



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

October 2019

Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Held

It wasn't even a good
prayer, whatever
that is. But, she
wept in the
middle of it
trembling,
sorrow
set
free.

So I paused.

Amen.

We sat there together in
silence, tears streaming
down, dripping
from her chin
onto the
hospital
gown,
heart
broken
over news of
a failing heart that
may or may not repair.
Mortality gets the best of us.
And there we're held in prayer.

Pastor Daniel

Many Thanks for All Who Assisted with IHN in December!

We want to thank everyone to help with our 4 days
assisting Beth El Mennonite with their IHN hosting.

When we hosting for our last time this year October 27
through November 10, it will be for 2 weeks. We pray
to will fill all the volunteer opportunities quickly. We are
hoping for possible new volunteers as hosting seems to
fall on the same folks every time.

We need not just meals. But Supper servers, evening
host and as always male and female overnight hosts.

We are also asking for new or gently used donations of
bath towels and wash cloths. The ones we have are
looking pretty sorry.

Again thank you all for all the help and support you this
program is truly a blessing for the families.

Ron and Debbie Mohler



COFFEE HOUR – Smell the Aroma and Sign Up to Host!

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL



- Pastor Daniel opened the meeting with a scripture reading from the book of Mark. He reminded us that we should intentionally seek out those who may not feel welcome.
- Dennis Bagenstos, Director of Evangelism, introduced Deacon Mary, providing support to her Media Outreach proposal. Mary's proposal highlighted the positive impact of her intentional social media outreach efforts. She further proposed altering her call to add media outreach to her ongoing work with Youth and Faith Formation for Maturing Adults (FFMA). The council will consider and vote on this at the October meeting.
- Jerry Dollar connected his board's work on the Over and Above for Faithful Community Campaign with the upcoming Fall stewardship program and Spiritual Gifts inventory. The campaign asks the congregation members to increase their giving to fund specific items. Look for more information to arrive in the mail.
- In a Strategic Planning update, John Hayes informed on the successful completion of a "Secret Shopper" initiative. The Belonging Pathways Committee hired a couple to attend our services and provide feedback on the experience. The committee received a detailed report and will be making recommendations to our Boards. He also noted a charter has been drafted for the Leadership Waypoint Team. The team is looking at our leadership structure to ensure it supports our efforts to create faithful community.
- Brad Chewakin indicated the Property and Grounds Board is looking into options to improve our janitorial services.
- In his Treasurer's Report, Russ Johnson expressed no concerns with our financial picture. Offerings are at 98% of budgeted amounts and the Children's Learning Center (CLC) is operating in the black.
- As part of the 2020 budgeting process, Russ supported the Board of Lay Ministry's recommendation to bring both Pastors and Deacon Mary's salaries to within 90% of Synod guidelines. Salaries will be voted on at the November CPC meeting with the rest of the 2020

budget. The Council will bring a proposed budget to the congregation at the December congregational meeting.

- The meeting was closed in prayer.



What's Happening

- Do you have a Facebook or Instagram account? If so, be sure to follow Ascension's pages. By "liking" or sharing the posts, you will expand our digital outreach and engagement to the Colorado Springs community and beyond.
- Your opinions and suggestions are important. Please share any concerns or ideas with the Pastors and/or member of the Congregation Planning Council (CPC). We are here to represent you!
- A new banner is being constructed and will be hung behind the cross in the sanctuary.
- The summer "Smores" services on the patio were so popular, the Board of Evangelism will continue them into the Fall with one service a month.
- The Property and Grounds Board is seeking bids for landscaping work but hasn't been successful in receiving responses. Please talk to Brad Chewakin or another member of his Board if you can recommend a company.

CONGRATULATIONS...

**to Megan Johnson – after her blind audition at CSU, she has been selected for the Wind Symphony, their premier concert band! Way to go!

VoG

Returning to Ascension on

Saturday, November 9, 10 AM

Details in the November newsletter!

Stewardship Update

Spiritual Gifts in Motion and God's Grace in Action

We are pleased to be concluding our Spiritual Gifts in Motion program for 2019. As you know, we are using the Spiritual Gifts Inventory to assist our members in identifying their special gifts. The following have now taken place:

- Packets were distributed September 1st
- Classes were held between services on September 15th and 22nd

We will have these items coming up:

- A Thank You Event (Goodies between services) on September 22nd
- Completed Results cards are due September 29th
Cards may be:
 - Dropped off at the office
 - Placed in the Stewardship mail slot
 - Mailed to the attention of the Stewardship Board
 - Put in the offering plate
- All who return their Results cards are entered in a giveaway for a family Bible on October 6th

As we enter late September, it is time to kick-off our God's Grace in Action program. As we look ahead to 2020, our Over and Above focus asks that we consider a higher individual estimate amount to support three key areas that affect Ascension's future.

You can look forward to the following taking place in the coming month.

- An announcement of the program launch on September 29th
- Distribution of our Over and Above brochure on October 6th
- Special Bulletin Inserts addressing all three key areas on October 6th, 13th, and 20th
- Receipt of our Appeal Letter and Commitment Card on October 6th
- Completed Commitment Cards are due on Appeal Sunday October 27th
- A special Thank You event in late October or early November

Thank you for your thoughtful prayer and kind generosity in support of both Spiritual Gifts in Motion and God's Grace in Action. It is indeed a blessing to be a blessing!

Your Stewardship Board

Ruth Circle



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 10 October 2019 is Kay Richardson who will lead our discussion on Hagar. 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.

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

Create a Legacy!



*Ascension Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund*

Celebrating a special event? Remembering a special person? Memorialize those people and events in your life with a gift to Ascension's Endowment Fund, and create a lasting legacy!

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

Bob & Ferne Dillow: Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!!

Charles Lewis: Happy Birthday!

Us & Them We

- A hearty thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and skills to make God's Work Our Hands another success! It was appreciated!
- Thank you to all of the walkers that came for the Family Promise Walk on the same day (as GWOH). Only 5 signed up but 10 showed up! It was a beautiful day for walking and we learned a lot at the stations they set up to tell us about Family Promise's tremendous work supporting the temporarily homeless families.
- Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network at Ascension in late Oct to early Nov.: We will be hosting families here at Ascension for 2 weeks from 10/27-11/10 and are asked for help with food, servers, evening hosts, and overnight hosts. Sign ups are going on now! Please consider bringing a dish or helping in another way. [Sue - Debbie or Ron may submit something about this too - but if not, we need this IHN hosting item].
- Movie Night at Ascension! With support from Thrivent, we will show *I Can Only Imagine* on Sun., October 20th at 7pm. We will have snacks. Dennis Quaid and Trace Adkins star in this inspiring true story behind Mercy Me's beloved hit song. Running from a troubled home life and a broken relationship, Bart Millard (J. Michael Finley) found escape in music. Hitting the road in a decrepit tour bus, Bart and his band Mercy Me set out on an amazing journey none of them could ever have imagined. In this uplifting, music filled movie that beautifully illustrates the power of forgiveness and God's love. *The night will support the Free Pantry (so important in the fall with school starting). Items needed for the Free Pantry are:*

Mac/cheese

Instant oatmeal packets

Ready-made canned meals

Canned meats

Peanut butter

Toothpaste

Tooth brushes

Karen (Board of Social Outreach)



Calling all shoppers! Saturday, October 26th is your day to get a jump on all your holiday shopping or things for yourself! Come join us for our 16th Annual Holiday Bazaar here at Ascension. All your favorite crafters and home business consultants will be on hand to help you with all you need! Lunch will be offered from 11am to 1pm in the lower level. Proceeds benefit the youth of Ascension who will be attending the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2021. Questions? Or want to have a table? Contact Kirsten Johnson at (719)440-5896 or kirstenej94@gmail.com.



Spaghetti Supper

Save the date! Sunday, November 10th will be the Annual Spaghetti Supper, Raffle and Variety show. Come join us as we celebrate Gen Z.

Doors will open at 4:30 for raffle tickets. Dinner at 5:00pm and Variety show and Raffle at 6:30pm. Guaranteed to be a great night! Tickets will go on sale in early October! Gluten free and vegetarian options available upon request. Now accepting items for the raffle. See Kirsten Johnson, Carie Hagen or Deacon Mary with your raffle items.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will next meet on October 12th 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.

GETTING 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.

****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, toothbrushes, 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.

Fall Clean-up Scheduled ... Join Us!

Fall is in the air and your Property and Grounds board would like to invite you to our Fall Workday at Ascension. This year's date is Saturday, October 19, from 8 to 1. Two times a year, we perform focused clean-up of the grounds with raking, repairing, installing, and refreshing our church inside and out. Please mark your calendars and bring friends.

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2019

Time: 8:00 to 1:00. Snacks and lunch are provided.

Location: Ascension Lutheran Church

What to bring:

- Care and Share non-perishable food item. We haul our landscape trash to Rocky Top Resources for free with Care and Share donations.
- Gloves for outdoor or indoor work.
- Leaf blowers (with long cords if electric).
- Rakes, shovels, weeding tools, window washing buckets, rags and cleaner. Make sure you write your name on any tools/equipment you bring!
- Painting clothes. We will likely be doing some paint refresh of the basement level.
- Ladders.
- A smile!

More details will be published in the bulletin. Thank you for supporting Ascension in this way.



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CHURCH STAFF

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

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Pastor Daniel Smith – off on Friday

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Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

November newsletter deadline: Oct. 20

*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, Mike Matkin, Hazel Quindt, Judy Resh (Sister of Dee Yocum), Karen Rubinow, Jeff Sebben, Carolyn & Jerry Smith, 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.