



# Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

November 2019

Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado

## Pathway to Belonging

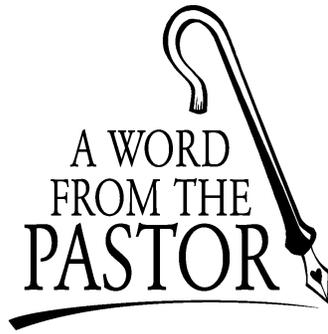
The leadership of Ascension has ongoing goals aimed at our fulfilling our mission statement of creating faithful community. Our current missional goals are around creating belonging pathways.

We want all who participate here to feel like they belong. We have had a consultant come in and give us feedback on his guest experience and what we could do to improve in our welcoming. We have a belonging pathway team (our thanks to them!) that has gathered information and made recommendations for us. We are beginning to take steps to improve guest experience at worship from signage to our personal interactions. In the online world, we are taking steps to engage people online through more communication and connection. To that end, we have added Facebook posts with brief (1-3 minute) pastoral messages and expanded the social media platforms that we use.

A key issue for us in becoming a more welcoming church where people find belonging is growing in our friendship circles. When new people come, they can sense that there are old relationships. They can tell we have known each other for a long time. The issue isn't our long-term relationships but the fact that too often we are satisfied with these relationships and really aren't open to new ones. When that is the case, new people will feel only superficially welcomed and likely won't find their way to belonging. Creating belonging pathways will depend on your willingness to expand your relationship circles.

I want to challenge you to grow your relationship circles. That means taking initiative around getting together with people beyond your current circles and being open to making new friends.

Pastor Dan



## Christmas Giving Program Underway

GREETINGS! It's November and time to prayerfully consider the Christmas Giving program for the Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo! The patients are always touched by our thoughtfulness and acts of kindness. This program is just one more way for us to be God's hands to those who have so much less. The hospital has 445 beds that treat adolescents, adults and geriatric patients. Watch for their wish listAs to be hanging on a tree in the fellowship hall in November. You do not need to buy everything on their list - it's just a couple of ideas for you from them. All gift bags will be picked up from the church on December 11th. The Board of Social Outreach is sponsoring this opportunity. Please contact me for questions or more information about this program. Aimee Calderon, [aimeebuesing@yahoo.com](mailto:aimeebuesing@yahoo.com).

## Show Your Ethnic Pride December 15

Rice Pudding, Springerle, Kringla, Panettone, Rosettes, Linzer Hearts, Krumkaker, Spritz, Divinity, Rommegrot, maybe even Fruit Cake!! What were your favorite Christmas sweets growing up? Dust off Mom's and Grandma's cookbooks and pick one or more you would like to bring to the Ethnic Coffee Hour between services on December 15th (also the Sunday of the Christmas Cantata). A lot of those specialties are available to buy during the holidays if you don't like to bake. Please include the name of the sweet and from what country they came. Hope you will participate!!

## THANK YOU...

\*\*from Karen Rubinow, for the prayers, visits, cards, calls and emails following my knee surgery and during the rehab. I am doing well and know that your support has helped to move me forward.



## What's Happening

- Donna opened the meeting with a devotion thanking everyone for his or her service to Ascension.
- In his Treasurer's Report, Russ highlighted a \$11,497 difference between September expenses and income. We are monitoring. The CLC is doing well with both expenses and revenue under budget. General giving is at 96.9% of the budgeted amount.
- John provided a brief Strategic Visioning update noting the Belonging Pathway Group's work is nearing completion. The group will provide specific recommendations to our Boards for consideration.
- The council approved the Board of Stewardship's motion to accept an anonymous gift of \$7,800 per year (for 3 years). The money is targeted to a variety of projects tied to our current visioning efforts.
- Directors discussed a prioritized listing of expenses as part of the ongoing budgeting process.
- The council approved a motion put forth by the Evangelism Board to accept Deacon Mary's Media Outreach proposal and to adjust her call to reflect a new division of responsibilities. She will target 50% of her time working with Youth, 25% on Faith Formation for Maturing Adults, and 25% on Creating Faithful Community.
- John closed the meeting in prayer.

- See familiar faces but struggle to place a name to a face? Nametags are coming to Ascension to help solve this problem. They will also assist new members and visitors to learn our names. Please help us out and wear them!
- How about the new Youth Handbell Choir! Thank you, Teresa Allen, for taking on this effort to utilize others abilities to praise God in music.
- As part of Faith Formation for Maturing Adults (FFMA), Deacon Mary has started a mentoring program, GenM2Z, connecting recent high school graduates with millennial members of the congregation.
- The Ascension Call Committee is looking for additional volunteers to serve on Boards. Prayerfully consider serving, if asked. Talk to Bill Ayen if you are interested in a particular board.

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### *Voices of Grief* Nov. 9 at Ascension

Ascension Lutheran will be offering a free showing of *Voices of Grief: Honoring the Sacred Journey* on Saturday November 9, 10 AM - 12 PM. This 45-minute video documentary offers comfort that you are not alone in your grief and assurance your grief is normal. It also encourages you to start conversations toward hope and healing. This video is relevant for all types of losses, including new and long-ago losses.

Following the film, there will be a time for questions, comments, and fellowship. This film is all-ages friendly, and we encourage you to invite friends and neighbors from the community. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Elisa Thompson at [719.641.5184/elisat92@gmail.com](mailto:719.641.5184/elisat92@gmail.com) or Rich Johnson at 719.264.8196

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### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

- \*\* Dee Yocum at the death of her sister, Judy Resh.
- \*\* Fairuza Limiac at the death of her mother, Gayla Limiac.
- \*\* Sandy Trent at the death of her brother.

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### It's Cantata Time; Join Us!

As musicians, we have a very different sense of the church year. Planning for Christmas begins in the summer, and the music comes out in the fall. So, it's already time to prepare for the Christmas cantata! This year we will be singing "The Advent of Hope, the Birth of Peace." It's a beautiful musical exploration of the coming of Christ. If you've ever sung in a choir, wanted to try out choir, or just been curious, this is a great time to come and share in our Advent preparation. Choir rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7:15pm in the sanctuary, and we begin with a warm-up and the cantata. All are welcome, whether you feel like the best singer or not. Maybe you'll discover that this is a new Christmas tradition that you really love!



## BAKE SALE & FAIR TRADE MARKET

Quilts for New Beginnings will be holding a bake sale at the Fair Trade Market at Beth-El Mennonite Church on Friday, November 8 from 3 pm to 7 pm and on Saturday, November 9 from 10 am to 3 pm. A signup sheet for your contributions is posted on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. I will be happy to pick up your baked goods & take them to Beth EL on Friday morning at 9:45 a.m. or you may deliver them to Beth-EL from 10 am to 3 pm on Friday, November 8.

Please visit Beth El during the Fair Trade Market – baked goods, frozen until Thanksgiving, will be delicious additions to your meal & wonderful gift items beg to be put under your Christmas tree.

Proceeds from the bake sale will be used to purchase batting for quilts made for Interfaith Hospitality Network, world relief for the Lutheran & Mennonite churches, One Nation and other organizations as needed. Questions – call me at (719), 570-0103 or email me at [slwalker@q.com](mailto:slwalker@q.com). Thanks, Sally Walker

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## Dining Out Nov. 22

Join us at Panino's Eastside Restaurant (located in the First and Main complex off Powers Blvd) on Friday, November 22nd at 6:00 pm. RSVP to John or Kathy Hayes by Thursday, November 14th at [blazehayes@aol.com](mailto:blazehayes@aol.com) or (719) 572-1052.



## 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.



## CONGRATULATIONS...

\*\* to the Kelly family as Beau and Lauren gave birth to twin boys, Carson Robert and Blake Andrew.

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## Stewardship Update:

### God's Grace in Action and the Over and Above Program

This year, Ascension decided to follow the Stewardship for All Seasons program; in support of our God's Grace in Action estimate-of giving campaign. This led us to create the Over and Above program; a targeted initiative to increase our 2020 commitment; in support of three key areas:

- Deepening our belonging for our Children, Youth, and Families
- Expanding our Living Purposefully for Others
- Support for our Ministry Foundations

Through our strategic planning and visioning work, we discerned our mission to be, "In God's grace, Ascension creates faithful community. Our Over and Above for Faithful Community campaign has been an opportunity to extend and expand our work toward accomplishing that mission.

In all, we targeted an additional \$45,000 commitment towards the above areas. We wanted to thank you for your thoughtful prayer and kind generosity in support of God's Grace in Action.

If for any reason you were not able to share your Commitment Card with us; it is still not too late! Your completed card can be dropped off at the office, mailed to the Board of Stewardship, or placed in the offering plate.

It is indeed a blessing to be a blessing!  
Your Stewardship Board

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## Ruth Circle

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 14 November 2019 is Cheryl Johnson who will lead our discussion on Rehab. 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](mailto:Njshatto@yahoo.com).



Ruth Circle

## 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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 11 am at Mackenzie Place  
**Contact:** Judy Conroy, 481-9605  
or [jnconroy@comcast.net](mailto:jnconroy@comcast.net)

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## 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:

### **Birthday:**

**Betty Hatcher**  
**George Wachs**

### **Bill Yocum Memorial:**

**Marian Kerr**  
**Rachel Campbell**

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### **Bridge Group**

Our Bridge Group will next meet on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](tel:719-572-1052) or at [kittypawz@aol.com](mailto:kittypawz@aol.com) if you have any questions about this group.

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### **Catholic Chamber Choir Concert Nov. 23**

The Roman Catholic Chamber Choir of Colorado Springs presents a sacred choral concert Saturday, November 23, 7 PM, at St. Mary's Cathedral (22 W. Kiowa). Come hear music in Latin, English, and Russian! Free will offering will be accepted. Watch for flyers on the kiosk!

## Help Our Ascension Youth!

The Ascension Youth are asking for your help in making their Annual Spaghetti Supper/Variety Show fundraiser on **Sunday, NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>** a success. They are requesting donated items that will be raffled off between the acts during the Variety Show. Your donation is tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. Please drop off your donations at the front office Monday – Friday between 9am – 12pm or Sunday mornings. For any questions, please contact **Carie Hagen** at [\(719\) 332-3301](tel:719-332-3301). Thank you for supporting our 2019 Spaghetti Supper, Raffle and Variety Show!

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### **Spaghetti Supper/Variety Show/Raffle Nov. 10**

The annual Spaghetti Supper/Variety Show/Raffle is just around the corner! This will be a celebration of the Gen Z. Join us at **5 p.m. on Sunday, November 10**, (doors open at 4:30) for a night of fun and fellowship at Ascension Lutheran Church. Funds raised will support Middle and High School youth at Ascension, ensuring all, regardless of their financial situation, have the opportunity to participate in meaningful events. The Variety Show sign-up sheet will be posted on the Youth Board. Please contact Mary Stoneback at [\(303\) 475-4886](tel:303-475-4886) with any Variety Show questions. Tickets can be purchased in the Fellowship Hall between services in October. Ticket prices: Adult - \$10; Child (ages 3-10) - \$5; Family - \$30. Children under 3 are free.

## 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.

**\*\*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](mailto: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 need to build up our pool of 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](mailto: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.



## SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES QUARTERLY UPDATE

All are welcome; come join in the fellowship!

### DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

#### Centering Prayer Group

Discussions on theology and practice of centering prayer and centering silence together.

**Meets:** Bi-monthly on Monday at church 7:00 pm.

**Contact:** Pastor Dan Holt, 634-1694 or [office@ascensioncos.org](mailto:office@ascensioncos.org)

#### Ruth Circle

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us for fellowship and casual Bible Study. We are starting a discussion of "Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories..." by Alice Connor. If you are new Ascension or just looking for a casual Bible Study group, we hope you will come and join us!

**Meets:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall except for June & July.

**Contact:** Nancy Shatto, 426-9444 or [njshatto@yahoo.com](mailto:njshatto@yahoo.com)

### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

One of the Pastors leads study on Bible or religious topics chosen by group, or scripture for the week.

**Meets:** Tuesday morning at church 10:30 am, except during the summer months.

**Contact:** Pastors Dan or Daniel, 634-1694 or [office@ascensioncos.org](mailto:office@ascensioncos.org)

### **Monday Night Serendipity**

Six-week studies with topics decided by the group. Meets October through May.

**Meets:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm at the church.

**Contact:** Rich & Judi Johnson, 264-8196, or [jrajohnson@aol.com](mailto:jrajohnson@aol.com)

## **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

### **Ascension Artists**

Bring your current art or craft project or start a new one & work on it with other creative folks. We share and learn from each other.

**Meets:** Weekly Thursdays from 3:00-5:00 at the church in the Fellowship Hall or downstairs.

**Contact:** Arlayne McKee, 649-8265 or [arlayne@juno.com](mailto:arlayne@juno.com)

### **Bridge**

Come play bridge once a month with others who love this card game!

**Meets:** monthly Saturday night at the church. Actual dates in church bulletin

**Contact:** John & Kathy Hayes, 572-1052 or [kittypawz@aol.com](mailto:kittypawz@aol.com)

### **Dining Out**

Group participants take turns selecting the date, time, and restaurant each month. The hosts then make reservations for all those who are able to attend.

**Meets:** Monthly on Thursday or Friday nights. Call to add your name to the email list. Actual dates in church bulletin and by email.

**Contact:** Rich & Judi Johnson, 264-8196, or [jrajohnson@aol.com](mailto:jrajohnson@aol.com)

### **Knotty Kneedlers**

Bring your latest project and enjoy coffee & fellowship with others while working on it.

**Meets:** every Wednesday at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall

**Contact:** Bonnie Vawter, 579-6707 or [bonnievawter@q.com](mailto:bonnievawter@q.com)

### **Ladies' Lunch Bunch**

Ladies of Ascension meeting once a month to enjoy each other's company over lunch. There is no age requirement. RSVP to Judy Conroy by the Sunday before the lunch.

**Meets:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 11 am at Mackenzie Place

**Contact:** Judy Conroy, 481-9605 or [jnconroy@comcast.net](mailto:jnconroy@comcast.net)

### **Men's Breakfast**

Get together with other men for fellowship over breakfast.

**Meets:** Thursdays at 7 am at Big Train Restaurant, 808 Garden of the Gods Rd.

**Contact:** Rich Johnson, 264-8196 or [jrajohnson@aol.com](mailto:jrajohnson@aol.com)

### **Faith Seeking Understanding**

We read books that usually address hot-button issues in order to have the civil conversations so lacking in our world. Topics have included race-relations, immigration, faith and homosexuality, and criminal justice. The discussions at the end of each book are friendly, honest, and happen over a potluck! All are welcome!

**Meets:** Occasionally. Dates will be advertised in the bulletin, What's Up, and on the website. Pastor Daniel can also put you on an email list.

**Contact:** Pastor Daniel, 634-1694, or [d.smith@ascensioncos.org](mailto:d.smith@ascensioncos.org)

### **Walking Group**

Walks at various venues.

**Meets:** Tuesdays & Thursdays mornings as weather permits. Please call to confirm special times & locations as they can change from week to week.

**Contact:** Wini Klein, 636-1232 or [wklein636@msn.com](mailto:wklein636@msn.com)

## **SERVICE & SUPPORT GROUPS**

### **Quilts for New Beginnings**

Family Promise, One Nation and World Relief need more quilts, and you can help. If you show up, we'll find something for you to do - no matter your skill level. *Kits are available* for those who would like to contribute but cannot attend.

**Meets:** Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Contact:** Anita Arends, 573-4747

### **Terrace Gardens Bingo**

Have fun helping nursing home residents play Bingo and win prizes.

**Meets:** Terrace Gardens monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 9:45-11:15 am

**Contact:** John & Kathy Hayes, 572-1052 or [blazehayes@aol.com](mailto:blazehayes@aol.com).

## **SEASONAL GROUPS**

### **Biking, Holy Pedalers**

Rides are scheduled most weekends. Group members can sign up to schedule and lead rides. Bike riding is mostly on trails, with some lightly traveled roads. Most rides include a stop for breakfast or lunch in support of fellowship.

**Meets:** Weekly, April – October, weather permitting. Most rides are on Saturdays. Time & location by email & in Ascension Office's *What's up* weekly email

**Contact:** TBD



**AIA November 2019 Issue #11**  
**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  
Pastor Daniel Smith – off on Friday  
Deacon Mary Stoneback  
Music Director – Megan Miller  
Office Administrator – Arlayne McKee  
Child Learning Center Director – Teresa Adams  
Church Nursery Attendant – Shawna Emilio  
**E-mail addresses:** office@ascensioncos.org (Arlayne)  
d.holt@ascensioncos.org (Pastor Holt)  
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ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)  
**Our Website:** [www.ascensioncos.org](http://www.ascensioncos.org)  
**December newsletter deadline: Nov. 17**



Scott Allen, Beth Ayen  
(Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler,  
Katie Bui (Daughter-in-law of Anita Arends), Tom &  
Sandy George, Elaine Glover, Steve Hahn (Grandson  
of Joan Magee), Betty Hatcher, Jack Kagarise, Mike  
Matkin, Ron Mohler, Hazel Quindt, Jeff Sebben,  
Carolyn Smith at Jerry's passing, Colleen (Jon)  
Steinhauer (Daughter-in-law of Dave Steinhauer),  
Carol Thompson, Dee Yocum, and all of our men and  
women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon  
and Zach Carbonell.