



# Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

June 2022

## Let's be Neighborly!

In the church we talk a lot about helping our neighbors. Drawing from stories like the Good Samaritan, the concept of the neighbor breaks us from our individualism. It pushes us to imagine neighbors near and far. Luther tells us we love God by loving our neighbor.

So given all of the talk about neighbors, it's probably also good to think more about our neighborhood. Ascension has members from all over the county. It's a testament to the worship, work, and community of Ascension, and to your commitment to that community, that so many of you drive so far to be part of Ascension. But we are also a congregation rooted in a specific place. The neighborhoods on either side of N. Circle Dr. are different and diverse. Through CLC, Audubon, the local HOA, and KPC, we have an opportunity to connect with our local neighbors. Why? To share the love of God in the place we've been given; to invite others to be part of the same community we all love; to be good neighbors.

To that end, we're sending out our first neighborhood newsletter this summer. We hope it's the first of many. I'd like to share the opening letter of that newsletter with you. As Mr. Rogers' once said: Won't you be my neighbor?

Dear neighbor,

It's time we met! My name is Daniel Smith, and I'm a pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church, just down the road from you at Circle and Van Buren. I'm also your neighbor! I grew up in the Longfellow/Tesla and Country Club neighborhoods, and I now live about a block from Audubon Elementary. You may have seen me out walking the dog, going for a jog, or playing with my daughter on the playground.

I love the neighborhoods of N. Circle. I love the schools, the homes, the parks, and the people. And I LOVE our church. Ascension is committed to service

A WORD  
FROM THE  
PASTOR

in the Springs and around the world and to building community around the gracious, boundless love of God.

Our hope with Full Circle is to not only share with you ministries and activities at Ascension, but also lift up some of great people and places of N. Circle. In this edition you'll hear from Principal Aaron Ford of Audubon, a vibrant neighborhood school. You'll also learn about Ascension's Faith and Art Camp – a new summer camp for kids.

As spring turns to summer, I pray you are filled with life and joy. And, as I said at the start, I hope we get a chance to meet sometime soon, be it out on a walk or here at church.

Your neighbor,  
Pastor Daniel Smith



**LUTHERAN  
FAMILY SERVICES**  
Rocky Mountains

## Shopping For Change, Saturday, June 4, 2022

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) is offering an opportunity to learn more about their programs in Colorado Springs, learn how you can support the needs of their clients, explore the Ivywild School marketplace, plus with the ticket get a drink from Bristol Brewing. Cost is \$15 for adults, kids are free.

Kids activities will include an opportunity to learn about LFSRM programs and games. Ivywild School is at 1604 South Cascade Avenue. The event will be open from 2:00 – 6:00 PM on Saturday, June 4. You are welcome to come anytime and explore the LFSRM displays and Ivywild School. You can go to [www.lfsrm.org](http://www.lfsrm.org) or <https://give.lfsrm.org/event/shopping-for-change/e401417> to register or donate.

- The CPC met in person and Deacon Mary opened the meeting with a devotion. We all gave thanks to God for something we are thankful.
- With Russ Johnson not available, Jason Moore provided a financial report. Offerings continue to be lower than budgeted. Additionally, we still have \$24,000 in unallocated gift funds.
- Andy Saunders, Director of Evangelism, shared his plans for a Communication Improvement Team. The Team will be comprised of those who work on communications. The team will streamline our dissemination of information and create a visually more appealing product.
- Dennis Bagenstos, provided a Nominating Committee Update. He is looking for a few more team members. Some teams are considering a rotation leadership model.
- Pastor Dan closed the meeting in prayer.

### Art & Faith Camp June 20-24

This summer, Ascension will host a summer Art & Faith Camp June 20-24, 1:30pm-5:30pm. The camp is open to children who have completed Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Faith & Art Camp registration is live at <https://www.ascensioncos.org/camp2022/>



We look forward to engaging children in their faith through the gift of the arts. Whether your child enjoys painting, singing, dancing or video, there's something for everyone!

We're also still looking for volunteers for the camp – let Pastor Daniel or Deacon Mary know if you're interested.

### RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will not meet in June or July. We will resume August 11, 2022 at 9:30am. The book we will be using is "Just like Jesus" by Max Lucado. Please contact Nancy Shatto for any questions, or a book, at 719-243-8978 or Njshatto@yahoo.com.



## What's Happening

- Pastor Dan will take the last half of his sabbatical from June 26 – August 24<sup>th</sup>
- The Faith and Art Camp will be June 20-24, 1:30-5:30. The camp will provide school aged children a chance to strengthen their understanding of God's love for them in a creative and meaningful way. The camp will in place of a Vacation Bible School program this year.
- A day-long Silver Key Senior Summit is planned for June 15<sup>th</sup>. Learn more at <https://www.silverkey.org/senior-summit>
- A Congregation Meeting is planned for June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. You may attend in person or online.



*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!



### Save the Date – Ascension at the Vibes Baseball Game

For the past many years, Ascension has attended a Sky Sox/Vibes baseball game as a group. We sing the National Anthem at the beginning of the game at home plate and then we sit together in the Picnic Area down the right field line where we have a nice picnic-style meal and enjoy each other's company. We've generally had about 25 of us at these events. This year, we'll be attending the Vibes game on August 7<sup>th</sup>. **The game will start at 5:05 PM which is a change from previous years.** The cost for the meal and to watch the game will be \$29 for adults and \$20 for children. We'll have sign-up sheets when we get a little closer to the date of the game. If you have any questions, you can talk with John Hayes at church or you can call him at (719) 572-1052.

## April 2022 Financial Report

For the month, offerings were a little less (\$3,716) than budget. We saw a sharp increase (\$1,643) in Thrivent Choice dollars. Total operating revenue finished at \$72,286. This small shortfall (compared to budget) was more than offset by operating expenses less (\$6,761) than budget. All resulting in a positive (\$4,169) for the month. We are bottom line positive (\$20,578) for the year; in part, because some have already donated their annual estimate. Another factor is diligent management of expenses. Thank you for your generous contribution of time, talent and treasure! We are changing lives in the community.

– Stewardship Team

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## KPC Respite Center Update

Isn't the renovation about done??? We are making great progress. The main level is ready for painting and then installation of cabinets and floor coverings. The basement will have new electrical wiring and drywall installed in the next few days. Now is a good time to make donations to offset the purchase of items not covered in the scope of the insurance (e.g., window coverings, washer and dryer, cubbies, microwave, dishwasher, various shelving, etc.). See a separate announcement for the LFSRM Shopping for Change event on June 4. You can also donate directly to LFSRM ([www.lfsrm.org](http://www.lfsrm.org)). If you specify KPC Kids Place the donation will qualify for the Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit which returns 50% of the donation as a credit against the 2022 Colorado tax due. Or, you can donate directly to Ascension – indicate KPC Respite Center Project on your check.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at [ayenbill@gmail.com](mailto:ayenbill@gmail.com) or (719) 332-5390. Bill Ayen, Project Manager.

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## Silver Key Senior Summit, Wednesday, June 15, 10AM-4PM

This coming June 15, Silver Key of Colorado Springs is offering the community a Senior Summit. The event will be held at The Antlers Downtown (4 S Cascade Ave). This event is more than an expo, it's a Summit experience! The purpose is to provide the region with a forum for seniors and their families to connect with area resources and learn and discuss common issues and seek solutions to challenges and changes that come with the universal life experience of aging, which includes everyone.

## Steps to registering for the Expo & Lunch:

- All are invited at ALC to register at: <https://www.silverkey.org/>
  - Choose the **Lunch & Learn Ticket** for \$25. We'll plan to gather as a group for lunch.
  - Learn more about the expo at <https://www.silverkey.org/senior-summit/>
  - Please let Deacon Mary know once you've registered ([m.stoneback@gmail.com](mailto:m.stoneback@gmail.com) or 303.475.4886)
  - Please contact Deacon Mary for any financial needs. Looking forward to engaging the day with all who can attend!
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## Summer Office Hours

While we go to one service, the office hours will change as well. The office will be open Monday-Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm, and be closed on Friday. If you do have an emergency on Friday you can call church and leave a message. Ruth will be checking the voicemails at 12:00pm.

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## Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet on a **TBD date in June 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](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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## BECOME INVOLVED...

**\*\*Ruth Circle:** All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month (Not June & July) at 9:30am in the Conference Room, for fellowship and casual Bible Study. 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](mailto: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! Or if you are interested in starting up in the Fall, contact Darcy Ayen, 719-351-0776.

**\*\*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.

## BECOME INVOLVED (continued)

**\*\*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 9-11 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](mailto: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.

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# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Youth News!



**Garage Sale Items**, we are collecting donation for the Youth Garage Sale. You can bring them to church and put them in the library under the white board. If you have any questions about what is acceptable or not please contact Kirsten Johnson, [kirstenej94@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenej94@gmail.com).

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## Update: Summer Youth Service Trip to Appalachia, July 17-23

In place of the ELCA National Youth Gathering, the HS youth are participating in a Bridging Border's Service trip through Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp to Appalachia. The youth will be going to Bell County, Kentucky! Thank you for your continued prayers and support as the group gears up for the week of service July 17-23.

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## Lay Leadership Structure Proposal

In addition to presenting a new Lay Leadership Roster for approval, the Congregation Planning Committee will recommend some lay leadership structure changes at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Congregation Meeting. The recommendations stem from a study conducted by a team of congregation members.

### Leadership Assessment Team

Jon Thompson – Lead  
Greg Gulliksen  
Rich Johnson  
Kim Knoche  
Sue Trinko  
Pastor Daniel

### Why was the team formed?

As part of our on-going strategic planning, the Congregation Planning Committee (also known as the Council) formed the team to assess our current lay leadership structure to see if it is optimal to support the new Mission and Vision Statements along with our strategy elements.

**Mission Statement:** In God's grace, Ascension creates faithful community

**Vision Statement:** Transformed by God's grace, the people of Ascension shine God's light into the darkness.

### Strategic Planning Strategy Elements

1. Belonging
2. Faith formation
3. Purposeful Living

### Team Scope

- How might we change our lay leadership structure to better accomplish our mission?
- How could our lay leadership process be more effective, more efficient, and less burdensome on busy volunteers?

### Leadership Assessment Team Process

- The team read a book, *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss.
- They also conducted interviews with many members who have held past and present leadership positions.

## Two Types of Power Delegated to Leadership

1. **Governance:** Behind-the-scenes work that keeps the church running.

Examples: Set Agenda for Council Meetings, Drafting Personnel Policy, Long-term Planning, Supervision and Performance Reviews, Budgeting, Maintain Financial Accountability

2. **Ministry:** the work of the church

Examples: Sunday School, Worship, Family Promise (IHN), World Hunger Drive, Chriskindl Fest, Faith and Art Camp, Youth Activities, Evangelism, Children's Learning Center

### Key Discovery

The Team found many people serving at Ascension receive a high sense of purpose and satisfaction from doing their specific ministry work; however, they felt governance duties kept them from doing the work they envisioned when they agreed to serve.

## Recommendations

- **Rename "Boards" to "Teams"**
  - More representative of how we operate
- **Empower Executive Committee (EC) to handle governance work**
  - Members of EC include:
    - President
    - Vice President
    - Treasurer
    - Secretary
    - Pastors
- **Council (CPC) serves as a standing focus group/sounding board for the Executive Committee while focusing on their own Team's individual ministries**
  - Keeps Ministry Teams engaged with the Executive Committee
  - Less governance frees up Teams to focus on their ministry
  - Directors maintain ability to provide input, vote on large decisions and constitutionally required decisions
- **Encourage Ministry Teams to use task forces/committees more often to accomplish ministry tasks**
  - We've had success with this format.
  - Examples include: Strategic Planning Call Committee, Belonging Pathways Committee, Nominating Committee, Cristkindl Fest Committee

- **Worship, Youth and Lay Ministry Teams will no longer supervise staff members.**
  - Pastors supervise non-rostered staff
  - EC supervises rostered staff
  - Children's Learning Center (CLC) Director supervises CLC staff
  - CLC Cabinet supervises CLC Director
- **Create a Human Resource Committee (reports to EC) to focus on staffing, compensation, and supervision**
- **Children's Learning Center (CLC) Cabinet will no longer report to the Education Team**
  - It will be a freestanding committee reporting to the Congregation Planning Committee (Council)
  - CLC Cabinet Director will be term limited, similar to Council Directors
  - CLC Director/CLC Cabinet Director will report quarterly to Council to facilitate member engagement with the Center
- **Formalize a summer retreat for staff and council members to set goals and plan for the coming year**
  - Executive Committee sets agenda
  - Use to plan for the coming year prior to setting budget

## **Examples of Governance Responsibilities**

### **Executive Committee (EC)**

- Draft policies for CPC review/vote
- Draft budget for CPC review/vote
- Draft staffing changes for CPC review/vote
- Run Annual Planning Retreat
- Oversee income/expenses of congregation

### **CPC**

- Provide feedback on draft EC proposals
- Final approval of policies, staffing changes and budget recommendation
- Receive and understand monthly financial statements
- Participate in annual planning retreat

### **Ministry Teams**

- Submit Team budget requests
- Provide input to policies affecting their ministry area

## **Anticipated Outcomes**

- Council meetings reduced from monthly to around 4-6 per year
- Reduced meetings will allow for more involvement from members with busy schedules
- Increased congregation participation in areas that match individual interests and passion
- Congregation feels more connected to our mission
- Each person is able to express their faith in a meaningful way
- Increased service to our community
- Each person feels Ascension is a place where they can grow in their faith
- Everyone finds an avenue to serve

## **Questions?**

- Donna Crump, CPC President
- [dacrump.dc@gmail.com](mailto:dacrump.dc@gmail.com) or (719) 510-7903



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**Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
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**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

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**Our Website:** [www.ascensioncos.org](http://www.ascensioncos.org)

**July newsletter deadline: June 22**



Doris Ayen (Sister-in-law of Bill Ayen), Mary Ann Bond, Allen Brooks, Brad Buhler, Sonny Campbell, George Candea, Elaine Glover, Bev Godec, Helen Hedemark, Stewart Hellem, Bill Johnson, Bob Kelly, Pam Landry, Betty Leiseth, Wilda Moore, Michael Noble Jr. (friend of the Trents), John Plump (friend of Kemmlings), Sandt Nielsen (former member), Carlos Quiles (friend of Ron Mohler), Cerne Rieves (ALC Quilter), Rick Rogers, Mary Ann Saunders (Mother of Andy), Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer (friend of Trents), 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, Matt Hayes & Raelyn Kagarise