



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

August 2020

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Grief and Hope in a Pandemic

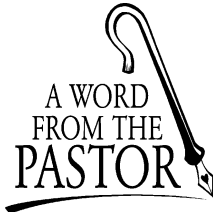
The receptionist at the senior living community was searching for a pair of gloves to give me while I waited in the paper gown and mask. I was nervous. This was the first time I'd been to see someone in a facility since the pandemic began. I wasn't sure what to do with my hands. I didn't dare touch anything, and I didn't have my prayer book that I usually fiddle with – I thought any possible contaminant should be left in the car.

She finally found the gloves I was required to wear and took me down the hall to Hazel's room and closed the door after I entered. Hazel was in that space between sleep and awake. I held her skin and bone hands in mine and she moaned a little. My glasses fogged up. We prayed and I blessed her and I muddled my way through a couple Psalms that I could remember most of the words to. I hadn't realized how much I needed that book. I've never been very good at memorizing scripture or prayers. I asked if she'd like me to sing.

*Come thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my
heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs
of loudest praise.*

It's the hymn I sing most nights to my daughter before bed. When she was a baby I took Zora with me one time to visit Hazel. At the time Hazel lived down the street from us in a house her husband had helped build decades earlier. Her eyesight had gotten worse so she held Zora close in her arms to see her. Now, I held her hand in gloves and sang through a mask. A lullaby to a woman who would enter eternal rest that night.

*Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help
I've come";
and I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive
at home.*



The Israelites were defeated by the Philistines and lost the ark. Returning for another battle, they were victorious this second try. Samuel, their leader, erects a stone monument and names it after the place of the battle – Ebenezer. I don't care much for war passages in the Bible, but I do like the sense that God brings us back to the place of loss to find victory there, to find hope there. Crosses and empty tombs.

The grief of my final brief encounter with Hazel was heightened by the mask, gloves, and empty halls where she lives. Like the Israelites without the ark, the moment and place felt robbed of its holiness. Too sanitized to be sacred. But in that song I remembered, and I pray Hazel did to, that the place of defeat becomes the place of hope.

*Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.*

Pastor Daniel

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

- **Deb Mohler at the death of her nephew.
- **Ron Mohler at the death of his father.
- **Donna Kortemeyer at the death of her son Dana.
- **Carol Thompson at the death of her brother.
- **Bob Carlson at the death of his sister.
- **Lacy Hillyer at the death of his wife, Patricia.
- **Dennis Conroy at the death of his brother-in-law.
- **Toni Ruiz at the death of her mother.
- **the family of Hazel Quindt on her death.
- **the family of Norm Miller on his death.
- **the family of Martha Hawkinson on her death.

Apologies to those who were missed in last month's newsletter!



- The council met in an outdoor setting for an initial orientation retreat to start the next 2-year term.
- Deacon Mary opened with a lectio divina scripture reading activity and prayer.
- Our financial standing remains solid with no immediate concerns. Offerings for the month of June were at 94% of the budgeted amount.
- The council approved Scott Allen's motion to purchase umbrellas for the back patio. The Board of Lay Ministry will study usage of the patio to see if a more permanent option is needed.
- Technical needs for an improved online worship experience were discussed resulting in an approved line item for the Worship Board to purchase needed equipment.
- Goals and future planning for the coming year were discussed.
- Pastor Dan closed the meeting in prayer.

Family Promise/IHN support for Beth-El in August

We usually help out with Beth-El Mennonite church when it's their turn to host families through Family Promise. Their turn is in August and while they will not be having them stay at the church, they are planning to provide meals at the Family Promise Day House during that time. They begin this service for 2 weeks on August 23rd so Ascension nights will be **August 25th - 26th** and **Sept 1st -2nd**. Only dinners will be provided on those dates and there are currently 4 families (that can change before then). If you are interested in helping with a dinner one of those nights, please let **Ruth Albrent-Runnells** know and she will add you to the list with the items you plan to provide. She can be reached at the church office by email. office@ascensioncos.org or by phone at 634-1694. We will provide a main course, salad, side dish, and dessert each of the 4 nights listed. If you'd like to provide a meal but cannot get it to the Day House (by 5:30pm), Scott Ewen will gladly come and pick it up from you to take there.

Thank you so much, again, for your generosity!

What's Happening

- Thanks to all the outgoing Board members and Directors and to those who have stepped up to fill the positions for the next 2 years. Your willingness to serve this congregation is very much appreciated.
- Starting August 2nd, an in-person worship option will be available at 7:00 pm in the church parking lot. Online worship will continue on Sunday mornings at 9:15.
- Don't forget about the Zoom fellowship gathering after our Sunday online worship service.
- Our landscaping project for the corner of North Circle and Holiday lane has begun. Thanks to the Board of Property and Grounds for their work on this important project.
- Some small groups have started meeting using the guidelines passed last month by the CPC.
- Thanks to the creativity of Ellie Urlaub and her team, the pandemic didn't stop our Vacation Bible School! A drive-in VBS with an undersea adventure theme is just what we needed to remind us of God's unwavering love.

The Quarterly Devotional Booklets are in! The Christ in Our Home devotional booklets are available at the Welcome Desk if you would like to pick one up. Or if you would like one mailed to you please call the church office 719-634-1694 and we can mail one out for you.

THANK YOU...

Thank you so much for supporting our efforts to provide food to members of our CLC and church. We are currently providing 12 weekly backpacks to CLC kiddos, which helps to supplement food over the weekend. We anticipate that this need is going to grow over the next few weeks. Your continued support is much needed. Please see suggested food list in "What's Up" and pick up what you can next time you go to the store. Your donations can be dropped off at the church. The church office is open weekdays from 9-12. Financial support for this much needed program is always welcomed as well. Chris Koehler and Terri Moore

THANK YOU...

Scott Ewen received a great thank you from **IHN/Family Promise** for dropping off over 30 grocery store gift cards worth close to \$1,000. Generosity from the congregation for this effort is greatly appreciated, as you can see. "Awesome! Thank you so much! I cannot thank you enough for this. Truly, Scott, thank you for reaching out to Ascension and everyone for our IHN families and getting this together. I appreciate your giving hearts! 😊" – Andrea (Family Promise Volunteer Manager)

If you'd still like to help with gift cards to Family Promise, you can bring those or mail those to the church. These will go to IHN families who have housing, but no longer have congregations giving them food. You can give online through Family Promise as well - www.ihn-cos.org. For more information our IHN coordinator is Scott Ewen at sdewenx2@att.net.

Ascension at the Vibes Baseball Game

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

It is very doubtful that we will be doing this event because of the closure of professional baseball because of the COVID-19 virus. 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 ASCENSION FAMILY...

I would like to thank everyone for the many cards, the emails, your thoughtfulness and your prayers I have received since the passing of my wife Patricia. It has been very much appreciated. Lacy Hillyer

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!

Thanks and God's Blessing to the following who recently made contributions:

Dee Yocum - Birthday
Phyllis Smith - Birthday

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 we can do to help you out. If you haven't been contacted by anybody, 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.

Message from Your Stewardship Board

The congregation has voted and Jason Moore and Joe DesJardin were elected to serve as new members on the Stewardship Board. Returning members are Karen Rackley, Tom Johnson and Sharon Versaw. If you have any questions on giving or suggestions on opportunities, please feel free to contact any of us.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of outgoing members Jerry Dollar, Robbi Dollar and Fred Schauer. Your creativity and dedication will be missed.

Joe DesJardin, Director,
joe_desjardin@yahoo.com, 307 899 2020

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle meets the 2nd Thursday of the month. We will not meet in August 2020. 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 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

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will most likely not be meeting again until a COVID-19 vaccine is distributed to the US population. 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...

****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 the church office 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.** *We will probably not be supporting Bingo at the Terrace Gardens Health Care Center until a COVID-19 vaccine is distributed to the US population.* 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.



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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 – Ruth Albrent-Runnells

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

Sept. newsletter deadline: Aug. 16

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Scott Allen, Beth Ayen
(Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler,
Sonny Campbell, Tom & Sandy George, Andrea
Gallant (sister of Gabrielle Brown), Laura Gann, Rich
Gaona, Elaine Glover, Dan McKee (brother of Gary),
Carlos Quiles (friend of Ron Mohler), Rick Rogers,
Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer, Cathy Stanley (sister-in-
law of Marilyn Gulliksen), Ilene Steinkruger, Teri
Thompson (Sister-in-law of Sandy Trent), Dee
Yocum, and all of our men and women serving
overseas, especially Anthony Calderon.