



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

October 2020

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A Little More Grace

I was sitting in the parking lot outside my doctors' office waiting for a Covid test (don't worry, it was negative). I saw a man park his truck next to mine and start walking towards the front door. When he was almost to the door, he saw a parking spot right up front open up. He quickly turned around, walked back to his truck, pulled it forward into the slightly closer spot, and walk inside. How silly, I thought. You want that parking spot so bad that you'll walk much further just to have it. I shook my head at humanity.

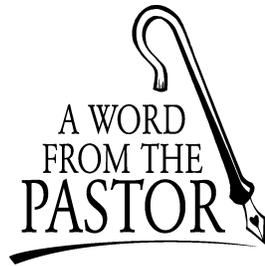
Five minutes later the man walked out of the office holding his wife's arm. She was hunched over and walking very slowly. It looked as if each step hurt. Thank goodness the truck was so close. I shook my head at myself for not being more graceful in my thoughts.

We all need a little more grace these days.

That's probably a sentence you've heard a couple times since last March. We all need a little more grace – from family, from one another, from employers and employees, from people on the other side of the political aisle, from God. We all need a little more grace.

But why? Many say because we're all doing our best. We are trying to survive a pandemic, craft policy that balances the economy and public health, navigate a new world online and working from home, or just trying to find the best parking spot to support our ailing spouse. We're all trying, and if you took a minute to walk a mile in our shoes, you'd see we *deserve* more grace.

It's a solid argument, but grace is never deserved. But we think it is all the time. We should feed the hungry because they were born into poverty and have tried to get out, but it's just hard. We should have pity on the imprisoned because they have made amends and are trying to make their lives better. We should take it easy on our loud



neighbors because they've got those kids so it must be hard to be quiet. They deserve some grace.

But grace isn't deserved. God isn't gracious to us because we're trying. God isn't gracious to us because our circumstances warrant a bit of wiggle room. God is gracious to us for two simple reasons: God loves us and we need that grace. How hard we've tried, how much of a disadvantage we have, how much we deserve it – that never enters into God's mind. God gives us as much grace as we need and as much as God loves us, which is always enough.

And we could do the same for one another. These are devastating, challenging, pull-you-hair-out times. We are frustrated and angry and quick to judge, quick to question the motives of one another. We're also sick, or know someone who is; unemployed, or know someone who is; depressed, or know someone who is. We could use a little more grace from one another, not because we deserve it, but because we need it.

May the God who never limits our grace, inspire us to give a little more.

Pastor Daniel

2020 Holiday Bazaar

Save the Date!! Our 17th annual Holiday Bazaar is going to



take place at Ascension on Saturday, October 24th from 9am to 2pm. Come get an early start on your holiday shopping from your favorite crafters and home business representatives. We are excited to be holding this event as it is a fundraiser for the youth going to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2022. Lunch will be served from 11am to 1pm in the lower level. In this crazy time, it is nice to have something "normal" and with a lot of craft shows being cancelled, we are happy to offer a safe environment to shop. Please bring your mask and practice safe distancing! If you have questions, please contact Kirsten Johnson at (719)440-5896.



What's Happening

- Pastor Daniel opened the meeting with a devotion
- In his Treasurer's report, Russ Johnson, highlighted a positive financial picture. Offerings continue to come in and most Board expenses are lower than budgeted.
- Board Directors were asked to submit next year's proposed budget by the end of September.
- The KPC Kids Place boiler needs replacing. The Property and Grounds Board is gathering cost estimates.
- The council discussed our values and convictions as they related to same-sex marriages. We began dialog on whether to grant authority to the Pastors to conduct same-sex marriage ceremonies. The discussion will continue for the next few months.
- Donna Crump thanked Brad Chewakin and David Urlaub along with the rest of the Property and Grounds Board for their work on the basement renovations.
- Deacon Mary closed the meeting in prayer.

- Adult Education classes via Zoom on September 27th and October 4th following the morning worship will focus on the biblical perspective on the topic of same-sex weddings. High School youth are also encouraged to attend.
- We continue to offer Sunday morning online worship at 9:15 and a 6:00 evening in-person worship in the parking lot.
- If Colorado Springs health conditions and CDC guidelines allow, in-person service indoors will be offered somewhere after mid-October. All CDC Guidelines will be followed.
- Sunday School and Confirmation classes have resumed!
- Ascension is hosting Family Promise families at their Day House October 4-18th.
- The Youth Board will continue our tradition of the Annual Spaghetti Supper and Variety show on November 8th. Details are forthcoming!

Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle and Talent Show



Sunday, November 8th, we will be hosting a modified Spaghetti dinner, raffle and talent show. Be watching for a link to sign up for a time slot (from noon to 5pm) where you can pick up your spaghetti dinner to eat at HOME, and buy raffle tickets. We are now accepting donations for the raffle. We would love to have baskets of new items and gift cards. The talent show will be streamed on line later in the evening so EVERYONE can enjoy. Do you have talent? Send Deacon Mary a video of your talent to be included in the talent show. Do you need help in making the video? Let Deacon Mary know and she will have a youth help you out! Watch the What's up for more information regarding how you can PREORDER your dinner to pick up that evening. We will start taking orders in early October. All proceeds from the raffle and talent show benefit the day to day events of the youth including meet ups with Deacon Mary, synod gatherings, monthly Bible studies, and so much more. Questions? Contact Kirsten Johnson at (719) 440-5896.

National Youth Gathering Update

Due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid, the 2021 gathering in Minneapolis has been moved to 2022. The good news is that all those that are interested in going are still able to go! The better news, a few more will be eligible to go! We will continue with our major fundraisers (garage sale and Holiday Bazaar) as we prepare for this exciting event!

THANK YOU...

** from **Rich Gaona**: Thanks to all for the cards, phone calls and prayers. They are so appreciated and were very uplifting. You all are amazing!

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.

So Many Thanks from Social Outreach!

There has been a tremendous outpouring of support for our community. Throughout the past 6 months during the pandemic Ascension has:

- donated food and funds for our small pantry - used by so many in the area right now!
- donated food and other items to create backpacks for the Children's Learning Center children and families.
- donated over \$2300 in grocery store gift cards to Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network families.
- donated supplies and gift cards for KPC (along with our friends at Beth-El and sponsored by LFS)!
- donated food, toiletries, and other items for Mercy's Gate

Plus, through our regular Social Outreach budget we have contributed to Mercy's Gate, Family Promise, Lutheran Family Services and Habitat for Humanity for local hunger and housing needs plus others. Thank you so much for your continuing time, efforts and donations to help so many!

More from Social Outreach!

There are a couple of fun and helpful events coming up in October.

The **Mosaic** breakfast is coming up on **Oct 13th at 9am**. It will be virtual for 30 minutes. This is a wonderful organization helping those with disabilities and their families. It is their only fundraiser. If you'd like to be included, please let me know. They'll send out a Zoom link (BYOB - breakfast!).



The **Annual Innkeeper's Dinner by LSF** will be on **Oct. 23rd at 7pm**. This is also virtual. There will be a silent and live auction so signing up will be important to get the code to use for the auctions. Please let Karen Askinas know if you'd like to "attend". You may email her at kaskinas@gmail.com or call 719-229-8799.

It's Family Promise/IHN time again, October 5-9 and 12-16. Although during a pandemic it is a little different. We will only provide a dinner meal Monday-Friday. The families will not be staying at our church, they are at the

*Family Promise Day House
519 N. Tejon St. Colorado Springs, CO 80903*

If you are able to help but are unable to bring the food down to the Day House by 5:30PM let Ruth know and we can arrange accommodations. To help, have questions about IHN or anything else please contact Ruth Albrent-Runnells at ruthalbrent@gmail.com or you can sign up online <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4aaaad2ba7f49-ihnnoctober>.

Blessings! Karen Askinas, Social Outreach

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

- **Phyllis Sands at the death of her sister Molly Rock.
 - **Gary McKee at the death of his father Ralph McKee
-

CONGRATULATIONS...

**Congrats to Bill & Darcy Ayen on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Piper Jean McFarland, born on August 21. She joins her big brother Isaac (2), who was adopted into the family in February. Proud grandparents are Mark & Beth Ayen, God is good!

**Congrats to Mikaela Clemons and Keegan Sullinger on their marriage on August 22.

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!

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.



**SMALL GROUP
MINISTRIES
QUARTERLY UPDATE
All are welcome; come
join in the fellowship!**

If you'd like to join a group, please reach out to the group's contact person to get the most up to date information on when/how/if the group is meeting.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Centering Prayer Group

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

Meets: 1st & 3rd Monday at church 7:00 pm. **COVID change** – meeting via Zoom. Possible outdoor meetings.

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! **COVID change** – this is on hold until further notice.

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 July and part of August.

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 7 pm at the church.

Contact: Rich Johnson, 264-8196 or rjohnson@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. **COVID change** – this is on hold until further notice.

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! **COVID change** – this is on hold until further notice.

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. **COVID change** – this is on hold until further notice.

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 **COVID change** – this is on hold until further notice.

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 **COVID change** – group currently on hold

Contact: Judy Conroy, 481-9605 or jinconroy@comcast.net

Men's Breakfast

Get together with other men for fellowship over breakfast.

Meets: Thursdays at 9:00 am at the church. Masks required and socially distanced.

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. **COVID change** – meeting online

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. **COVID change** – mall walking will not be an option when the weather is inclement.

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*. **COVID change** – the group is not currently meeting in the church, but they are still able to work on quilts and masks from home.

Meets: Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Contact: Anita Arends, 573-4747 or Barb Daugherty, bdkm@pcisys.net

Terrace Gardens Bingo

Have fun helping nursing home residents play Bingo and win prizes. **COVID change** – this is on hold until further notice.

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. **COVID change** - If group is larger than 10, we break into two groups. Those participating in the food fellowship following the ride should bring masks for the restaurant. We are trying to go places where we can order take-out and eat at a nearby park. **Meets:** Weekly, April – October, weather permitting. Most rides are on Saturdays. Time & location by email and on the Ascension Holy Pedalers' Facebook page.

Contact: Aimee Calderon, 720-318-7479 or aimeebuesing@yahoo.com



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Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA
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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

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Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

Nov. newsletter deadline: Oct. 22

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

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, Tom & Sandy George, Elaine Glover, Jack Kagarise, Pam Landry, Carlos Quiles (friend of Ron Mohler), Rick Rogers, Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer, Cathy Stanley (sister-in-law of Marilyn Gulliksen), Ilene Steinkruger, Phil Trent, Wanda Wade, Dee Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon.