



Ascension In Action

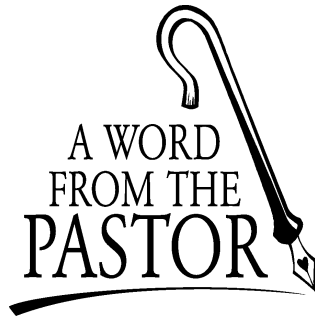
Ascension Lutheran Church

November 2021

Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Weariness and Renewal

We have paid a price this last year and a half of the pandemic. We began being disrupted through the closing of schools, churches and other businesses. It impacted those in service industries much more than others. We responded by going online and generously supporting those in need.



But then this pandemic settled in and we began talking about the “new normal.” But behind the new normal were ongoing costs of sharp differences around masks and vaccines, adjusting to changes in schedule and work, and the losses of people, health and many of the fun things that have brought us joy. We became less connected to groups and friends and more isolated. Looking out over our country we see people quitting jobs in record numbers. One big reason for people quitting in the service sector was having to deal with people who lashed out. We have paid a price and it shows in our higher anger, lower trust levels and sagging hope.

What might help us who are weary? Renewing our faith: Faith that God is bigger than our weariness and frustration, faith that God works healing through loving community and faith that God has a calling for us with a promising future. We have special worship services coming up to help with this. On All Saints on Nov. 7, we will remember our losses and find comfort. For our Healing Service on Nov. 14, we will have pray for those in need. Jesus said, “*Come to me all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*” Matt 11:28

Pastor Dan



December 5 at 9:15



Save the Date!!!

November 21, 2021 from 8:30 – noon and/or 1:00 -4:30

This is Ascension’s opportunity to help build the 2021 Thrivent-Habitat Faith Build home just southwest of Galley and Babcock. We can have 10 people at each shift and lunch will be served

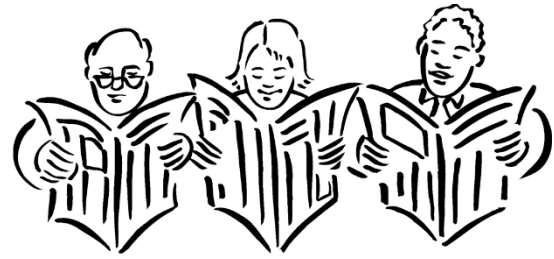
between noon and 1pm. This will be a rewarding time of work, fun and ministry!

Sign up on the kiosk in the fellowship area at church or on-line at revmeme@hotmail.com or call Laurel at 719-550-2882.

Ascension's 2nd Annual Christkindl Fest

Mark your calendars for **Ascension's 2nd Annual Christkindl Fest, Sunday December 12, 4-6pm**. Come and enjoy a festive evening of lights, fire, food, sweet treats and more! This year, we're also excited Biggi's Little Bavaria food truck will be onsite providing the best of the best German food.

CHURCH COUNCIL



- Pastor Dan opened the meeting with a devotion from John 14. He reminded us not to give into fear when things don't go as planned because things work out in Jesus.
- Andrew Gulliksen attended as a guest to provide details on an Evangelism proposal to purchase a more versatile audio system for both indoor and outdoor activities. Council approved the use of gift funds to allow the Evangelism Board to work out the details with Andrew.
- The Council also approved the use of gift funds to support the Inviting Community Team's efforts. The team is led by Annie Saunders-Pirtle and strives to educate and equip the members of Ascension on better ways to invite and welcome people to our community.
- Offerings for the month of September were down. Because our expenses were also lower, we are still in good financial shape.
- Thrivent Choice revenues are significantly lower this year. Donna Crump will investigate how to increase participation.
- Capital replacement funds will be used to cover the insurance deductible for the extensive flood damage to KPC Kid's Place.
- CPC voted on the health benefits package offered to our rostered staff and discussed other expenses that will impact the 2022 budget. We will review and adjust the draft budget, if needed, in November after the estimates of giving are received.
- The Lay Ministry Board will contact members to reconnect with those we haven't heard from during the pandemic. Scott Allen welcomes assistance from those who want to help with this effort.
- Deacon Mary closed the meeting in prayer.

What's Happening

- KPC Kids Place is operating out of the church basement while their facility is repaired.
- The Property and Grounds Board has ordered a new storage shed to help alleviate some storage issues.
- Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the Annual Spaghetti Supper scheduled for November 7th!
- Save the Date! A **Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for **December 5th** in between services. We will offer both an in-person and streaming option for attendance.
- The Christkindl Fest Committee is in full planning mode for this year's festival. Want to get involved? Talk to Deacon Mary Stoneback.
- Thanks to all who represented Ascension at the City Serve/God's Work Our Hands Day, LFS Innkeeper Dinner, and Mosaic Breakfast.
- There is another opportunity to serve our community at the Habitat for Humanity work day on Saturday, November 20th. Talk to Laurel Thorstensen for more details.

It is IHN time again! November 7-19

Like earlier this year we will not be hosting homeless families at church but will still be providing food the 8th-12th and 15th-19th only week days. Please bring the food to church by 5:15 pm, here it will get divided up and brought over to the Day House. If you are unable to make it to church to drop off your food, please let Ruth know and we can have someone come get it from you. We will be hosting five adults, five teenagers (ages 12-15), and four children (ages 2-8).

There will be a sign up at church on the Welcome Desk every Sunday from now until we host. Or if you would like to sign up online please follow this link. <https://tinyurl.com/ihnnov2021> If you have any other questions please email Ruth Albrent-Runnells at ruthalbrent@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of IHN and Family Promise!

Ushers Needed

We are still looking for ushers for our services. If you are interested in becoming an usher for the early or late services, please contact John Hayes at blazehayes@aol.com or at (719) 572-1052. Training will be provided.



Our Endowment Funds in Action

Did you know that Ascension Lutheran Church has three endowment funds? Did you know that these funds exist as an investment on behalf of the congregation? Did you know that the earnings from these funds are available to our ministries, both internal and external?

In the past year, between our General, Youth, and Wessel (seniors) Funds; your Endowment Committee has approved 10 grants totaling \$18,875. These awards have gone to a variety of purposes, serving our internal ministry as well as several external causes.

The only qualification for a grant to be considered is that it meets one of the following criteria:

- 1) Promotes Christian Faith
- 2) Encourages Christian Charity
- 3) Supports Education for Christian Life and Service

In addition, a grant request must be sponsored by one of Ascension's Boards.

Yesterday's congregation members were generous enough to donate towards these endowment funds. It is their past kindness that allows the Endowment Committee to make grants in the present. It will be your kind gifts in the present that will allow the Endowment Committee to make grants in the future.

Please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider making a gift the Ascension Endowment Fund. This can be made through gifts that recognize a birthday or an anniversary. You can also make "in-honor-of" or "in-memoriam" gifts. Finally, larger one-time gifts or bequests can name the Endowment Fund as a recipient for the entire, or a portion of, the sum gifted.

When making any gifts, please specify "Endowment Fund" on your check or electronic donation. From your current Endowment Committee, in support of the future Ascension Endowment, we thank you!

Jerry Dollar
Endowment Committee Chair

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

**Bill Schultz and family & friends at the death of Arlene Schultz.

**Gail Tucker & family at the death of her mother.

Ascension's Handmade, Heartfelt Card Ministry

Ascension's Handmade, Heartfelt Card Ministry has a new recipient for its profits, Lutheran Family Services' Immigrant and Refugee Services.

We made a final donation to The Place with a "My First Apartment" Move-In Kit. This kit benefits homeless youth who are in transition out of their shelter and into their first apartment. It included kitchen and bathroom items along with personal needs (like fingernail clippers) and cleaning supplies. With card makers' contributions, along with card purchasers' (YOU) donations, we were able to make a complete kit per The Place's suggested list. For more info, check out www.ThePlacecos.org.

We appreciate your continued support of the card ministry as we help the new refugees coming into Colorado Springs.



This Little Light of Mine

Thank you for your generous giving and support of the church and next year's children's music program. We greatly appreciate the Estimated Giving Cards that have been received. And, if you have not had a chance to return your card, please prayerfully consider your continued support of the church. You can mail the cards back using the addressed envelope provided, or bring them to church on Sunday, or fill out your intentions electronically at <https://www.ascensioncos.org/2022-stewardship/>. Thanks for your help!

-Stew Crew

RUTH CIRCLE

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30am for fellowship and casual Bible Study. We will be using the book, *Fierce* by Alice Connor and our next chapter discussion will be "Widows". 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, or a book, at 719-243-8978 or Njshatto@yahoo.com.

COMING ADVENT 2021: Ascension's Devotional App

For over twenty years, members have written reflections for Ascension Lutheran Church's Advent Devotional. This long standing tradition is a meaningful way for members of all ages to reflect and share their thoughts on Scripture and the significance of Christ's birth. Each day of the daily devotional traditionally features a Scripture reading, short reflection and closing prayer. The devotional is published both in a printed booklet and online for members to engage in daily reflections from the community. This year, drawing on the many gifts of our congregation, Developer, Patrick DeLoughry and young adult, Ethan Thompson will work together to develop a Devotional Mobile App (iOS and Android) uniquely designed for Ascension Lutheran Church. The Youth Board is eager to include youth and young adults in this effort and would love to get all ages involved. If you would like to participate in this year's Advent Devotional, let Deacon Mary Stoneback know at m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org or call/text 303-475-4886.



Youth News and Events!



November 7

Annual Spaghetti Supper, Variety Show and Raffle will be Sunday November 7, 4pm - 8pm. Tickets are now on sale this Sunday! Adult tickets (\$10 each). Family tickets (\$30). The meal will be served in the church's lower level. To go orders are also available starting at 3:30 pm. You can also attend in person or online, the Variety Show, starting at 6pm. If you would like to donate a basket or items for the raffle, please contact Kirsten Johnson.

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.

DID YOU KNOW???? We have 18 youth and adults signed up to go to the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer - 2022?!? Be watching for more information on who is going and how you can support them!



*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 to these recent contributors:

**Christel Walter, birthday
Phil and Sandy Trent, anniversary**

Ascension Online Directory

The Ascension online directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better! Go to instantchurchdirectory.com or go to the App Store, search for Instant Church Directory and download the free app to begin. You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app. If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact Dennis Bagenstos at dennisbagenstos@gmail.com. And if you haven't submitted a family or personal photo for the directory yet, you can email that to Dennis as well.

Funeral Committee News

I am updating the contact list for the funeral committee. Persons on the contact list receive an email asking for assistance when a funeral is scheduled. Then members can provide food, usually a salad or dessert, or help with set-up/clean-up or serving. If you are interested in helping with receptions or luncheons following a funeral here at Ascension, please contact me by email at lorada6255@live.com or by phone at 719.213.1983. I look forward in hearing from you!

Lorada Shrawder

Ascension's Book Club is going sci-fi! We'll be reading Octavia Butler's 1993 novel "The Parable of the Sower." This dystopian novel imagines a world ruined by climate change and wonders what role faith plays in such a future. The hybrid discussion will be on November 29 at 7:30pm at the church and on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8673682609>)

Questions? Email Pastor Daniel - d.smith@ascensioncos.org. The book is available at the library, on your e-reader, or hopefully at your favorite book store.

Do you like to sing? Chancel choir is back! We will rehearse on Thursday nights from 7:15-8:45pm in the sanctuary. We have plenty of room to space out, and those who are comfortable are encouraged to sing with masks. Please let me know if you are interested in getting a mask designed for singers. Come make a joyful noise! Contact Megan Miller, music@ascensioncos.org

Calling all worship servers. With in-person worship resuming, it is time to begin filling various server roles! If you have an interest in serving as a Lector, Cantor, Acolyte, Greeter, or helping with communion preparation before/after worship, please send an email to Ingrid Daniel at ildaniel@yahoo.com. Even if you have served in particular roles in the past, please still send Ingrid an email in order for us to have a complete roster of servers. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UsvCSlh2vJiYOpR7I-EIQqC_Ww_i6ooKIaYg8uQi3-I/edit?usp=sharing

Connection Card: The weekly connection card is back! When you join us for weekly worship, we encourage you to fill out the weekly connection card on our worship page. This helps us know who's here and keep ... connected! www.ascensioncos.org/worship/worship-online/

Ascension is still collecting gift cards for IHN families. Over \$3,600 in gift cards has already been collected for these families. Thank you. For more information our IHN coordinator is Scott Ewen at sdewenx2@att.net

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.

****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** – 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 if you'd like to help or learn more about this program. *Thank you for your continued support.*

****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.

Bridge Group Meets November 12

Our Bridge Group will meet on **November 12th 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 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.



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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

December newsletter deadline: Nov. 21



Larry Adams (Husband of Teresa, CLC Director), 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), Kim Parker (ALC Quilter), John Plump (friend of Kemmlings), Carlos Quiles (friend of Ron Mohler), Cerne Rieves (ALC Quilter), Rick Rogers, Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer, Warren Slagle, Cathy Stanley (sister-in-law of Marilyn Gulliksen), Carol Thompson, Wanda Wade (friend of Kagarise), Dee Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon & Ben Hayes.