



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

July 2021

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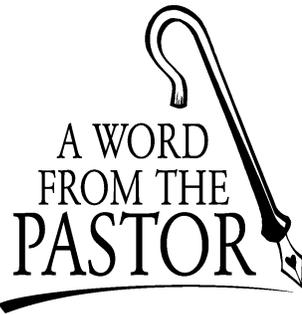
Called to Return

In our faith journeys, there are times of returning. When Babylonian army destroyed Judah, they hauled off the brightest and best survivors as slaves. Among those exiles some felt God's call to return. The prophet Isaiah in particular spoke for God in calling the people to return and rebuild their nation and Temple. He spoke to how God would support them in the long journey home and help them rebuild. After 60 years in captivity, they began returning and rebuilding.

God is calling us to our small scale returning. In this pandemic, to avoid spreading the disease, we stopped doing things like attending worship, helping out at worship and serving in the community. As most of us are vaccinated and risk is much lower, it is time to consider how we might return and rebuild. As with the people of God in Babylon, some things have changed (e.g. video streaming). But our values and faith have not. We are a community of grace, called to serve. We are still working to live out our mission of creating faithful community. We still value lay leadership and equipping saints for ministry.

Prayerfully consider one step you can take toward returning. What step could you take to return to be engaged in serving? If you need to continue being cautious, could you join our prayer chain or help with cards or contacts? We could use help around worship (e.g. ushering, communion prep). We always need help serving our IHN families. If you cannot come up with a step to take, I would be glad to talk with you about what returning might look like in your situation.

Pr. Dan Holt



The Hbly Pedalers biking group have started riding again!

Ascension at the Vibes Baseball Game

Ascension is having an outing at the Colorado Springs Vibes baseball game on Sunday, August 1st. The Vibes are in an independent league and their team is comprised of young players who were not drafted by a major league team and they are trying to get noticed by major league scouts and offered a contract to play on minor league teams with a shot at the majors. 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 \$28 per person for everybody over age 12 and \$19 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). Please let John Hayes know how many tickets you'd like to have.



June 2021 CPC Meeting Summary

Finance: Our Financial picture continues to look good. Offerings are a little above expectations and expenses are a little below our budget. We continue to be blessed by a very generous congregation.

Fall Stewardship Drive. The CPC approved the Fall Stewardship Drive focus to be on establishing a Children's Music Program in 2022 which would could include an Elementary Music Program during Sunday School, Sunday School Christmas Program, VBS Music, Middle School Music/Choir, Preschool Music Program, and an Elementary Community Choir with Audobon Elementary School.

New Organist. The Worship Board established an Organist Interview committee that interviewed two very highly qualified candidates. It was a hard decision as they were both wonderful. Ultimately the committee determined that Scott Christiansen be offered the job as the new organist. The CPC concurred with that recommendation.

Large Gift Funds: Ascension has also been blessed by several large financial gifts over the last couple of years. The CPC approved allocating \$10,000 from the Large Gift funds for improved signage outside and inside our building to help visitors find their way to our church and around the inside of our church. \$2,200 was allocated to replace the Exterior Door Keypad used by our members to enter our facility when the doors are locked. \$5,000 was allocated for an additional storage shed, \$2,000 for firepits to be used on our patio, and \$2,200 to initiate a Children's Music Program beginning this Fall. \$77,000 still remains available in our Large Gifts fund.

Bridge Group Meeting Scheduled

Our Bridge Group will meet on July 17th starting at 5:30PM. 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. If you'd like to learn how to play bridge, Charles Lewis would be happy to give you bridge lessons.

What's Happening

- Welcome to Scott Christiansen, our new organist (who has been serving as our interim organist).
- The Board of Parish Education needs Sunday School teachers for the fall. Please talk to Ellie Urlaub or one of the Pastors if God is calling you to serve in this capacity.
- The landscaping project from last fall is nearing completion with plantings at the corner of Holiday Lane and North Circle.
- Have our noticed all the new signs at church? Thanks to the Boards of Property and Grounds and Evangelism for their work on this initiative to identify important locations for our newcomers and guests.
- Join us for a fun day at the ballpark on Sunday, August 1st at 1:30 to watch the Colorado Springs Vibes play baseball. John Hayes is taking orders for tickets.
- Keep Deacon Mary Stoneback in your prayers as she continues her sabbatical.



*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!

Thanks and God's Blessings for the following donations to the fund:

-Dee Yocum, 93rd birthday

US THEM WE

Wow! Do we ever have some grateful organizations in the Colorado Springs area! Your decision to donate extra funds from Ascension which we voted to do in the early spring plus other donations that have come in has brought in many heartfelt thanks and appreciation for making a true difference. Here are a few words to share (many handwritten notes):

One Nation Walking Together - "Your appreciation for life shows in the kindness you give to others. We thank you for your extremely generous donation of \$3000 for our food drive. Blessings" "Appreciation enriched Lakota existence. Life was vivid and pulsing, nothing was casual and commonplace. The Indian lived - in every sense of the word - from his first breath to his last breath." Chief Luther Standing Bear

ELCA World Hunger: Thank you for your gift of \$12,050. As a church we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the US. Thank you for your gracious gifts.

Springs Rescue Mission: Hundreds of men and women struggle every day with homelessness, hunger, addiction and so much more. But thanks to your generous gift of \$14,700 & 750, SRM is able to serve those who need it most in CO Springs. Your support helps provide meals, shelter, drug and alcohol recovery programs and is changing lives.

Family Promise/IHN: Thank you for your generous donations for \$1000 and \$14,700 received in April. Since the beginning of 2020, we expanded services to meet the needs of the community. Our new Promis Family Shelter opened in Feb 2020 (just before the pandemic shutdown) at full capacity with 17 families and children. The family shelter is 1 of only 3 in the US. Your generous giving makes a real difference for these families.

Mosaic: Thank you for the \$2700 donation! Ascension is a tremendous blessing to Mercy's Gate's mission.

Care & Share: Thank you for your support of Care & Share's mission to ensure no one goes hungry. We appreciate your trust in our work. Your generosity is helping us address hunger across Southern Co for neighbors who may be facing hardship from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lutheran Family Services & KPC: Thank you for your gift designated for KPC Respite Center & the general operations. Every day, LFS serves members of our community most at risk, and we are committed to caring for these groups regardless of the circumstances. Thank you friends at Ascension.

Rainbow Trails Lutheran Camp: Thank you for Ascension's support of RTLCL. Summer is ready to go and it is going to be a great one! Your gifts are helping us be ready for our staff as well as providing camperships for campers who need assistance.

There are more - and multiple thank you letters from some of these organizations. I will pin these on the kiosk for you to read. There is so much more written than what I could fit in here. Thank you!! You are helping so many.

Blessings, Karen (Social Outreach)

Volunteer Opportunities at Care and Share

Care and Share is the major source of food for the hungry in Southern Colorado. They are always looking for volunteers to help them at their warehouse located east of the intersection of Powers and Constitution. This is an opportunity for members of Ascension to volunteer together to help feed the hungry. Below are some of the tasks that volunteers do and what day of the week they do it. These are good opportunities for families to volunteer together. If you're interested in doing one or more of these tasks with other Ascension volunteers, please let John Hayes know. His email address is blazehayes@aol.com or he can be reached by phone at (719) 572-1052.

Off-Loading and Sorting Food- Receiving Dock (Saturdays 9:00-11:30 AM). The first stage for the donated food we receive. The majority of our food is picked up by one of our Care and Share trucks. We need your help sorting the food into different categories: boxed, canned, liquids etc. T-shirt and jeans are perfect for this rewarding work. We will provide latex gloves. Closed toed shoes are required. Volunteers must be able to stand for two and a half hours and lift 20lb. **This project is for volunteers age 9 and up.**

Warehouse Needs (Saturdays 9:00-11:30 AM or 1:00-2:30 PM). Tasks may include inspecting/sorting/packing food for distribution, bulk food processing, off-loading and sorting food at the receiving dock, and/or refrigerator sorting and packing. Several volunteers will also be asked to help with The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), often called "the senior box program", which serves 619,000 low-income seniors. CSFP helps vulnerable seniors from having to choose between food and other basic needs. **If you are part of a large group, our Packing and Sorting Coordinators will do their best to** (continued on next page)

keep you together but you may be asked to split up into two teams. Volunteers must be able to stand on their feet for a long period of time, and must wear comfortable closed-toe shoes. **This project is for volunteers age 9 and up.**

Distribution Center (Weekdays 9:00-11:30 AM or 1:00-3:30 PM). Tasks may include inspecting/sorting/packing food for distribution, **bulk food processing, off-loading and sorting food at the receiving dock,** and/or **refrigerator sorting and packing.** T-shirt and jeans are perfect for this rewarding work. We will provide latex gloves. Closed toed shoes are required. Volunteers must be able to stand for two and a half hours and lift 20lb. **This project is for volunteers age 9 and up.**

Recycling Assistant (Weekdays 9:00-11:30 AM). We recycle cardboard, shrink wrap, and soft plastics, Single Stream Recyclables, metal, aluminum cans, and pallets. The Recycling Assistant collects these materials from throughout the Distribution Center. T-shirt and jeans are perfect for this rewarding work. We will provide latex gloves; however, sturdier work gloves may be desired. Closed toed shoes are required. Volunteers must be able to stand for two hours and lift 20lbs. **This project is for volunteers age 9 and up.**

Refrigerator Assistant (Wednesdays and Fridays 12:30 – 3:00 PM). Provides our partner agencies with more quality products. This position would be tasked with inspecting produce and dairy products for quality and dates; assisting with our recycling efforts; and condensing, combining and staging pallets. The refrigerator is 40 degrees, so we ask that you wear layers, coats and hats. We will provide latex gloves. Closed toed shoes are required. Volunteers must be able to stand for two and a half hours and lift 20lb. **This project is for volunteers age 16 and up.**

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.

Contact: Pastor Dan Holt, 719-634-1694
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!

Meets: 2nd Thursday at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall starting August 12th (tentatively).

Contact: Nancy Shatto, 719-426-9444

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, 719-634-1694

or office@ascensioncos.org

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Bridge

Come play bridge once a month with others who love this card game!

Meets: monthly Saturday night at the church. Actual dates in church bulletin

Contact: John & Kathy Hayes, 719-572-1052

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.

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, 719-264-8196,

or rjohnson@aol.com

Men's Breakfast

Get together with other men for fellowship over breakfast.

Meets: Thursdays at 8:00 am at Wade's Café, 3504 N.

Academy Blvd.

Contact: Rich Johnson, 719-264-8196 or rjohnson@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.

Contact: Pastor Daniel, 719-634-1694,

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.

Contact: Wini Klein, 719-636-1232 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.*

Meets: Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., starting July 7th at the church. Following the Ascension COVID Protocols guidance, masks will be required for those non-vaccinated and optional for those who are vaccinated against COVID.

Contact: Anita Arends, 719-651-3470 or Barb Daugherty, 719-264-1630 or bdkm@pcisys.net

Terrace Gardens Bingo

Have fun helping nursing home residents play Bingo and win prizes.

Meets: Terrace Gardens monthly, 3rd Wednesdays from 9:45-11:15 am

Contact: John & Kathy Hayes, 719-572-1052 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.

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

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.

****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** – *We will restart our bingo with Terrace Gardens on July 21st. Our volunteers will need to bring their COVID vaccination card so the Terrace Gardens can make a copy for their records. All volunteers will need to be COVID vaccinated.* 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)

t.adams@ascensioncos.org (Teresa Adams)

clc@ascensioncos.org (CLC)

ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)

Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org

August newsletter deadline: July 21

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Brad Buhler, Sonny Campbell, Andrea Gallant (sister of Gabrielle Brown), Elaine Glover, Bev Godec, Steve Hast (friend of Oltrogges), Jean Hinck, Joshua Kaiser (friend of John Hayes), Pam Landry, Michael Noble Jr. (friend of the Trents), John Plump (friend of Kemmlings), Carlos Quiles (friend of Ron Mohler), Rick Rogers, Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer, Cathy Stanley (sister-in-law of Marilyn Gulliksen), Wanda Wade (friend of Kagarise), Dee Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon.