



# Ascension In Action

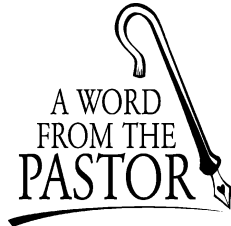
Ascension Lutheran Church

May 2021

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## Renewing Strength

*But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. - Isaiah 40:31*



The Prophet Isaiah spoke these words to God's people living in the Babylonian exile. Some 50 years earlier, Babylon defeated and destroyed Israel. They hauled off their best and brightest to be their servants. After 50 years of being servants in a foreign land, they were used to it. When Babylon was defeated by Persia, they were permitted to go home. But to go home meant walking some 600 miles through rough dry country. They questioned if they had the strength to return and rebuild their ruined land.

These words from the Prophet were God's answer to their anxiety over returning to rebuild. God would renew their strength so that they can soar, run and walk – in short make the long journey to rebuild.

I look at where we are at as a community and realize we feel weary with being stuck in the foreign land of pandemic rules. Masks, social distancing and limited singing feel like an exile from the life we knew and enjoyed. After one year, I am weary of it. I am humbled and chastened in knowing that I am weary and questioning after one year of inconvenience when they had suffered 50 years of servitude.

Nonetheless, we have some parallels in our returning. There is weariness and wondering if we have the energy and strength to do it. The Word of the Lord from Isaiah applies: "But you who wait upon the Lord will renew your strength. You shall mount up with wings like eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint." God will renew our strength to return to gather without precautions and serve directly those in need. In the meantime, we wait in faith and hopefully some patience.

Pr. Dan

## New COVID-19 Guidance for Ascension's Groups

At their April meeting, Ascension's Church Planning Council developed the following guidelines for group meetings. It's a time of uncertainty, and hopefully this will give some direction as to how to navigate out of it.

Ascension's CPC recognizes that each board and group of Ascension is navigating this stage of the pandemic differently. With this in mind, we want to empower group leaders to make the decision works best for their group, while adhering to public health guidelines.

As your group makes decisions on how to proceed with activities, the CPC asks you to:

- Follow the recommendations from local, state, and public health authorities.
- Make your activities accessible to those who are and who aren't vaccinated for COVID-19. We don't want to limit the ministries of Ascension only to those who are vaccinated.
- Communicate protocols clearly before gathering.
- Connect with a board director or pastor to make sure the church isn't contradicting itself with pandemic protocols.

These are the general guidelines:

- Ask people to stay home if they feel sick or have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Encourage activities outside.
- Require masks for everyone when gathering together indoors.
- If you know that everyone in your group is fully vaccinated and comfortable without masks, it is ok to not wear a mask.
- Maintain a six-foot distance between individuals.
- Wash hands and use hand sanitizers frequently. Make these available to everyone at your activity.
- Clean surfaces frequently.

We encourage you to use these sites to understand public health recommendations:

Colorado: [covid19.colorado.gov/](https://covid19.colorado.gov/)

CDC: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/guidance.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/guidance.html)

CDC (faith community guidance):

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html)



## What's Happening

- Pastor Dan opened the meeting with a devotion.
- The Treasurer's Report detailed positive finances for Ascension. Our March giving was up and expenses were as expected. The CLC is also doing well.
- The Board of Stewardship recommended acceptance of an anonymous \$32,000 gift. The donor designated \$5,000 toward specific social outreach programs. The CPC voted to allocate \$1,000 of the gift to Rainbow Trail and another \$1,000 to Mosaic. Discussion on how to best use the remaining unallocated amount will continue at future meetings.
- Board Directors were given several COVID Guidance websites to help them make decisions on in-person meetings and events, as more people become vaccinated and restrictions lessen. Requiring vaccinations to meet cannot be required. Directors were asked to respect individual privacy and allow no vaccine shaming. John will send a note to Aimee Calderone on COVID guidance for Small Groups and Pastor Daniel will update the Ascension web site with that same data.
- Deacon Mary closed the meeting with prayer.

- For those attending in-person worship, singing (with masks) will be allowed starting Mary 2<sup>nd</sup>. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!
- We appreciate our Tech Teams for streaming our service each Sunday. It's an invaluable service.
- Our CLC is 20 years old! Join us in the back parking area to celebrate this milestone event on May 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 5:30. Please RSVP on the website!
- When it come to the World Hunger Appeal, Ascension has got game! Social Outreach crushed their goal, raising over \$11,000 to buy chickens and hens for those in need. Thank you to all who contributed
- Our organist, Teresa Allen, has moved on to other opportunities. Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> was her last Sunday. Thank you, Teresa, for your service and musical contributions to our worship. We are hopeful to see Teresa at future functions with Scott.
- Don't forget to drop off your "treasures" for our Youth Garage Sale scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The drop location is one of the Sunday School rooms in the basement. No large objects, furniture, chemicals, or mattresses, please.

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### Lenten World Hunger Nets More Than \$11!

The final count is in. Every check, every dollar and every coin from the farm banks has been counted. We raised a grand total of **\$11,075** during this year's Lenten World Hunger Campaign! At \$25 for a rooster and 10 chicks, that's enough to send 443 roosters and 4,430 chicks to families around the world who are suffering from hunger. It's such a blessing to be a part of a community who is so willing to help those in need. Thank you. ❤️

-Board of Social Outreach



*Ascension Lutheran Church  
Endowment Fund*

### Create a Legacy!

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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### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

\*\*Judi Johnson & family at the death of her niece's husband, Rick Leiting.

\*\*Charles Lewis and family at the death of his grandson & sister.

\*\*Ingrid Daniel & family at the death of her father.

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### Bridge Group Meeting Scheduled

*Our Bridge Group will meet on May 15th starting at 5:30PM.* 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. If you'd like to learn how to play bridge, Charles Lewis would be happy to give you bridge lessons.

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Are you doing some spring cleaning? Are you giving up items for Lent? Do you just have treasures to part with? It's that time again! The annual Youth Garage Sale will be held June 18th and 19th in the lower level. We will start collecting items AFTER Easter in the back classroom (look for signs). Best times for drop off are when the office is open - 9am to noon, Monday through Friday. Please **NO** furniture, large items, mattresses, chemicals, or other items that cannot be donated afterwards. If you need help in getting items to the church or have questions regarding what can be donated, please contact Kirsten Johnson at (719)440-5896. All proceeds benefit the youth traveling to Minneapolis in 2022.



**BECOME INVOLVED...**

**\*\*Knotty Kneedlers:** The knitting group has closed down for now. We will be watching for any interest in the future. If you know of anyone in need of a prayer shawl, please let one of the Pastors know!

**\*\*Flower Chart** – The 2021 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.

**\*\*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. *John Hayes contacted Terrace Gardens to see when they think they'll be able to let us do Bingo at their facility. They think we'll be able to do it by the end of this summer.* 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)

**June newsletter deadline: May 20**



Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler, Sonny Campbell, Andrea Gallant (sister of Gabrielle Brown), Elaine Glover, Bev Godec, Steve Gulliksen, Steve Hast (friend of Oltrogges), Pam Landry, Daniela Mannerberg (daughter-in-law of Kathy), Michael Noble Jr., Carlos Quiles (friend of Ron Mohler), Rick Rogers, Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer, Cathy Stanley (sister-in-law of Marilyn Gulliksen), Matthew Stannard, Ilene Steinkruger, Wanda Wade, Lucille Walker, Christel Walter, Dee Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon.