



# Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

June 2023

*I wrote this piece in a journal three years ago, and it came to mind recently, so I thought I'd share it with you. God bless, Pastor Daniel*

## **An imagined discussion with a 4 year old after George Floyd's death:**

There was a man named George. Another man killed him.

"Why?"

... Because the other man was afraid when he shouldn't have been.

... Because George was black and in our country black people often aren't loved like they should be.

... Because the other man was a police officer and police officers have very hard jobs and are given lots of power and sometimes they use that power to hurt people, especially black people, instead of help them.

... Because ... I don't know.

"Did you know George?"

No, but there have been a lot of people who died like George did, and that has made a lot of people, especially black people, mad and sad and scared. I heard about George from those people.

"What should we do?"

Listen to those people.

"Why?"

So they don't have to be mad and sad and scared all alone. So we can make the world less scary for them.

"What else can we do?"

Lots of things. We could pray.

"For George?"

Yes. And his family.

"For the man who killed him?"

Yes. And for the other police officers.

"For the people who are mad, sad, and scared?"

Yes.

"Anything else?"

Yes. For peace. Real peace.

"We should pray for peace?"

Always.



## **Connecting Together**

Ascension is filled with people who make the most of life. Lay Ministry is interested in the lesser-known experiences, adventures and trivia about your life. It can be from the past or more recent times. For instance, I was once crowned a princess; ok, it was only of the 4-H fashion show where I won the first place crown for sewing a swirl skirt straight out of the 70s! We like to use these stories to forge new connections as Ascension members. If you're willing to share something about yourself, please contact me, Marcia Oltrogge, at [marcia@oltrogges.com](mailto:marcia@oltrogges.com) or 719-640-6577.



## **The Holy Pedalers Bicycle Group**

This is a small group that was started by Bev Godec. Every summer, we pull out our bicycles and take turns leading rides for the group. Most rides are around town, but occasionally we'll pack up our bikes and head up to Denver, down to Pueblo, or even out to Grand Junction. Bike riding is mostly on trails, with some lightly traveled roads. Most rides include a stop for breakfast or lunch in support of fellowship. Our main communication is by email, but we also have a Facebook page, and our rides may be published in the What'sUp if we plan them in time. We have a great time on our rides, and welcome riders of all abilities. If you haven't joined us yet, consider it! Contact Aimee Calderon at [aimeebuesing@yahoo.com](mailto:aimeebuesing@yahoo.com) if you are not yet on the email distribution list but want to be.

# CHURCH COUNCIL/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In the Fall of 2022, we submitted an application for the COVID-relief program called the Employee Retention Credit (ERC). We did this because our 2023 budget looked bleak at the time and we knew we were probably going to have to operate in a deficit situation. In April we found out that we would be receiving about \$125,000 from the ERC program because we didn't lay off any of our employees during COVID. The Executive Committee and the Council met to discuss what we should do with this money. We had an Adult Sunday School session where we received inputs for Congregational members on how we should spend this money. The Executive Committee and Council will develop a recommended spend plan for this money and present it to the Congregation for approval in late June. We don't know when we'll start receiving this money, but we expect to get it in four quarterly payments over the next year.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

May always feels to me that we're at the end of our church year. Sunday School finishes, the Bell Choir stands down for the Summer, and we go to a single service at 9:15 on Sundays. Schools are finishing their years with lots of graduations. Our Children's Learning Center even had a graduation for their attendees. We had a baccalaureate Service honoring our graduating high school students. We also had a baptism for the Mortenson's grandson. We continue to have visitors and new members. May is also a time to be thankful for what we've accomplished and to start think ahead for the Fall. Our Council will have a Planning Retreat during the Summer to set priorities for the Fall. The Faith and Art Camp coming up promises to be a great event again with many local area children participating.

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## Team Updates

### Deacon Mary:

As we near the summer months, the following efforts continue to be meaningful and fun efforts to collaborate on with leadership/members at Ascension:

- **Faith and Art Camp:** With nearly 40 participants already signed up, FAC, happening June 19–23 is going to be a joy to offer our children and those in our local community. We have a few more volunteer openings available so please let me know if you're interested in helping out this year!
- **Abundant Life Ministry Team**, which focuses on the health of members; mind, body and spirit, met in April for a lunch and greet. Individuals who are a part of the team have a few things planned for the upcoming summer months, including a FFMA sponsored gathering on Sunday June 25 following the worship service. New member and professional trainer, Laura Rinne will present on health and fitness as we mature.
- **The Inviting Community Pathway Team** continues to listen and learn from our neighbors this Spring. More information will be made available for the congregation in the next several weeks.
- **The FFMA Team** (Faith Formation for Maturing Adults) are working on one gathering/month through the summer—open to all—following the one Sunday worship service at 10:30a. The first will feature Laura Rinne on Sunday June 25. **Phases of Retirement:** The FFMA team is also working with Lay Ministry on plans to support members nearing or in retirement for early fall.

### Church Properties and Grounds (Scott Ewen):

- Replace two emergency lighting fixtures in Fellowship Hall
- Repaired automatic door operators at front and side entrances
- Obtain bids for new driveway at the KPC Respite Center. Awarded contract and hope to have completed in June.
- Compiled a "to-do" list for the KPC exterior
- Working on scheduling a spring clean-up day in the coming weeks.

### Lay Ministry (Marcia Oltrogge):

- June Camping Retreat planning underway
- Plans for next fall include an in-home small group study opportunity, a women's retreat, and a congregational picnic

### Social Outreach (Sue Trinko):

Social Outreach just finished the World Hunger drive and surpassed our goal by \$4,440.58. To thank the congregation for their generosity, they hosted fellowship hour on Mother's Day May 14 with milk, fruit, and breakfast burritos.

### **Worship (Ingrid Daniel):**

The worship board has been talking about and getting ready to implement the “one service for summer” plan.

### **Youth Ministry (Deacon Mary):**

- **Flowers for the Ladies** is this coming Sunday, May 7th. Ladies of all ages will receive a flower. The Sunday School children and youth will help hand out the flowers to members and guests.
- **Baccalaureate Sunday:** May 21, we celebrate with Conner Haufe and Kendall Stroup in their completion of high school.
- **Memorial Day Clean-up at RTALC:** A strong team of 13 youth, families and congregation members are heading to Rainbow Trail to help prepare them for a summer of camp!
- **Guitar Class for Youth:** The Youth Team is discerning plans for a guitar class for youth this coming fall, two Sundays a month. The class would also work on music for worship once a semester.
- **Garage Sale** will be July 14th/15th
- **RTLC:** 7 youth (middle and high school) are attending Confirmation and High School camp at RTALC this summer

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## **Dining Out!**

The Dining Out in June will be a potluck at Scott & Sandy Ewen's Clubhouse (The Lodge at Stonebridge) at 6:00 on June 23rd. The address is 12787 Stone Valley Drive in Peyton. Please bring a dish to share and your own beverage. RSVP to the Ewens at [sdewenx2@att.net](mailto:sdewenx2@att.net) so they have an approximate count since they will be providing table service. However...come even if you haven't sent an RSVP ahead of time. Hope you can join us!!

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### **CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...**

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

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### **Ruth Circle**

Ruth Circle will take a break for June and July. Please join us on August 10<sup>th</sup> when we will resume discussions on Max Lucado's book “Just like Jesus”. For any information, please contact Nancy Shatto at [NJShatto@yahoo.com](mailto:NJShatto@yahoo.com) or 719 243 8978.

### **Sub Sandwich Sunday Congregational Picnic**



Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 27, for a gathering with food and fun after the Sunday service. Save the date now, watch for more information in August, and say this quickly three times: Sub Sandwich Sunday after the single Sunday service!



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### **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp - Creating Lifetime Memories.**

Thinking of an experience your kids, grandkids or any kid will not out live, RTALC is an excellent choice. Scholarships for all ages are available, so don't wait, RTALC Summer Camp is filling up fast! RTALC 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](mailto:gato_haufe@msn.com) / Ron Cornell – [roncornell1@comcast.net](mailto: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!

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### **Bridge Group**

Our Bridge Group will meet on a date **TBD in June at 5:30PM**. Please let John or Kathy Hayes know if you plan to play. 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.

We are now accepting items for the garage sale. Please bring items and place in the downstairs



classroom marked with a garage sale sign. Please NO large items, furniture, chemicals, blinds, TVs, computers, etc., that Goodwill won't accept. We will accept items through July 12th in preparation for the garage sale on July 14th and 15th from 8am to 2:00pm. Please contact Kirsten Johnson at (719)440- 5896 with any questions.



**\*\*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 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, 634-1694 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](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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**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/ 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

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

**July newsletter deadline: June 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.