



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

April 2020

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A Resurrection Like No Other

Dear Ascension,

As I write this, we've just recently finished our final in person worship gathering before shutting down for the coronavirus pandemic. We won't be meeting for at least two Sundays, and I don't know if I'll see you all in person on Palm Sunday, throughout Holy Week, or beyond. I miss you already!

This will be a strange Easter. Whether we're proclaiming Christ risen across the internet, or sharing the resurrection peace with bumped elbows, this will be a strange Easter. But it may also be a year we need Easter like no other.

In the Gospel of John, Mary and two of Jesus' disciples reach the tomb after Jesus is buried and discover it empty. And then, according to John, they believe Jesus was raised. I'm not so sure. Mary is still devastated, until she meets the gardener-clad Jesus. And the disciples? The go into a locked room, afraid of the wider world. They self-isolate. Sound familiar?

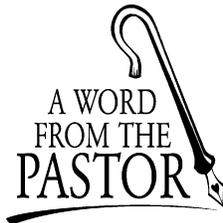
And then Jesus comes to them, announces his life, breathes on them (whoa!), and gives them God's peace.

In a world of locked rooms and self-isolation, Jesus comes with good news of life. In a world afraid of breathe (and rightly so), Jesus breathes the breath of life. In a world where peace is shared nervously with bumped elbows, Jesus lavishes peace upon us.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as I write this, I don't yet know what Easter will look like this year. But I do know this: we need it. We need Christ to enter our locked rooms with life and peace. So allow me a little liturgical taboo in the midst of this Lent: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

God bless, Pastor Daniel

This I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let



your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! – Psalm 27:13-14

Ascension Phone Tree

While our church services are suspended because of the CORONA virus, we are trying to contact each member of Ascension once a week to make sure you're doing well and if you're not, what can we do to help out. If you haven't been contacted by anybody by March 18th, please let John Hayes know so we can establish contact with you. John's e-mail address is blazehayes@aol.com and his phone number is (719) 572-1052.

Property and Grounds Requests

Property and Grounds has implemented a mail box where you can write down any facility maintenance needs and place in the box. This will be checked regularly. If you leave a note, include your name and phone number or email so we can get more info if needed. This mailbox is located at the top center of the mailbox system just to the left of Knights Dream Cleaning.

Front Door Automatic Opener

The front entry doors have been repaired and the keypads now work as they should.



DATE TBD!

We will be collecting items once church is back open, but continue to save up your things! What a great time to clean out some closets and cupboards!



What's Happening

- Pastor Dan provided the opening devotion. He shared Paul's writings from a rough time when he was imprisoned. Paul's words apply today as we are reminded to be steady, focus on unity with a sense of mission all while sharing kindness.
- Russ Johnson reported increased offerings and CLC revenue for the month of February. Staff pay increases, including retroactive pay, have been implemented.
- Both Pastors led a discussion regarding the biblical perspective on same-sex marriage. They plan to hold similar engagement opportunities with the congregation. Reading scriptures through a lens of love impacts the policies we set at Ascension.
- The Council addressed potential congregation and community care issues surrounding COVID-19.
- In his Strategic Planning update, John Hayes indicated an upcoming emphasis on the Equipping Evangelism portion of our vision statement while another team, led by Jon Thompson, studies our lay leadership structure.
- We received a proposal for the downstairs renovation. The Property and Grounds board will work with the designer on any needed modifications.
- Deacon Mary closed the meeting with a reflection and prayer.

Donna Crump
President, Congregation Planning Council

Janitorial Service (Knights Dream Cleaning)

In October, we switched to a new janitor company. Feedback received is that the cleanliness of our facility has improved. Knights Dream Cleaning has a mailbox at the top center of our member mailboxes where you can place any comments or concerns related specifically to cleaning and paper products. They typically clean on Tuesday and Saturday. Alex is provided calendar of activities that prompt them to focus cleaning based on activities. This is why it is very important for everyone to schedule events at the church through the office, including the room or rooms used so our janitors can check the space.

- The Nominating Committee has begun its work to identify new leaders for Director and Board positions. "We are a community of Grace called to serve."
 - In response to the need for social distancing and at the request of Bishop Jim Gonia, the CPC voted to suspend worship gatherings, meetings, and events until April 1st. The council will reevaluate at the end of the month.
 - The church office and CLC are currently expected to remain open.
 - Knights Dream Cleaning, our contracted cleaning team, has upgraded their cleaning products to reinforce clean surfaces with a blanket of disinfectant to include door knobs and light switches.
 - John Hayes has organized a "Phone Tree" to help us stay in touch with our church family during the Coronavirus. Let the office know if you haven't received any phone calls or if you are willing to help as we learn of those in need.
 - Look to our Facebook page and/or our website (www.ascensioncos.org) for links to live stream worship services and other ways to remain connected.
 - Online giving is available on the church website. Once on the website, click on the "Give" tab. You can make a secure, one-time donation from your bank account or with a major credit card. Please consider this option as you are able. Recurring giving is also an option and an easy way to maintain your current level of giving.
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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!

Keypad Access

Sometime ago, we received a donation of an electronic keypad that allows us to enter the church with a code. The purpose of implementing this device is to increase security of the church. When questioning members, the exterior locks have not been changed in many, many years. At this time, we have no idea how many people have keys which causes a level of concern. Please thank Doris Stokes for supporting this donation from Schlage, we do appreciate it and to Marshall Nielson as he was instrumental in programming this lock and setting up the codes.

Paid staff, board directors, board members, key people who support vital programs have received keypad codes. If you do not have a code and believe you need one, please email the office at office@ascensioncos.org; or Brad Chewakin at chewakin@msn.com.

Keypad codes can be set to be active for long term or short term use. Once we have established codes are working properly (sometime after Easter), we will re-key the exterior doors and provide this key to a very limited number of members. The existing keys can still be used for interior doors, just not the exterior perimeter.

If you have questions, please contact the office or Brad Chewakin. Thank you for planning ahead when you need access to the church and be patient as we make this adjustment.

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 9 April 2020 is Nancy Shatto who will lead our discussion on Song of Songs. 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 at 719-426-9444 or Njshatto@yahoo.com.

Ladies' Lunch Bunch Meets the 3rd Tuesday

Ladies of Ascension meet 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 Tuesday at 11 am at Mackenzie Place
Contact: Judy Conroy, 481-9605
or jnconroy@comcast.net

Ascension at the Vibes Baseball Game



Ascension is having an outing at the Colorado Springs Vibes baseball game on Sunday, August 23rd. 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 are just drafted out of college and high school. 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). As we get closer to the game, John Hayes will be taking ticket orders.

THANK YOU...

**to the Youth Board for serving up a great evening of food and fellowship at our 2nd Annual Shrove – “Fat Tuesday”- celebration – pancakes & bacon! It was a great evening for all!

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

**Bob Kelly and family & friends at the death of his wife, Elaine.
**Jon & Elisa Thompson & family at the death of their nephew, Joe Hammel.
**Phil Trent & family at the death of his brother-in-law.
**Arlene Schultz at death of her cousin, Geri Cogdill.

COFFEE HOUR –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.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will next meet on a TBD date in April 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 if you have any questions about this group.

BECOME INVOLVED...

****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.

****Flower Chart** – The 2020 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.

****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.

****KNOTTY KNEEDLERS:** We meet every Wednesday from 1:00- 3:00 P.M. We serve coffee and enjoy fellowship. We always like to see new faces. Anyone interested in joining us is very welcome. You can work on your own projects or for charity. Contact person is Bonnie Vawter at 719-579-6707 or you can just show up.

****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.

****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 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

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: 2nd Thursday at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall except for June & July.

Contact: Nancy Shatto, 426-9444 or 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

Monday Night Serendipity

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

Meets: 2nd & 4th Monday at 6:30 pm at the church.

Contact: Rich Johnson, 264-8196, or 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

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

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

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

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 Tuesday at 11 am at Mackenzie Place

Contact: Judy Conroy, 481-9605 or 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

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

Walking Group

Walks at various venues.

Meets: Tuesdays & Thursdays mornings, outside when weather permits and in Chapel Hills Mall when it doesn't. Please call to confirm special times & locations.

Contact: Wini Klein, 636-1232 or 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. If you would like to help from the comfort of your own home, **kits are available to take home.**

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, 3rd Wednesdays from 9:45-11:15 am

Contact: John & Kathy Hayes, 572-1052 or 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 April 2020 Issue #4
Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA
2505 N. Circle Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

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)

music@ascensioncos.org (Megan Miller)

takmusic530@outlook.com (Teresa Allen)

t.adams@ascensioncos.org (Teresa Adams)

clc@ascensioncos.org (CLC)

ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)

Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

May newsletter deadline: April 19

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Scott Allen, Beth Ayen
(Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler,
Tom & Sandy George, Elaine Glover, Betty Hatcher,
Keith Hedstrom, Ron Mohler, Hazel Quindt, Marcile
Riber, Charlotte Rogers, Rick Rogers, Cassie Shaffer,
Jeff Sebben, Minnie Smith, Teri Thompson (Sister-in-
law of Sandy Trent), Lisa Wulf, Dee Yocum, and all
of our men and women serving overseas, especially
Anthony Calderon.