
Dorothea Mazigian
Phil & Sandy Trent

Change of address

Dee Yocum
Retreat @ Sunny Vista
2450 E. Cache LaPoudre
Room 234 719.631.0599 (temp. phone #)
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

THANK YOU...

****from** Kathy Elsdon – I would like to thank everyone for all their kindnesses, cards and prayers for us for Ron's passing. We loved our time and church family at Ascension and feel blessed to have been a part of the congregation while in Colorado Springs. We are at peace knowing Ron is in a better place and whole again, free from pain.

SAVE THESE DATES!!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 9am to 2pm

Now accepting applications for vendors at this event. Contact Kirsten Johnson at (719) 440-5896 or kirstenej94@gmail.com if you are interested in participating. All proceeds from tables and lunch benefit the youth attending the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in Minneapolis 2021.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Sunday, November 10, 2019 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Be watching for more information regarding ticket sales and raffle item donations. All proceeds benefit the youth of Ascension and their Synod youth gatherings as well as general activities.

A letter from Betty Hatcher to the congregation:

Dear Church Friends, I've had a setback as I fell and fractured my back in two places (L4 and T10) so I was back in the hospital for three weeks. And yesterday I was diagnosed with shingles. My immune system is so compromised. Losing a limb is traumatic and now being in a very heavy brace is frustrating, but "this, too, shall pass" and I'm going to be just fine. I'm in intense therapy but all my therapists say I'm doing very well. Also, they remind me that I have to be patient (who me?) because this is going to be a long haul. It's frustrating to be so completely dependent but such is life. I want to thank all of you for your wonderful support of prayers, heartfelt cards and good wishes. They are so appreciated. I feel very special that so many people care about me. And having delicious food, ready to eat, delivered from the women has been a real treat to help relieve Chuck from kitchen duty. It will be a while, but hopefully, later this summer, I will see you at church again. I miss everyone. Betty Hatcher.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will next meet on September 14th 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.

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. Cost is \$25. 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: 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.



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Colorado Springs, CO 80909

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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
Diaconal Minister of Faith Formation – Mary Stoneback
Office Administrator – Arlayne McKee
Child Learning Center Director – Teresa Adams
E-mail addresses: office@ascensioncos.org
d.holt@ascensioncos.org (Pastor Holt)
d.smith@ascensioncos.org (Pastor Smith)
m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org (Mary Stoneback)
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t.adams@ascensioncos.org (Teresa Adams)
clc@ascensioncos.org (CLC)
ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)
Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org
October newsletter deadline: Sept. 15

*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, Jack Kagarise, Hazel Quindt, Judy Resh (Sister of Dee Yocum), Jeff Sebben, Warren Slagle, Colleen (Jon) Steinhauer (Daughter-in-law of Dave Steinhauer), Dee Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon and Zach Carbonell.