



# Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

October 2022

## From Incognito to In the Community

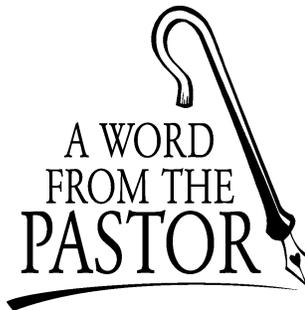
Last spring we ran a little experiment. We decided to publish our very first neighborhood newsletter – “Full Circle.” I’ve talked about Full Circle before here and elsewhere. It was an opportunity to connect with neighbors, to share about Ascension, and to highlight another neighborhood organization – Audubon Elementary.

It also had my picture on it. Which became quite annoying to look at as we sorted thousands of these short newsletters. But that picture had another strange effect: A few folks in the neighborhood recognized me. While walking the dog or walking to church or walking Zora to school (I walk a lot), I’d say hi to folks and they’d know who I was. It was weird!

Now, I’m far from some sort of local celebrity, as it would be foolish to think everyone who got that newsletter read it so thoroughly that Ascension – and my goofy mug – is now well known to them. But it has changed my perspective a bit. I no longer walk the neighborhood incognito, as just a random person on the sidewalk. Instead, I walk knowing that I am a pastor and member of Ascension, and others might see me that way.

I’ll confess I think I used to believe that being incognito gave me a certain freedom. The freedom that comes with anonymity. In truth, it’s much freer to be myself than to be anonymous. It’s much freer to be known than to be unknown. Because you get to be you, and you get to be you where you live. And you get to be you trusting that God loves *you*.

By now you’ve likely heard a lot of talk about our Inviting Community team and budding efforts at Ascension. I’m excited for this opportunity to reach out to the neighborhoods nearby and invite them to know and explore Ascension. But as I discovered this last summer,



I’m also excited for us to be who we are in the community – not an incognito community, but a vibrant, faithful, caring group of folks. I hope you explore the transition from incognito to in the community in your own ways, and find freedom in doing so.

God bless,  
Pastor Daniel

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## God’s Work, Our Hands October 9

Join us for God’s Work, Our Hands on October 9 following the late service. We will gather for a potluck lunch followed by projects at the KPC Kids’ Place yard and in the church for our quilting group. The sign-up sheet is at the welcome desk.

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## KPC Respite Center Update

After almost a full year the staff was able to obtain their new license and begin operations in the renovated space on Friday, September 16. They are excited about being able to care for the children in such a great space with many improvements that provide an environment where they can better meet the needs of the children in their care. The staff thanks all those who helped during the past year and who provided support for the renovations:

- Ascension Lutheran Church, Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains, and individual donors for their monetary support.
- Ascension for providing the church’s Lower Level as a temporary space for the Respite Center and those who were inconvenienced by not having access to the space.
- Those who helped move the contents back into the facility and who helped recycle unneeded items.
- And, for the many prayers that were offered in support of this program.

Bill Ayen, Project Manager

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# CHURCH COUNCIL/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Our Council did not meet in September because our Teams were focusing on developing budget inputs for 2023. Their inputs are due by the end of September. In the October and November Council meetings, we'll finalize the 2023 budget to present to our Congregation in December for approval. The Executive Committee is developing charters for the Human Resources (HR) and Organ Replacement Committees. More to follow in future newsletters on both of these committees.



## What's Happening

Activities are back to normal (whatever that may be after 2+ years of a pandemic) for our church. Church services have gone back to 8:00 and 10:30 with the latter service being streamed for those who cannot attend in person. Sunday school for children and adults have restarted. KPC finally got their licenses renewed and they've moved their operations back to the renovated building south of our upper parking lot.

### Activity Reports from the Teams:

**Pastor Dan** reports he's been getting up to speed after his sabbatical – still reconnecting with our teams/boards. He is working with Stewardship to get our campaign moving and Inviting Community Team as it is coming to the time where they will begin to interact with us more and lead listening times.

**Scott Ewen** reported **Church Properties and Grounds** is working off of a long "to-do" list including the following:

- Getting proposals for tree removal at the church and KPC properties
- Repairing fire alarm system
- Garbage disposal repair
- Installing storm doors at KPC

- Lighting fixtures repairs
- Clean gutters
- Toilet repairs
- Locket / keying upgrades throughout building
- Light switch replacement
- Repaired KPC mailbox signage
- Flooring repairs at CLC
- Finish painting the rear tool shed

Endowment (Julie Burton) only meets quarterly and due to the unexpected change in committee chair and seeking a 5<sup>th</sup> committee member, we have not met yet. The endowment fund did supply funds for Pastor Daniels' anniversary and the KPC reopening via email funding requests.

**Lay Ministry (Marcia Oltrogge)** is involved with planning for the Women's Retreat on Oct 8, 2022 from 9-4 at the church as well as Reformation.

**Social Outreach (Sue Trinko)** reported that tables for September Innkeeper's Dinner and October's Mosaic Breakfast were filled with generous members.

**Stewardship (Paul Just)** is working on the Stewardship Drive by preparing the Ask Letter Packet that was recently sent out.

**Worship (Ingrid Daniel)** is working on the budget, and a survey about the one service this summer.

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## Lutheran World Relief School Kits Update

108 LWR School Kits have been assembled and are ready to be sent off. Thanks go to a Thrivent Action Team grant, the quilters for sewing all the bags, Marcia Oltrogge for putting the cord in each bag and donating supplies, the confirmation class for assembling all the bags.

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**Interested in learning more about or becoming a member of Ascension?** Or, just want to learn more about us? Consider yourself invited to our class series "Discover Ascension." We will learn about ALC's role in our community, our history and a little about what we believe, and get to know some wonderful people. This series is comprised of 3 classes which will begin Sunday, October 2 through Sunday October 16. We will meet in the conference room at 9:15 to 10:15 (Sunday School time) just to the left of the office door (Room 203). We'd love to have you join us! Any questions, please call the church office (634-1694) or Andy Saunders (505-4557) or [andy.saunders@rustco.com](mailto:andy.saunders@rustco.com)

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## From the Musicians -

Come join our musical groups at Ascension! We have lots of opportunities to be involved and provide music for worship. Come join Choir (Thursday at 7:15 pm), Handbells (Thursday at 6 pm), Kids Choir (Sunday mornings between services). We always have space for soloists both instrumental and vocal. See Megan or Scott if you are interested.

Ever wonder where the hymns come from? There is actually a wealth of information on each hymn. Next time you open the hymnal look below each hymn and you will see Author/Composer information on the right and on the left is information about the name of the tune and a bunch of little numbers. What do those numbers mean, do you suppose? Watch this space next month for more.

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## ~~US/THEM~~ – WE Social Outreach Update

You may wonder what the Social Outreach Team at Ascension does. Back in the early days of the Church, we came under severe financial duress. A congregational meeting was to decide the fate of Ascension: would we close our doors? During that meeting, a parishioner suggested that we don't close our doors. In fact, this person suggested we commit 10% of our offerings to help others in need. Decades later, Ascension's mission "A Community of Grace Called to Serve" embodies that hope and faith of our early members.

We still commit at least 10% of our offerings to Social Outreach, which is tasked with fulfilling that mission through financially supporting many organizations and causes. Currently, that includes Lutheran World Relief, Mosaic, Lutheran Family Services, Mercy's Gate, World Hunger, Family Promise, Rainbow Trails, Thrivent Builds, Fair Trade, ELCA Disaster Relief, and One Nation Walking Together. And we *do* make a difference for these organizations! Here's is but one thank-you...from One Nation Walking Together:

"Dear Folks,  
'A generous person will prosper...' Proverbs 11:25,  
shared by Linda Rous, Iroquois Elder.

Your generosity will pay great dividends in love, hope, self-worth and survival for those in dire need of our help and blessings. Thanks to all of you."

Thank you for your generosity, blessing many in our world. The Social Outreach Team could use a couple more members to fulfill our mission. If you would be

interested, please contact me: 719-648-8336 or [ts.trinko@gmail.com](mailto:ts.trinko@gmail.com).

Sue Trinko  
Social Outreach Team Leader

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## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

\*\*Phil Erlander & family at the death of his brother Dan.  
\*\* Andy Saunders & family at the death of his mother, Mary Ann Saunders.

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## Create a Legacy!



*Ascension Lutheran Church  
Endowment Fund*

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 donors:

**Phil and Sandy Trent**

**Charles and Betty Hatcher, for Betty's birthday**

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## RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will be meeting October 13, 2022 at 9:30am. We are using the book, "Just Like Jesus" by Max Lucado. We will discuss the third chapter, 'Touch of God'. Julie Burton will be leading the discussion. All ladies are invited to join us 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 book information, at 719-243-8978 or [Njshatto@yahoo.com](mailto:Njshatto@yahoo.com).

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## Bridge Group

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

## 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.

**\*\*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.

**\*\*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, toothpaste, 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.



Thank you to all who helped our 12 youth and adults get to the Appalachia Mountains in Kentucky for a week of service. One group helped in residing a house to get extra insulation on it, while the other group began preparing their house for a new roof and new flooring inside the house. If you prayed for us, you helped, If you brought in something or shopped at the garage sale, you helped. If you donated through our envelopes or coins in the mini M-n-M's tubes, you helped! Thank you! It will be forever a gift that these youth and adults will not forget!

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**SAVE THE DATE:** Ascension annual Spaghetti Supper, Raffle and Variety show will be on Sunday, November 6th, dinner at 5:00pm, doors open at 4:30pm for raffle. Tickets will go on sale early in October! Save the date for great food, entertainment, and fellowship. If you would like to share your talents, contact Deacon Mary.

The graphic consists of the words "SAVE THE DATE" in a stylized, handwritten font. The word "THE" is smaller and positioned between "SAVE" and "DATE". The letters are black with a white outline, giving them a 3D or shadowed appearance.

## 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.

If you are considering starting a NEW group, please contact Aimee Calderon ([aimeebuesing@yahoo.com](mailto:aimeebuesing@yahoo.com)).

### DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

#### Centering Prayer Group

Discussions on theology and practice of centering prayer and centering silence together.

**Meets:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at church 7:00 pm.

**Contact:** Pastor Dan Holt, 719-634-1694 or [d.holt@ascensioncos.org](mailto:d.holt@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 "Just like Jesus" by Max Lucado. If you are new Ascension or just looking for a casual Bible Study group, we hope you will come and join us!

**Meets:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

**Contact:** Nancy Shatto, 719-243-8978 or [njshatto@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at church 7:00 pm.

**Contact:** Pastor Dan Holt, 719-634-1694 or [d.holt@ascensioncos.org](mailto:d.holt@ascensioncos.org)

### 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](mailto: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 [jrajohanson@aol.com](mailto:jrajohanson@aol.com)

#### Men's Breakfast

Get together with other men for fellowship over breakfast.

**Meets:** Thursdays at 8:00 am at Wooglin's Deli, 4750 Barnes Rd. (corner of Barnes & Oro Blanco).

**Contact:** Rich Johnson, 719-264-8196 or [jrajohanson@aol.com](mailto:jrajohanson@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](mailto:d.smith@ascensioncos.org)

#### Walking Group

Walks at various venues. Some of our favorite places are Nancy Lewis Park, Old Colorado City, Manitou Springs, and our neighborhoods (one has a coffee shop en route!)"

**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](mailto:wklein636@msn.com)

## SERVICE & SUPPORT GROUPS

**Contact:** Aimee Calderon, 720-318-7479  
or [aimeebuesing@yahoo.com](mailto:aimeebuesing@yahoo.com)

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### Quilts for New Beginnings

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*. We provide quilts for Family Promise, ONWT, Bakhita Mountain Home, Special Kids Special Families, Habitat for Humanity, Springs Village Care Center, and world relief (through Mennonite Central Committee and Lutheran World Relief).

**Meets:** Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at the church.

**Contact:** Anita Arends, 719-651-3470 or Barb Daugherty, 719-264-1630 or [bdkm@pcisys.net](mailto:bdkm@pcisys.net)

### Terrace Gardens Bingo

Have fun helping nursing home residents play Bingo and win prizes.

**Meets:** Terrace Gardens monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 9:45-11:15 am

**Contact:** John & Kathy Hayes, 719-572-1052 or [blazehayes@aol.com](mailto:blazehayes@aol.com).

### Adults Caring for Aging Parents

Support group for adults who are caring for their aging parents, whether they be near or far. Karen Matsuka (counselor in training) is a facilitator.

**Meets:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the church library at 7:00 pm or via Zoom.

**Contact:** Sue Trinko, 719-648-8336 or [ts.trinko@gmail.com](mailto:ts.trinko@gmail.com) for general information. Terri Moore, 719-452-1539 or [terri.moore65@gmail.com](mailto:terri.moore65@gmail.com) for Zoom.

## SEASONAL GROUPS

### Camping

Bring your RV, motor home, pull behind trailer or tent and join other folks who enjoy the great outdoors for fellowship and fun! We will share calendar dates and great camping sites with one another via email.

**Meets:** During the late spring and summer months at different times and locations based on interest.

**Contact:** Donna or Scott Crump, 622-0927 or [dannec664@aol.com](mailto:dannec664@aol.com) (please contact Donna or Scott if you would be willing to help plan the trips)

### 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.

### Women's Retreat: Open Hearts

On Saturday October 8, 9am-4pm, we'll gather for a women's retreat at Ascension. Enjoy time together in worship, Bible study, activities and the arts! Consider how we live a life that creates space to be present with God, to extend God's love and hospitality to others. Retreat cost is \$20/participant. Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall today. Childcare will be provided. Contact Susan Meyers with any questions you may have at (719)209-0364 or by email at: [skm3141@icloud.com](mailto:skm3141@icloud.com).

To register please follow this link <https://forms.gle/mStZXMQjvKcoVPJo9> and to pay the retreat fee click <https://www.ascensioncos.org/give/>. Scholarships are available, please contact Deacon Mary at 303-475-4886.

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### Interested in receiving Prayer Requests?

When Prayer Requests are shared with the church office we then send that information in an email so people can be informed and help send out a few more prayers for that person.

If you would like to be included on these emails, please email the office with the email address you would like to receive Prayer Requests. [office@ascensioncos.org](mailto:office@ascensioncos.org)

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### Habitat for Humanity Build

Mark your Calendar now for Saturday, October 15 and plan to come out to help build a home for a low-income deserving family and have a lot of fun too!

On, Ascension Lutheran will gather at the Habitat Build site at 876 Bidwell Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80915. The house will be well under way by the time we volunteer. It is scheduled be finished by the end of the year. The major skill needed for this mission is a willing heart! The supervisors love to teach and will put everyone to work!!! And/or if you would like to volunteer to help bring lunch out to the site, please let us know that as well.

There is a signup sheet on the kiosk in the gathering space at church or you may contact Laurel Thorstensen (719-550-2882 or [revmeme@hotmail.com](mailto:revmeme@hotmail.com))



**AIA October 2022 Issue #10**  
**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)

[s.christiansen@ascensioncos.org](mailto:s.christiansen@ascensioncos.org) (Scott Christiansen)

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](http://www.ascensioncos.org)

**November newsletter deadline: October 24**

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*

Mary Ann Bond, Dennis Bagenstos, Allen Brooks, Brad Buhler, Sonny Campbell, George Candea, Michael Foret, Elaine Glover, Bev Godec, Greg Gulliksen, Stewart Hellem, Bob Kelly, Pam Landry, Michael Noble Jr. (friend of the Trents), John Plump (friend of Kemmlings), Cerne Rieves (ALC Quilter), Rick Rogers, Fran Schumacher, 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), Calvin Wulf, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon & Raelyn Kagarise