



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

May 2023

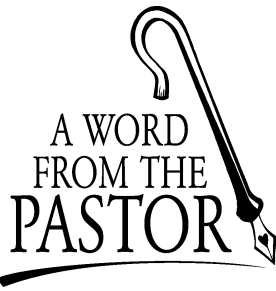
Grow Where You Are Planted

When Ascension Lutheran was planted here on N. Circle, it was the edge of town. We have a photo of Ascension as the only building on this side of the street. The people attending here were largely from the neighborhood. I heard that one of our early pastors went through the neighborhood knocking on doors and inviting people to join. How un-Lutheran of him!

Because we were built on old coal mines and landlocked, it has come up that maybe we should move to have better land and more space. It would also help us grow. From what I know, those discussions never got very far. People liked Ascension right where it was.

Currently, most of you travel some distance to get here. You come not because we are in your neighborhood but because of the kind of faith community we are. We are an ELCA church that identifies as being “a community of grace, called to serve.” As much you may not resonate with all of that, you resonate with enough of it to take the time to drive here. Because we have become more of a destination and less of a neighborhood church, it has been my experience that missional focus toward the neighborhood has struggled to get traction.

What church consultant people are telling us is that it is important not to give up on the neighborhood. God has us here for a reason. We can be both a destination church and grow where we are planted. Our mission of creating faithful community can make a difference to those in the surrounding areas. They long for community, to know grace, and have a purpose for their lives. In trust that God has us here for a reason, our near-term goals have us focusing on listening to neighborhood community leaders tell us about needs and opportunities. From that listening, we will work to grow our connections, service and witness in this neighborhood area.



IHN/Family Promise is back!

25 years ago, Ascension helped found Family Promise, a local organization that serves families experiencing homelessness. The pandemic was hard for Family Promise, and after a trial restart of its primary program in the fall, we're excited to announce a complete restart of the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). In IHN, congregations host families who would otherwise be homeless for a week or two at a time. The congregation provides housing and food, but the real benefit comes from connections formed between members and guests. Family Promise restarted IHN in April with new staff hired and 4 families in the program.

Ascension will be hosting for the week of May 14-21. We need volunteers to provide breakfast and dinner meals, serve dinner, hosts the families in the evening, and sleep overnight. There are many meaningful and easy ways to make a real difference for local families.

You can sign up to volunteer at church on Sundays, or you can sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/ihnmay2023>. If you have any questions please feel free to email Ruth at ruthalbrent@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!



April was a pretty quiet month for the Executive Committee, the Council, and our Teams.

Pr. Dan

WHAT'S HAPPENING

We had a great Easter week with the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. I had never attended the Youth-led Easter Sunrise service, so I did this year. I was so impressed by our Youth and their perspectives. That also allowed me to enjoy the Pancake breakfast twice - once after each Service. It's great to listen to Scott play our new organ - thank you again for our anonymous donor who allowed us to purchase this organ. May will bring Confirmation, the end of our Sunday school year, and one service each Sunday at the end of the month. I always like having one service because we get to better know those who normally attend the service we don't.

John Hayes, President



The milk is flowing and so is our gratitude!

The Social Outreach team is hosting the fellowship hour on Mother's Day, May 14, to thank you for your MOOving generosity toward the ELCA World Hunger Drive. Join us for milk (of course), fruit and breakfast burritos between services!

We thought Mother's Day was the perfect day: As we said during the drive, in some cultures the men own the cows, BUT the women own the milk. By providing them with cows that can produce more milk during the dry season, we are empowering women and their families.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

****Family & friends of George Candea at his death.**

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will be at 9:30am on 11 May 2023. We are using the book, "Just Like Jesus" by Max Lucado. We will discuss chapter 10, "Finding Gold in the Garbage." Nina Clausen 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.

Property and Grounds Update

Property & Grounds was busy getting ready for our 'new' organ in anticipation of Easter. Work required included:

- Reframing of original pipe cabinet to now house five speakers at the rear of the church.
- Increasing the size of the existing organ base for the new keyboard, including new laminate flooring
- Installing a new dedicated electrical outlet. Thanks to Ingrid for connecting us up [pun intended] with an electrical contractor from her bell choir.
- Installing four speakers in the niche on the left side of the sacristy.
- Running speaker cables in the basement ceiling from the keyboard to the original pipe cabinet for the new speakers

Special thanks go out to Jeff Courtwright and Scott Christiansen for numerous hours getting this all to happen in a short time frame, with assistance from Rich Gaona and Rob Koehler.

Other projects included the removal of the Committee bulletin boards and hanging artwork in the Fellowship Hall, under the guidance of Deacon Mary.

Ongoing projects consist of trying to repair the two broken door operators at front and side entrances as well as the two emergency light fixtures in Fellowship Hall.

June Camping or Day Retreat

Mark the weekend of June 10-11 on your calendar. We have an opportunity to gather at the Lost Dutchman resort in Divide. Check in Friday, the 9th and depart Sunday by 11:00. It's close enough for a day trip (about 50 miles from Colorado Springs) and offers camping for up to 50 people for those who want to spend the weekend. Five sites have electrical hook-ups. The group site includes a bath house and porta-potties. You can stay out of the sun in the Gazebo or fish in two stocked trout ponds reserved for the group camp site. No fishing licence is needed since it's a private resort. No fishing gear? – we can help with that too! There's the possibility for hikes nearby, and two large gas grills will allow a group cook-out. Reservation fees are covered by Lay Ministry, so just bring yourself for an enjoyable weekend, or day, of fellowship in the beauty of the mountains. Thanks to the Camping Small Group for arranging this event. Please contact Donna Crump if you are interested or would like more information: dacrump.dc@gmail.com or 719-510-7903.

May Dining Out

Ron & Jeanne Cornell are hosting Dining Out on May 19th at Shangri-La at 6:00. It is located at 8850 North Union Blvd. Please RSVP to Cornells at roncornell1@comcast.net by the 17th if you can attend.



Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp - Creating Lifetime Memories.

Thinking of an experience your kids, grandkids or any kid will not out live, RTLCL is an excellent choice. Scholarships for all ages are available, so don't wait, RTLCL Summer Camp is filling up fast! RTLCL offers opportunities to experience camp whether you're entering the 2nd grade or are an adult. In addition, most of your commonly asked questions can be answered! Please see our display or contact Michele Haufe – gato_haufe@msn.com / Ron Cornell – roncornell1@comcast.net or by phone, ALC office, Ruth, 719-634-1694.

Older Adults, yes us old people, are you interested in a fall retreat 2023? Contact Ron Cornell!

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet on **TBD in May 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.



Blessing of the Keys

We're all journeying together in this life and that means on the roads too...literally. On Sunday May 7, we will celebrate with and bless our youth who have recently gotten their driver's license. And say hello next time you see each other at church and even on the roads.

Baccalaureate Sunday

On Sunday May 21, we celebrate with and bless the following high school youth in their upcoming graduations; Makenna Kaufmann, Conner Haufe and Kendall Stroup.

Faith and Art Camp

On June 19–23, we will welcome children from Ascension and our local community for a week-long camp. They'll engage in art, photography, music and more and learn about God's love for them no matter what! We're seeking volunteers! And registration is open. Visit ascensioncos.org/FAC to get involved and sign your children up. Share with your friends!

SAVE THE DATE!



We have a date! Mark your calendars for **Friday, July 14, and Saturday, July 15**, for the youth garage sale. All proceeds benefit the youth that will be traveling to New Orleans in 2024 for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering. Start saving your goodies for donations to the garage sale. Do NOT bring them in yet. We will let you know when you can start bringing them in. Please remember NO furniture, tv's, computers, chemicals, mattresses. If you have questions, or need boxes to start gathering your things, let Kirsten Johnson know at (719)440-5896. Thank you!

BECOME INVOLVED....

****Ruth Circle:** All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month (Not June & July) at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall, 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.

****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 this Fall, contact Darcy Ayen, 719-351-0776, or dkdayen@gmail.com.

****Flower Chart** – The 2023 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, contribute gifts, please mark items as "Bingo Prizes" and place them in the Terrace Garden Bingo box located in the cupboard 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* co634-1694 or office@ascensioncos.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 Gardens Healthcare Center for about 35 years. Herb Bagenstos started this out-reach program and then Bev Godec took it over from him. John Hayes took it over from Bev in 2015. This program is supported by a small group of hardy volunteers. 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. Prizes include gently used men's clothing (sizes Large and higher), women's clothing (large and Plus sizes), sweatpants 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. If you would like to contribute gifts, please mark items as "Bingo Prizes" and place them in the Terrace Garden Bingo box located in the cupboard 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.



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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/ Organist – Scott Christiansen

Choir 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 (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

June newsletter deadline: May 24



Mary Ann Bond, Brad Buhler, Bob Dillow, Michael Foret, Elaine Glover, Eileen Hedstrom, Stewart Hellem, Bob Kelly, Karalee Kleehammer (Elisa Thompson's Mom), Pam Landry, Scott Lewis (friend of DeLoughrys), Carol Passon, Cerne Rieves (ALC Quilter), Rick Rogers, Fran Schumacher (friend of Ron Mohler), Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer (friend of Trents), Warren Slagle, Cathy Stanley (sister-in-law of Marilyn Gulliksen), Bruce Thompson (Brother of Sandy Trent), Carol Thompson, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon.