



# Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

September 2021

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## The Goodness of Patience

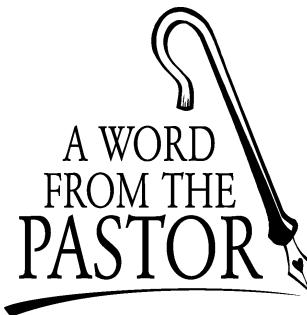
In the Bible's Love Chapter (1 Cor 13), Paul defined love as patient. In Galatians, Paul said patience was a fruit of the Spirit. Patience implies understanding and accepting some things will take as long as they will take. I think of the rose bud unfolding into a flower. It does that unfolding on its own schedule. It will not be rushed. To force the petals to unfold will only do damage. It will unfold and bloom in its time. To have patience in this difficult time is to witness to God's love at work in and through us as pandemic things take as long as they take.

Patience will show love during this latest upsurge of our Covid pandemic. Impatience means living frustrated and angry about what is going on. With the Spirit's help, we can have patience around the limits and inconveniences that come with masks, travel hassles and social engagements. With God's strength, we can patiently make decisions on how to adjust our plans to the latest requirements and precautions. With God's support, we can have patience for our inner processes as we grieve our losses of time and good opportunities.

Patience will help us navigate our relationships as well. We are not all on the same page around masks and vaccines, distancing and socializing. Impatience could lead us to say things that don't help us negotiate differences and stay connected in our relationships. It takes patience to listen to differing opinions. To speak with patience will help your point of view be heard. God is love and love is patient.

*O God, help us be patient with our difficult circumstances, our souls and each other. Amen.*

Pr. Dan



## SATURDAY IN SAN LUIS

"When Jesus was inundated by the crowds and felt the weight of his ministry, I'm sure there He felt tremendous pressure to just keep at it—to preach all the sermons, to heal all the people, and go to all the towns and villages. But when the load was overwhelming, Jesus made time to get away to a quiet place to pray, reflect, rest, and refocus on God's call." (Vibrant Faith Ministries)

Your Faith Formation for Maturing Adults team would like to invite you, your friends, and families to such a quiet place to pray, reflect, and rest on Saturday October 16, in San Luis, Colorado.

The center for the day's activities is The El Convento Inn, part of the Sangre de Cristo Church. We have reserved the entire facility for the day. Upon arrival we will provide a hot lunch in the dining hall for all travelling from Colorado Springs. We are also looking to invite local speakers to share their stories of life in the valley.

After lunch, all who are interested may either take an easy hike or drive to the top of the famous Stations of the Cross in the center of town. The stations are 14 life-like bronze sculptures set on a path rising to the top of a mesa overlooking San Luis. At the top of the mesa is the Shrine of the Stations of the Cross chapel for further reflection, a beautiful sculpture of the risen Jesus, and an awe-inspiring view of the entire valley and San Juan mountains.

In the afternoon, we will provide sandwiches and snacks for the trip home. The cost for this event is covered by your Board of Lay Ministry. It is a two plus hour drive, but well worth the trip. San Luis is just one hour from the Taos National Heritage site and an hour from Alamosa.

Please let Jim Deloughry [jdeloughry@comcast.net](mailto:jdeloughry@comcast.net) or Elisa Thompson [elisat@gmail.com](mailto:elisat@gmail.com) know if you are interested. There is no charge for this trip but we do need to know numbers. We hope as many as possible can take advantage of a fall trip to the San Luis Valley to experience a culture and community far different from life in Colorado Springs.

# CHURCH COUNCIL

- Pastor Daniel Smith opened the meeting with a devotion from Isaiah Chapter 40 with a focus on hope. As we continue to deal with COVID, he reminded us that we gather around a God who doesn't grow weary.
- Russ Johnson, Treasurer, reported lower giving which is normal for the summer; however, our expenses are also lower than budgeted so we are very close to being on target for the year.
- Russ also gave an overview for the 2022 planning process. Board Directors were asked to submit their budget worksheets by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The council agreed to follow the recommendations of the Worship Committee regarding safety precautions for in-person worship. The committee strongly recommends wearing masks for vaccinated individuals while requiring masks for the unvaccinated. The council also asked the Committee to discuss having pre-set metrics for changes to that guidance.
- Small Groups will determine their own COVID safety precautions, as needed, for activities.
- Joe DesJardin, Director of Stewardship, revealed the "This Little Light of Mine" Fall Stewardship campaign which will focus on children's music ministry
- Pastor Daniel closed the meeting in prayer.



## What's Happening

- Welcome back, Deacon Mary! We hope your sabbatical rejuvenated your spirit!
- Sunday School Rally Day is September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The new landscaping is in on the corner of Holiday Lane and North Circle. Take a look!
- One of our community partners, Habitat for Humanity, has opened a new store, just east of Dublin and Powers Boulevards.
- Our solar panel project has reached a dead end. Without tax incentives, we've found there isn't financially feasible way ahead to utilize the alternative energy at Ascension.
- Property and Grounds is looking at outdoor heaters for the back patio.
- COSILoveYou service day is scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will connect with local organizations for a day of service projects in lieu of the God's Work, Our Hands event held in previous years.

### A Message from Deacon Mary!

On Monday August 16, I returned back to my office after a three-month Sabbatical. The time away was blessed with discoveries—some known, others new. Thank you Ascension Lutheran Church! I will share a little about my rest and renewal on Sunday, September 19, between services. All are welcome! Sincerely, Deacon Mary

### THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Russ and Brendan Johnson and Lutheran Family Services, Rocky Mountain, as they went "Over the Edge". They were both able to surpass their \$1000 goal to support LFS and their services!

### THANK YOU...

\*\*The family of Richard Ingalls would like to thank Ascension Lutheran for your support and prayers through this difficult time in our lives. We are grateful for all of you. We want to especially thank Pastor Dan and Pastor Daniel for all their phone calls and hospital visits during Richard's illness and time in the hospital. God's Blessings to you all.



### Ushers Needed

We are resuming our Usher program at Ascension after the Labor Day weekend. If you are interested in becoming an usher for the early or late services, please contact John Hayes at [blazehayes@aol.com](mailto:blazehayes@aol.com) or at (719) 572-1052. Training will be provided.

# ~~US THEM WE~~

## News from Social Outreach:

### ELCA support for our neighbors in Haiti

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti last week. Nearly 2,000 people were killed, and many more were injured. Homes were destroyed and roads were blocked but they're still searching for people and uncovering damage. On top of the devastation is their political turmoil after the president was killed. Haiti is also in the path of hurricanes during this hurricane season and was hit by Tropical Storm Grace.

The ELCA has provided support to Haiti for many years. The Lutheran Disaster Response is collecting donations to help in these current crises. If you'd like to donate to the ELCA for this cause, please use the link below.

[\*\*Your gifts will support earthquake survivors in Haiti. Gifts to "Haiti Crisis" will be used in full \(100%\) to assist those affected by the earthquake.\*\*](#)

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### COSILoveYou/God's Work Our Hands

Mark Saturday, October 2nd in your calendars now. Ascension will be part of the City Serve Day organized with COS I Love You in conjunction with many area churches providing volunteers to about 40 organizations! This will be our God's Work Our Hands fall service event. Starting Mon., 8/23, you may go to their website and register to work at one of the several organizations that have requested volunteers. We recommend Mercy's Gate, Family Promise, or Audobon Elementary across the street from our church. We also have 4 slots held for volunteers that would like to volunteer at KPC (there are more spaces but we thought we'd share this wonderful place with new volunteers too). There is a place requesting volunteers to make bunk beds too! Sounds like fun to some of you, I'm sure (Humblewood workshop).

1. If you'd like to volunteer at KPC, please notify Karen Askinas at [kaskinas@gmail.com](mailto:kaskinas@gmail.com) I will add you to one of the spots we have reserved.

2. If you want to sign up on your own at one of our recommended locations or another on the list, *starting Aug 23rd*, go to <https://cosiloveyou.com/cityserve-day/>

a. register to volunteer directly from their list of organizations.

b. You will click on the organization name to register with that organization.

3. Be sure to *select Ascension Lutheran* in the "affiliation" list when you register. It's a drop-down menu and we are listed.

4. The list shows when volunteers are needed. Most are from 9am-noon but some have afternoon openings too.

5. For those that do not want to go on their website and register to volunteer on their own, we will have someone to help with sign ups after church. Look for us at the desk by the main door.

6. Wear your God's Work Our Hands t-shirt!

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**Faster Pastors** are off and running soon! It's the weekend of Sept 10th. The donations will go toward Refugees Services, which is so important right now! Please see the link to donate in the What's Up and the bulletin.

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LFS Innkeepers Dinner is on Thurs., 9/16 at the Flying W Ranch. Social Outreach will buy a table for this event. Please contact Karen Askinas at [kaskinas@gmail.com](mailto:kaskinas@gmail.com) if you'd like to attend.

### RUTH CIRCLE

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:30am for fellowship and casual Bible Study. We will be using the book, *Fierce* 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! Please contact Nancy Shatto for any questions, at 719-243-8978 or [Njshatto@yahoo.com](mailto:Njshatto@yahoo.com).



*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!

# Youth News and Events!



## Confirmation Returns!!!

Confirmation for Ascension middle school youth is back! We meet the first three Wednesdays of each month, beginning September 1st. We're grateful to continue to collaborate with Christ the King Lutheran Church and their youth and families. For more information, contact Deacon Mary at [m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org](mailto:m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org).

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## Save these dates:

October 30  
&  
November 7



Saturday, October 30th - Annual Holiday Bazaar at Ascension Lutheran. Now accepting applications for vendors. Contact Kirsten Johnson at (719)440-5896 for more information. Proceeds benefit the youth traveling to Minneapolis next summer.

Sunday, November 7th - Annual Spaghetti Supper, raffle and Talent show. We hope to have this in person. Be watching for more information! Proceeds benefit the monthly youth events.

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## COMING SOON!

**Keep an eye out for NEW Ascension shirts and hoodies!**

The youth will be taking orders for Ascension shirts SOON! New colors, new styles, SO cool! Proceeds benefit the youth traveling to Minneapolis next summer.

## The Faster Pastors are at it again!

For the 10th year, the faster pastors are running. This year we are raising funds for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. LIRS has helped over 500,000 refugees enter and acclimate to the United States over the last 80 years. Learn more about their work at [www.lirs.org/80-years-of-welcome](http://www.lirs.org/80-years-of-welcome).

The 10 Faster Pastors will be running a relay for about 30 hours and 165 miles from Idaho Springs to (near) Fairplay, to Frisco, to Leadville, to Buena Vista. And they aren't all pastors! This year our own Karin Rose will join the team. Pastor Daniel is also running for the 8th time. You can support the cause by making a check to Ascension with "faster pastor" in the memo or by giving online and selecting the "Faster Pastors" fund. [www.ascensioncos.org/give](http://www.ascensioncos.org/give)

## A COVID Perspective

**John, I've tested positive for COVID.** Not the words you want to hear from the friend you golfed with five days earlier. Within two hours, I went to get tested to see if I was positive for COVID. Then I started thinking about all the people I may have exposed to COVID. That has been my biggest fear during our COVID pandemic – infecting my wife or others. I attended church the day after I was exposed, but that was too early for me to infect others. Three days after I was exposed, I attended Bell Choir practice at Ascension. Thankfully our Choir Director mandated everybody to wear a mask at practice. But before practice, I met with Donna to discuss church business while having a beer with her. Of course we didn't have our masks on during that time. After Bell Choir practice, I had a one-on-one meeting with Ingrid to help her build her Board's budget for 2022. Again, we didn't have our masks on during that meeting. I called Donna and Ingrid to let them know I had been exposed to COVID and that I may have exposed them to the virus. Four days after I was exposed, I called bingo at Terrace Gardens Nursing Home. Thank goodness I wore my mask the entire time I was inside the facility, but I called the Nursing Home to let them know I may have been positive for COVID when I was there. I then went into quarantine with Kathy at our home while we nervously waited for my test results. A week after I was exposed, my prayers were answered when my test result came back negative. I then closed the loop with Donna, Ingrid, and the Nursing Home to let them know that I had not exposed them to COVID. Until now, I have been pretty casual with wearing masks inside even when I've been a part of large groups. **NO LONGER.** I'm not that afraid of catching Covid since I'm vaccinated, but I'm very fearful of infecting somebody such as my wife or a friend. I know the vaccine makes it pretty unlikely that I will catch COVID, but I'm not sure of the chances that I could pass it on to somebody else...particularly to somebody who hasn't had the opportunity to get the vaccine. So why take that chance? Count me now as one who will wear the mask at all indoor group settings. I can tolerate wearing a mask if it may prevent a friend or a child from getting sick.



## Women's Retreat

Registration is now open for Rainbow Trail's Women's Retreat, 8 - 10 October. The theme of the weekend is "What are YOU waiting for." If you want to join me for a weekend of spiritual freedom, fellowship and fun, register at the link below.

<https://www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats/womens-retreats/>

-Gail Tucker [gtucker60@live.com](mailto:gtucker60@live.com) (907) 854-4424

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## GET 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.

**\*\*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.

**\*\*Terrace Gardens Bingo – Prizes** are needed. Please mark items "Bingo Prizes" and place them in 8the Terrace Garden Bingo box located in the cupboards in the Welcome Center. Questions?? 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. *We restarted our bingo with Terrace Gardens in July and it was great to again participate in this fun Outreach program.* 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 because 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 program. *Thank you for your continued support.*

**\*\*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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## Bridge Group Meets September 11

Our Bridge Group will meet on **September 11th starting at 5:30PM**. Please let John or Kathy Hayes know if you plan to play that night. Feel free to contact them at [\(719\) 572-1052](tel:(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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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  
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ts.trinko@gmail.com (newsletter articles)  
**Our Website:** [www.ascensioncos.org](http://www.ascensioncos.org)

**October newsletter deadline: Sept. 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), Stewart Hellem, 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), Carol Thompson, Steve Tompkins, Wanda Wade (friend of Kagarise), Dee Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon.