



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

March 2022

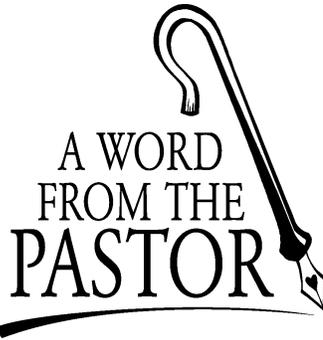
Doing Lent Following Jesus

We have Lent coming a bit late this year. Ash Wednesday is March 2. Lent is a season where we follow Jesus to the cross. Jesus taught his disciples that those who seek to find life in this world will lose it and those who lose life for his sake will find it. Seeking to find life means valuing first and foremost the good stuff of this world. Jesus questioned why we store up treasures in this world where moth and rust consume, and thieves break in and steal. As much as we can appreciate this life and value its good things, it is easy to slide into seeing them as what is most important.

Lent is our time of following Jesus in his losing of life and finding it. For me, that means accepting that I am on journey where I must lose my life and asking what is worth losing it for. One of Lenten practice is to give something up. One way we do that as a congregation is to give some money up for world hunger. In my travels, I kept seeing examples of how poor some people were. For instance, women can walk miles carrying their few bunches of bananas into the city to sell them for very little.

I think that we are well served to use Lent to give up some time for spiritual practice. One way we do that as a community is to join worship times on Wednesdays and Holy Week. I would invite you to add some add spiritual practice of prayer, Bible reading and devotions. We have lots of seasonal devotional books at our welcome center. In a world that is all about finding life and storing up treasures, we need all the support we can get to walk with Jesus remembering that in losing our lives we do find life – life in love and doing good for others. In our Lenten journey, we can begin to experience that there is something eternal in this life that is short and uncertain.

Pr. Dan



Let's go FISHING!!!

The focus for this year's World Hunger Drive is Fish Farms. **Give your neighbors a fish, and they'll eat for a day. Give your neighbors a community fish farm, and they'll eat for a lifetime.** A fish farm begins with a pond, training and a few fast-growing fish, such as tilapia. The entire community benefits from a longtime supply of fish, rich in vitamins, minerals and protein.

Fish Farms through the ELCA Good Gifts program are \$250.00 and our goal is for 30. Shares may be donated in any amount. We have a friendly challenge with Grace Lutheran to raise the most fish! The families receiving the Fish Farms are the real winners, so we're hoping Ascension helps the most families. Ascension has a reputation for being generous and making a big difference in projects like this. Thank you!

Some of you like to go fishing, some of you are fishers of men, some of you like to eat fish, some of you swim like a fish, some of you own fish, some of you like stories of loaves and fishes, some of you don't like fish but also don't like that our brothers and sisters in Christ struggle with hunger. The Board of Social Outreach is hosting the coffee hour on March 6th and hope to feed you as well as inspire you to help buy fish and no, we will not be serving fish at 9:00 in the morning! If you have a favorite way to enjoy tilapia, bring your ideas to share.

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will not be meeting March 10, 2022. We will resume April 14, 2022 with the chapter "Mary of Magdala". All ladies are invited to join us at 9:30am for fellowship and casual Bible Study. 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.

- Deacon Mary opened the meeting with a Lectio Devina scripture reading.
- Our treasurer, Russ Johnson, reported lower than budgeted expenses and a \$3,000 giving deficit for the month of January.
- The CPC prepared for the annual congregation meeting by agreeing to nominate Calvin and Lisa Wulf for the Synod Assembly, Arlayne McKee to the nominating committee and confirming the recommended use of an additional \$11,244 end of year surplus. The recommendation was to placing 50% in the Capital Replacement Fund and to place 50% in a dedicated fund to help with the 2023 budget.
- John Hayes provided a Strategic Planning Update, highlighting the accomplishments from 2017 to the present.
- The council approved an additional \$3250 from the large gift fund to pay the final installment for the new sign out in front of the church on Circle Drive.
- Calvin Wulf was approved as the newest member of the Endowment Committee.
- Pastor Daniel closed the meeting in prayer.



LENT 2022

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday March 2, with Easter Celebration on Sunday April 17. This year's Lenten Theme is **Life: Broken But Beautiful**. For Wednesdays in Lent, each week will feature a 5-minute conversation and a 5-minute homily. The conversations will explore and reflect on the areas we experience hurt, loss and dissension in our own lives, families, and world. They'll also explore how we faithfully move forward in hope, healing, and understanding.

Lent Midweek Services—March 9-April 6, 7 pm. Join in person or on YouTube for midweek services. More information to come in regards to Soup Suppers. And stay tuned for more information about **alcmobile App Lenten Conversations, Lenten Bags, v. 2.0** and a **Shrove 'Sunday' Dessert Reception!**



What's Happening

- Lent begins March 2nd. Use the Alcmobile App to follow conversations on our theme: *Life: Broken But Beautiful*. Midweek services will be held March 9th – April 6th.
- You can pick up a Lent Bag and enjoy some treats during the fellowship hour on February 27th.
- Ascension has a history of being very generous for the World Hunger campaign. This Lenten season will focus on providing fish farms to those in need. Keep an eye out for more information on this project from the Board of Social Outreach.
- The Ascension Book Club is reading "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans. Find the book and learn more at rachelheldevans.com/inspired. Pastor Daniel will lead a discussion on the book on March 28th at 7:30 p.m.
- Consider joining the Men's Thursday Morning Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Wooglin's Deli (corner of Barnes and Oro Blanco).
- We are still in need of ushers for both services. Contact our lead usher, Rob Koehler if you feel called to serve in this capacity.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

- **The family & friends of Dolores McClaren at her death.
- **The family of Betty Pflibsen, a long-time member, who died living near family in Tucson, Arizona.



*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!

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.

KPC Respite Center Update

We are finally near the point we can start renovating the facility. Our contractor, Tony Kinter, who was the contractor for the South End (CLC) project a few years ago submitted his proposal per Ascension's work statement. As anticipated, it was higher than the revised insurance estimate. This is due to a number of factors including: significantly increased prices for materials (drywall, lumber, electrical and plumbing parts, cabinets, etc.), the workmanship in the 1960's era house that does not meet today's safety and appearance standards, and the need to resolve some longstanding issues regarding the Center's certification (e.g. shades with strings).



Ascension's CPC allocated an additional \$6,600 last year and a generous member has provided (\$4,000). The plan is to aggressively pursue multiple sources for additional funds from Ascension, LFSRM, the community, and grants. In the interim, we will proceed with completing renovation of the upper level so that the KPC Respite Center can return there and provide at least the same level of services it currently does in the Church's Lower Level.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at ayenbill@gmail.com or (719) 332-5390.

Bill Ayen, Project Manager

Property and Grounds Update:

Below you will see that there are some big projects that have presented themselves since last fall. Property and Grounds has been putting in many hours to address these issues. In order to save funds, we are doing a variety of projects ourselves. With this, we need volunteers to help with fencing and upcoming construction support at KPC (painting, light construction, etc.).

The fence will be scheduled for Saturday mornings from 9:00-1:00 every two to three weeks. This fence repair will take four or five weekends. KPC work will begin within the next month and take a total of two months. Our hope is to complete this workload before the end of April!

Please contact Brad Chewakin at chewakin@msn.com or via cell at 719.237.6801 if you are able to help our team with fence and KPC work.

KPC: Bill Ayen is operating as our representative with the flood and subsequent work that is being done at KPC. We are finalizing details to begin construction in the near future. In the meantime, KPC is operating out of our basement, which has worked out very well. The wind storm blew down about 15 fence sections at KPC and we will be gradually working to repair these.

ALC:

- The recent wind storm resulted in some damage with the largest insult being a 50-foot pine tree on the north property line falling. The trunk did miss the church, but branches damaged the gutters and fascia. Rich Gaona and Louis Smith trimmed and cut up the tree which was no small task. The Property and Grounds team cleaned up the wood and branches. Repairs to the gutters will occur in the near future once we can get estimates for work. There were many sections of fence that blew down as well and our team is gradually repairing this as time and weather permits.
- More recently we experienced a leak in the roof above the narthex. Roofing companies have been contacted and we are waiting for responses and estimates and will be evaluated and repaired by professionals.
- Be looking for a spring work day in April! We will have plenty of work to do this spring.
- Utilities costs have been a moving target the past two years, which has made budgeting difficult. You likely notice these increases as well. There are two special assessments in place and both will be phasing out before the end of May. This appears to be a new norm and it primarily tied to fluctuating natural gas prices due to weather events.

Blessings,
Brad Chewakin, Property and Grounds Director
719.237.6801

Support Group Opportunity

An informal support group for care givers or family of loved ones with dementia/significant memory loss meets at Ascension, twice monthly. Contact Carol Barton-Godec at 719-550-9202 for more information.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet on **March 19 at 5:30 pm**. 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.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth News!

HS Youth & Easter Sunrise Prep (1st & 4th Sundays)

High school youth meet the first and last Sunday of each month to prepare for the Easter Sunrise service on Sunday April 17. We'll mix it up from time to time and so it won't only be planning, but time to chat, do service projects and have some fun in the process! Meet in the high school room, across from the CLC restrooms. Questions? Contact Deacon Mary at (303) 475-4886 or email at m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org

* * * * *



GARAGE SALE!! It's time to start your spring cleaning and prepare for the annual youth garage sale! As we approach the season of Lent, there have often been suggestions of donating items, instead of/or in addition to giving up something for Lent. Date is yet to be determined, but will be some time in June. We are hoping to start collecting items at the church after Easter. Watch for more information. Contact Kirsten Johnson at (719) 440-5896 with questions or if you need help in picking up items to bring in. Please NO furniture, large items, s, chemicals, blinds, or other items donation sites won't accept.

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 2022 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 – Prizes** are needed. Please mark items "Bingo Prizes" and place them in 8th 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 if you'd like to help or learn more about this Outreach 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.



AIA March 2022 Issue #3
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

April newsletter deadline: March 23

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Larry Adams (Husband of Teresa, CLC Director), Mary Ann Bond, Allen Brooks, Brad Buhler, Sonny Campbell, George Candea, Andrea Gallant (sister of Gabrielle Brown), Elaine Glover, Bev Godec, Stewart Hellem, Pam Landry, Wilda Moore, 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, Cathy Stanley (sister-in-law of Marilyn Gulliksen), Carol Thompson, Marilyn Thompson (Mother of Jon Thompson), Wanda Wade (friend of Kagarise), Dee Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon, Ben Hayes, Matt Hayes & Raelyn Kagarise