



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

November 2020

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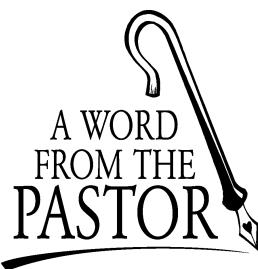
Grounded in Christ

You will be reading this shortly before or after the election. It is a contentious one. The pandemic is not making this easier. It feels like a lot at stake. Our country's leadership controls policies on taxes, medical coverage, land use, environment regulations, military priorities and trade policy. Hearing the partisan words, it can sound like the world will end if the other side wins.

It is harder to lose. If you are on the losing side, you will be distraught by some of the policy and law changes. Win or lose, you will get up in the morning and carry on with your life. If your side wins, everything will not suddenly be wonderful. If your side loses, the apocalypse will not happen.

This would be a good time for us as Christians to ground ourselves in God. Standing on God has been compared to standing on a rock (Ps 18:2, 31, 42). In this shaky time, you would be wise to deepen your spiritual life. We have free devotionals you can use. There are a number of good devotional apps and email resources out there. As a contemplative, I like Richard Rohr daily meditations. Better yet, start with reading your Bible. Each week we have scriptures that we preach on which are listed in the bulletin that you can work with. You can read through the New Testament. And after reading scripture, pray about what you heard and take some time for silence. As much as we are in the world and it matters, let us be grounded in God and God's ways through Jesus.

My second thought is that we would be wise to deepen community. Our Lord's command is to love. Love often means first listening deeply. This is even more important when we have less people to talk to. Deepening conversations go from (1) small talk to (2) current events and ideas to (3) feelings and finally to (4) meaning. Deep listening means inviting people to go deeper than small talk and ideas to feelings and meaning. Conflict happens around our ideas and deepening relationships happens



around feelings and meaning. Inviting someone to "say more" about why an idea matters will allow them to go deeper. The deeper you go, the more you realize you can relate. When the world shakes, ground yourself in Christ and his love.

Pastor Dan

A Beautiful Upgrade for Ascension!



CHURCH COUNCIL

- Pastor Dan Holt opened the meeting with a devotion.
- Russ reported a decline in September offerings but we are on track for the year-to-date budget.
- Council accepted Lay Ministry's health benefit package recommendation for the rostered staff.
- We reviewed each Board's proposed 2021 budget.
- Ingrid Daniel shared the Worship Board's plan for returning to in-person services in addition to the online option.
- The Pastor's shared their perspectives on same-sex marriages and the council was asked to review a draft marriage policy.
- Pastor Daniel Smith closed the meeting in prayer.

LWR School Kits

Ever start a project only to have it grow beyond your expectations? That describes the Lutheran World Relief School Kit project year. The starting goal of 100 kits blossomed into 177 kits nourished by the hands of many – the quilters sewed the backpacks, middle school youth bundled supplies and strung backpacks, high school youth filled backpacks, and in between many others supported with organization, school supply donation, and arranging for packing boxes. Thank you to Social Outreach for contributing to the purchase of school supplies so every bag was filled and will allow a child or adult to grow through education. Truly many hands worked together to share God's love with our neighbors in the world. Thank you!

FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP BOARD:

Thank you for your generous response to our Pandemic of Plenty! We are so grateful for everyone who has responded through returning your estimate of giving cards. We base our commitments on your generosity. For those who haven't responded, you still can turn in those estimate of giving cards. You can still have an impact. We hope to have a good final estimate to the CPC in November.

Joe DesJardin, Director Stewardship



What's Happening

- The Pandemic of Plenty stewardship campaign is ongoing. Please return your estimate of giving cards.
- The Ascension Book Club has started reading a new book about a 17th century town battling the plague. Contact Pastor Daniel for more information.
- Have you seen the new landscaping on the corner of North Circle and Holiday Lane? Thanks to the Property and Grounds Board for spearheading the project!
- Ascension provided a new boiler for the KPC Kids Place just in time for winter.
- Thank you for donating nearly \$3,000 in gift cards for Family Promise/IHN families.
- In-person worship services resume November 1st. Contact the church office to make a reservation so we can be prepared for your attendance.

THANK YOU FROM OUR YOUTH!

Thank you to all who came out to support the youth at our Annual Holiday Bazaar!



Calling All Music Lovers!!!

Calling all music lovers! Choir will be meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10:15am. We will enjoy fellowship, games, learning new music, and singing together in the ways that we can. All singers of all skill levels welcome. It's a fun way to exercise your lungs and voice. Come give it a try! Click here at 10:15: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86501063243?pwd=TVEwU2wvV21BZ2FCWjhzYkNDc0hPZz09>

Property and Grounds Updates

- Landscaping of the Circle and Holiday corner is wrapping up. (See photos on first page!) Drive by and take a look. Because it is fall, the landscaper recommended we plant in the spring to increase the chances of thriving plants. Planting now would increase the risk of winter kill.
- Our basement remodel is complete. As we return to limited in-person services, please check out the improvements. If you have questions, please contact Brad Chewakin at 719.237.6801.
- Recently the KPC's boiler failed and has been replaced. As you know, we support the Property and Grounds need of the KPC and are glad to do so.
- Just a reminder, if you notice something is broken, now working properly or out of order related to Property and Grounds, please place a note in the Property and Grounds Mail Box, located top center of the mail box system. Also, if you have any janitorial concerns, please place a note in their mail box located next to Property and Ground mail slot! You can also email me at chewakin@msn.com.
- Keypad Lock on the door to the south of the gathering space is operational. Please press the "Schlage" button and then enter your code slowly or it may deny your code. Marshall Nielson has trained Ruth how to program the keypad, so if you need a temporary code, Ruth in the office can help you.
- Currently, we are waiting on a bid to re-key the exterior doors. When this occurs, we will promote the change via the newsletter, What's Up, and announcements.
- Your Property and Grounds team and other volunteers have been working for about a month on Wednesday evenings to spruce up the outside grounds and some inside work such as painting. Many thanks to this team for the time and effort they provide to enhance our property inside and out.



SPAGHETTI SUPPER, RAFFLE and VARIETY SHOW – Sunday, November 8th

We will be holding our annual youth Spaghetti Supper, but a little different this year!

SUPPER: Place an order for a TO GO spaghetti dinner, including spaghetti, salad and bread. Use the sign-up genius link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a8ae29a1f58-spaghetti> to sign up for a time (noon to 5:00pm) and preorder your meal. You can also contact Kirsten Johnson at (719)440-5896. Cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (4-11) or a family ticket for \$30. Pay when you pick up.

RAFFLE: We are still accepting items through Saturday, November 7th. Items can be dropped off at the church with Deacon Mary or in the office with Raffle labeled on it. When you come to pick up your dinner, you can buy raffle tickets to place in the bags for items your are interested in. Then we will notify you of what you won and you can come pick up your winnings the next week at the church.

VARIETY SHOW: Submit videos of your act to Deacon Mary. The Variety show will be available to ALL to watch on YouTube via livestream on November 8th at 6:00pm. Link will be sent out in the What's Up prior to the show.

Contact Kirsten Johnson (719)440-5896 with any questions! Thank you for your support as all proceeds benefit our weekly youth programs at Ascension, including meet ups, Bible studies, college care packages, baccalaureate gifts, one on one conversations with Deacon Mary, service projects and much more!

THANK YOU!

Thanks for all the wonderful cards, texts & emails after my recent back surgery. Each one made me smile & lifted my spirits. You are all the best!! Phil Trent

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!

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 George Wachs for his birthday contribution!

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...

****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.

****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.

Meet ALC Online Contributor **Shelley Sabga**

I'm a fairly new member to ALC. My husband Tom and I moved to Colorado from Cincinnati, Ohio almost two years ago in order to be closer to our adult children. We're so glad we did, since our daughter is expecting a baby in January! Tom and I have two dogs, and we really enjoy taking them on walks and hikes around our new town.

I'm a published author. I write under the pen name Shelley Shepard Gray. I mostly write romance novels, either inspirational ones or sweet contemporary series. A lot of my books focus on the Amish, which has been very fun and rewarding.

Worship on Sundays. Join us for worship on Sunday at 9:15 you can go to our webpage www.ascensioncos.org/online-worship or our YouTube channel which also allows for chat.



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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
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Dec. newsletter deadline: Nov. 19

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers* ☀️

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler, Andrea Gallant (sister of Gabrielle Brown), Tom & Sandy George, Elaine Glover, Jack Kagarise, Pam Landry, Carlos Quiles (friend of Ron Mohler), Jeff Sebben, 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.