



# Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

September 2020

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## Responding to Opportunities

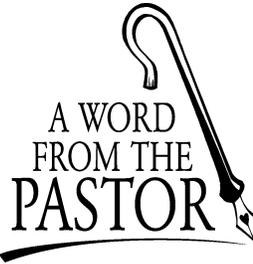
When we see bad things happening, we can find ourselves asking, “Why?” Why did God create a world where bad things can happen for no good reason? We can understand suffering when we do something foolish and deserve it. But a fair bit of suffering doesn’t fit. Jesus ran into this issue when he and his disciples encountered a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him whether his blindness was because he or his parents had sinned – done something to deserve it. Jesus responded that it wasn’t because of their sin. But it was so that God’s works might be revealed.

I don’t think Jesus meant to give a causal theory for God’s letting unjustified suffering happen. Rather, Jesus was telling his disciples that he saw this man’s unjustified blindness as an opportunity to reveal God’s work. As much as we wish to have a satisfying answer to why suffering happens, we don’t get it. But we do get is Jesus leading us to respond to pain and suffering with God’s works of love.

In a time of unrest and pandemic, we can wonder why God lets it be this way. Instead of a satisfying explanation, God’s Spirit leads us to see it as an opportunity to do God’s work of love for people who are hurting. Here are our major opportunities to respond in love:

- Be patient and kind to those who are not doing well emotionally.
- Be generous to those not able to get bills paid.
- Build all the community support that we safely can.

Pastor Dan



## CHURCH COUNCIL

- The council met online via the zoom meeting application.
- Pastor Dan provided a devotion with a reading from Job that reminded us that God is greater than the unjustness that surrounds us. God is working through us.
- We remain in good financial standing.
- The council approved the process for creating the 2021 budget. Directors will bring a preliminary budget for their perspective Boards to the September meeting.
- The Board of Stewardship recommended the council accept a \$5,000 memorial gift from Hazel Quindt’s estate put the entire amount toward the D11 Internet Equity Program. The program provides internet connectivity to students in need for online learning.
- Deacon Mary Stoneback closed the meeting in prayer.



## What's Happening

- Basement renovations are complete! Have you made a trip to see it yet?
- The Board of Lay Ministry and Property and Grounds have joined efforts to provide shade umbrellas for the back patio.
- Outdoor worship is being well-attended. Looks like some have their favorite green circle just like we have our favorite rows inside.
- Online worship continues followed by fellowship time via Zoom.
- Thanks to John Hayes for his continued work on the Ascension Phone Tree. Let’s stay connected!

## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated their unwanted treasures for the youth garage sale in July. We decided to hold the sale on both Friday and Saturday and definitely had plenty of items to sell each day! We made just over \$3300 which will pay for probably 3 youth to attend the National Lutheran Youth Gathering. It has been decided that the youth gathering NOT be held in 2021, but rather 2022 due to the unknown of COVID. The good news is that all those interested in going will still be able to go, and few of our younger youth will now be able to go! Thank you also to all who came out to shop and spread the word!

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### A Message from the Board of Parish Education

The congregation has voted and elected Aitza Carbonell and Laura McCann to serve on the Board of Parish Education and Ellie Urlaub as board director. We greatly appreciate the efforts of outgoing members Marshall Nielsen, Lisa Coltrin, and Kate Kirkendall. Your creativity and dedication will be missed.

We are currently looking forward to Rally Day and the beginning of the Sunday School year in September.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding these two events or as to how we can better serve the congregation this upcoming year, please feel free to contact any of us!

Ellie Urlaub, Director, [emsavery18@gmail.com](mailto:emsavery18@gmail.com), 515-408-2921

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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!

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## Property and Grounds schedules work day

Property and Grounds will host an abbreviated work day on starting Wednesday August 26 at 4:30 and will continue each Wednesday in August and Sept. at 4:30 until the work tasks are done. Most work will be done on the outside, but there may be select projects inside. Come join us and bring you mask, gloves and yard tools. We will order pizza for those who wish to stay. The goal would be to wrap up by 7:00pm. Please keep your eye on the bulletin and What's Up for updates. Thank you for joining us on Wednesday evenings to spruce up the church.

Examples of work to be done: weeding, shrub and tree trimming, shingle repair, dig out weeds in cracks on the patio, replace outdoor faucets, fix exterior fencing, raking pine needles, cleaning up rock borders, interior painting, etc.

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### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

\*\*Sandy Trent and family at the death of her sister-in-law, Teri Thompson.

\*\*the family of Marlene Derr at her death.

\*\*Ron Cornell at the death of his brother.

\*\*the Grimes family at the death of Ethan.

\*\*the family of Molly Rock at her death

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### Ruth Circle

We are suspending meetings until further notice. We will let you know when we resume meetings. 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](mailto:Njshatto@yahoo.com).

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### Ladies' Lunch Bunch Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 11 am at Mackenzie Place

**Contact:** Judy Conroy, 481-9605

or [jnconroy@comcast.net](mailto:jnconroy@comcast.net)

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## ALC ONLINE CONTRIBUTORS SOUGHT

Do you like to take pictures and be creative? Is writing your jam? Are you captivated by other's stories? Do you like keeping people in the know? Are you curious about digital media? Deacon Mary Stoneback is seeking to assemble a team of contributors for Ascension's online media efforts. You can be a part of Ascension's growing online outreach using your God-given gifts and have some fun in the process. The team will meet once a month via zoom beginning in September. This is open to all ages and skill levels! Commitment levels vary with each participant and schedule is flexible. **ONE MORE THING:** Not a problem. You can be a part of the team and contribute too! **INTERESTED? Fill out this THREE question survey:**

<https://forms.gle/Zo3LgGpxxWPRnjXEA>

Questions? Contact Mary Stoneback at [m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org](mailto:m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org) or call/text: 303.475.4886.

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## 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](mailto:kittypawz@aol.com) if you have any questions about this group.

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## 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](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.

**\*\* 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](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.



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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](http://www.ascensioncos.org)**

**Oct. newsletter deadline: Sept. 24**

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*

Scott Allen, Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Allen Brooks, Brad Buhler, Sonny Campbell, Rose Erickson, Andrea Gallant (sister of Gabrielle Brown), Laura Gann, Rich Gaona, Tom & Sandy George, Elaine Glover, Pam Landry, Carlos Quiles (friend of Ron Mohler), Rick Rogers, Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer, Cathy Stanley (sister-in-law of Marilyn Gulliksen), Ilene Steinkruger, Jan Tompkins, Wanda Wade, Dee Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon.