



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

January 2022

Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado



What's Happening

- The Second Annual Christkindl Fest was a success, exceeding the stretch goal of 150 participants. Thank you to all who worked to make this a fun, family event.
- Ascension has a Mobile App for iPhones and Android cell phones. To learn more visit <https://www.ascensioncos.org/alc-mobile>. It was used for daily Advent devotions but we also have plans to continue its use in 2022.
- The church sustained some roof and fence damage from the wind storm on December 15th. KPC Respite Center's fence was also damaged. The Property and Grounds Board is working with our insurance company to make repairs.
- The Worship Board has a job for you! If you are looking for a place to serve, please consider becoming an usher, lector, acolyte, greeter, or communion assistant.
- It's been said time and time again – "Ascension has the best staff!" Thanks to all who helped us show our appreciation by contributing to the staff Christmas gifts.

Christmas Gift Tags

This year we partnered with *One Nation Walking Together* to provide presents for children who live on reservations. THANK YOU to everyone who participated! Because of you, 50 children were able to wake up on Christmas to find a present under the tree.

Board of Social Outreach

Years Keep Rolling By

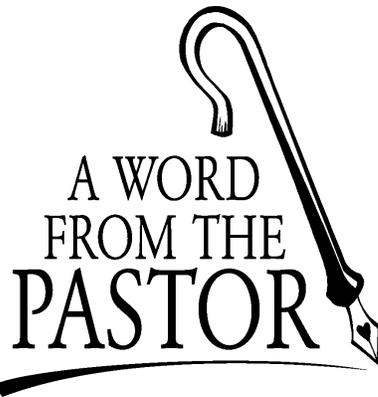
When I realized it was almost 2022, I thought of how time passes and Psalm 90. The psalmist wrote how we are like the grass that flourishes in the morning but withers by the evening. The years keep rolling by. We are not just bystanders to time's passing but experience the impact of passing time on our bodies and souls.

In view of our short and uncertain lives, the psalmists asked God to teach us to number our days in order that we may gain a wise heart. Recognizing how fast life passes can bring to see how precious our time is and use it wisely.

In view of our short and uncertain lives, the psalmist asked to be satisfied with the steadfast love of the Lord. God's love is eternally and consistently there for us all. We can either be people who find satisfaction in what is eternal or not. Many changes will come and some of those will be negative in 2022. Knowing the steadfast love of the Lord always is there for you brings a satisfaction through all blessings and challenges.

In view of our short and uncertain lives, the psalmist asked that God prosper the work of our hands. At times our efforts can be for nothing. We try things that just don't work. We want our efforts to have some good lasting impact. At the beginning of this New Year, I invite you to join the psalmist in prayer: "Dear God, for us who know time passes all too quickly, we ask that you give us a wise heart to use it well. Help us find satisfaction in your steadfast love. Bless our efforts so that they have a positive impact. Amen."

Pr. Dan



CHURCH COUNCIL



- The CPC did not meet for the month of December.
- We held a congregation meeting on December 5th to approve the 2022 budget. The congregation approved the budget after amending the CPC's recommended budget. The amendment added an additional \$6,125 to expected offerings to cover staff salaries without a cut in pay or benefits.



*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 our recent contributions:

Phil and Sandy Trent

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

**Kathy Chewakin at the death of her Grandmother.

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.

Online Worship on Sundays continues

Join us for worship on Sunday at 10:30 online! www.ascensioncos.org/worship/worship-online Tune in at 10:25 am for announcements and videos to prepare for worship. Not able to join on Sunday? Watch the service later on our YouTube channel.

Mask Guidelines

With the delta variant and coming Omicron variant of Covid-19, Ascension is still asking everyone to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. Thank you for helping us protect one another.

Help Afghan Refugees!

Lutheran Family Services is in need of cultural mentor teams for Afghan refugees being resettled in Colorado Springs. Cultural mentor teams commit to 4-6+ hours of volunteering per month for 6 months with a new refugee family. Each team is made up of 4-6 people. Are you interested in being part of a team from Ascension? Contact Pastor Daniel - d.smith@ascensioncos.org, 634-1694

GET INVOLVED...

****Ruth Circle:** All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30am in the Conference Room, for fellowship and casual Bible Study. We are using the book Fierce by Alice Connor. If you are new to Ascension we invite you to join us. Please contact Nancy Shatto for any questions at 719-243-8978 or Njshatto@yahoo.com.

****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

Our Bridge Group will meet on a **TBD date in January 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.



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. We expect to meet 14 October 2021.

Contact: Nancy Shatto, 719-243-8978
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

Men's Bible Study

Pastor Dan is leading a Men's Bible study that will focus on understanding the scripture and allowing time to discuss its implication.

Meets: 2nd Monday at church 7:00 pm.

Contact: Pastor Dan Holt, 719-634-1694
or office@ascensioncos.org

Tuesday Afternoon Serendipity

Six-week studies with topics decided by the group. Meets September through May.

Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 3 pm in the church library.

Contact: Rich Johnson, 719-264-8196
or jrajohnson@aol.com

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 jrajohnson@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 jrajohnson@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



AIA January 2022 Issue #1
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

February newsletter deadline: Jan. 23



Larry Adams (Husband of Teresa, CLC Director), Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Mary Ann Bond, Allen Brooks, Brad Buhler, Sonny Campbell, George Candea, Michael Foret, 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, Phyllis Sands, Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer, 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.