



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

October 2023

Living Out Our Call to Serve

Jesus gave his life after God's call to serve. He did so even when it cost him. He said that the greatest was the servant of all. He did not build up for himself treasures on earth but treasures in heaven. Jesus has called us to follow serving others in love.



As a community of grace, we continue to follow Jesus' call to serve. We were tested on this when in late April we learned that we would receive an ERC (Employee Retention Credit) of \$124k. When we applied for this government pandemic program, we were not sure we were qualified and didn't think it would be near that much. We were taken aback by the large amount. What should we do?

- We could squirrel that money away for a rainy day. We didn't do that because we already had what we felt were reasonable reserve amounts. Also, when we occasionally have found ourselves in a tough financial spot (as we did at the beginning of this year), we have prayerfully come together to look to God and found a way forward.
- We could use this money to pay ongoing expenses like salaries, building or programs. Ongoing expenses depend on your ongoing support. Using a onetime large amount of money for ongoing expenses can lead to decreased ongoing support and increased expenses that we cannot sustain in the future.
- We could use it for a onetime building project. As much as we always have upkeep and improvement ideas, none of them were urgent or necessary.

For Jesus, what is urgent and necessary is to serve our neighbor in love. Some of our neighbors are hurting badly – short of food, without housing, belonging and faith in their lives. We voted to use that money in service for others. Being generous for good can be satisfying. I hope you are pleased that you are “blessed to be a blessing.”

We intend to continue after our call to serve as we move forward with a specific spending plan for our ERC money and our 2024 mission. Stay tuned to hear more on this.

Pr. Dan



SAVE THE DATE!

All are invited to the Annual Youth Spaghetti Supper, Variety Show and Raffle on Sunday, November 12th. Doors will open at 4:30pm with dinner served at 5:00 and Variety show and raffle to start at 6:15pm. Tickets to go on sale soon between services on Sundays. Gluten free and vegetarian meals available upon request when buying tickets. All proceeds benefit the youth and their yearly events, meet ups, bible studies, etc. This is a great opportunity to get to know the community of Ascension!

Do you have a unique talent? We would love to have you join the variety show. Contact Deacon Mary if you are interested.

We are now accepting items for our raffle. Themed baskets are always a huge hit - kids, movies, cold weather, games, fiesta, Italian, comfort, and so many more! Bring items to Deacon Mary or Kirsten Johnson on Sunday mornings! Thank you for your support of the youth.

CHURCH COUNCIL/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At our September Executive Committee meeting, we reviewed our August financials and we continue to be in good fiscal shape as a church. We also received the HR Committee's recommendations for Rostered and Non-rostered staff salary increases in 2024. Our Ministry Teams continue to work on their 2024 budget inputs. The Worship Committee advised that we will need to replace the MIDI Electronic Module on our electric organ, but the expected \$1,100 expense can be covered in the Worship Team's 2023 budget.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

I'm always excited when we get into September because I see it as the beginning of our new church year since Sunday School resumes and we go back to two Services on Sunday. Our Rally Day on September 10th was well attended downstairs as we kicked off the start of Sunday School and got to stuff toy animals for First Responders to give to children. We had a church Work Day on September 16th where we had about 15-20 people doing a great job cleaning up the areas inside and outside our church. Unfortunately, we also said goodbye to a couple of long-time Ascension members -- Bob Kelly (death) and Fern Dillow (relocation). In October, we'll be starting another New Members class and we'll be recognizing our newly retired members and helping them celebrate this exciting next phase of their lives. **As we start our new church year and all its activities, please continue to be safe.**

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES...

*to the family of Bob Kelly on his passing.

Audubon Trunk or Treat Friday October 20, 4:30p–6:30p

Join in for a fun night with the students, families and staff at Audubon for a Trunk or Treat! If you'd like to participate, you can by 1) donating candy, or 2) handing out candy from a decorated vehicle—one we will need to provide—on Oct. 20. Drop the candy off at the front office and let Deacon Mary know if you'd like to help with the event night. Email, m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org or call (303) 475-4886.

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp's Grace Race October 7

RTLCL's Grace Race will be on Saturday, October 7, 2023 with a 4:00 pm start. All proceeds and donations will be given to ELCA World Hunger. This is a 5K run/walk around beautiful Sloan's Lake in south Denver. There will be food and refreshments for participants following the race.



The entry fee is \$35 until 4:30 pm on September 29th and \$40 after that date. You can register for the race after that date and even on the day of the race; however we can't guarantee you'll get one of the cool long sleeve tech shirts from the race after September 29th.

You don't have to be a runner to make a difference. We had parents with baby strollers, grandparents with grand kids, and runners and walkers of all types last year. Come join us for a great afternoon in the park for a great cause. [Click Here For More Information and To Register!](#)

Don't forget there is the **Fleetest Flock Traveling Trophy** for the congregation with the most participants. Augustana Lutheran in Denver won last year's race with 44 participants, narrowly beating Cross of Christ Lutheran in Broomfield. Bring your friends and family or your whole youth group. We are hoping for 200 participants. RTLCL, with your help, has raised over \$88,000 during the first 16 races. Help us raise another \$10,000 for World Hunger and push it close to \$100,000!

Member classes offered in October

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 run:

- Sunday October 8 (Class 1)
- Sunday October 15 (Class 2)
- Sunday October 22 (Class 3)

We will meet in the conference room from 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 (719-634-1694) or Andy Saunders (719-505-4557) or andy.saunders@rustco.com

Retirement Blessing October 22

On Sunday, October 22, we invite all who have recently retired to join in for a blessing at either the 8 am or 10:30 am service. We look forward to acknowledging God's presence in this transition in your life and your continued purpose in Christ. Since this is the first retirement blessing for the congregation, this is an open call to anyone who would like a blessing for their transition, whether that was months ago, or years ago. We will also enjoy a cake reception during the fellowship hour. All are welcome! If you have questions please contact Deacon Mary Stoneback, Jim DeLoughry, or Elisa Thompson.

Become a Knight of the (Scripture) Roundtable

Every Tuesday morning at 10:30, a bunch of folks gather together to talk about the scripture passage for the coming worship service. Sometimes we spend 30 minutes on the first verse and never make it through the whole passage. Sometimes we get a bit off topic, but never too far. Sometimes we help a pastor discover what he *thought* the passage meant is not quite right. Sometimes we all feel drawn to the same thing and sometimes we disagree but learn from the disagreement. Sometimes (most of the time) we get to know one another better, growing to care for each other. Every time we grow in faith together.

The pastor leads the hour, but everyone contributes. And so can you. All you have to do is come! Tuesdays at 10:30 in the library.

Join the Choir this Season



You are invited to sing in our regular Chancel Choir and in our occasional Cantata Choir, which is not just for cantatas anymore! With the success of our two big choir presentations last season we are offering up a few extra events for the 'big' choir to sing.

Mark your calendars for some other 'big' choir opportunities in the coming choir season:

- *Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2023* with brass performers. One rehearsal the prior Thursday. We will send out learning tracks for you to practice.
- Christmas Cantata is 'The Winter Rose' by Joseph M. Martin on *Sunday, December 16, 2023* with rehearsals beginning in early November.
- In Holy Week we are planning to present 'The Seven Last Words of Christ' by Theodore Dubois on *Passion Sunday, March 24, 2024* with rehearsals beginning in February 2024.
- In addition, we hope we can gather a good size choir for *Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024*.
- Practices are Thursdays at 7:15pm. Contact Scott or Megan with questions. We look forward to a full choir loft for 23-24.

Blessings, Scott and Megan

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle is a casual women's Bible study group that meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting is October 12, 2023 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We are using the book, "Just Like Jesus" by Max Lucado and will be discussing chapter twelve, "When Heaven Celebrates". If you are new to 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.

Called to Serve...

Notes from your Social Outreach Team

This month we'd like to highlight our partnership with Mosaic, which is hosting its fall breakfast fundraiser October 10 at the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame. (If you'd like to join the breakfast, contact Sue Trinko: ts.trinko@gmail.com, 719-648-8336)

Mosaic was formed July 1, 2003 by the consolidation of two Nebraska-born Lutheran ministries dedicated to the needs of people with disabilities. Bethphage began in 1913 in Axtell, Nebraska, and Martin Luther Homes began in 1925 in Sterling, Nebraska. The name Mosaic speaks to the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts – in coming together to answer God's call and leveraging the network, they love and serve with resilience.

[Learn more about Mosaic's mission, vision and values.](#)

How Mosaic has served and those whom Mosaic has served has evolved through the years. But the mission has not changed: *we are called to love and serve our neighbor.*

I'd like to share part of their most recent thank you letter to the congregation:

“In one of my favorite hymns, we sing these words: ‘Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve know. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face...All are welcome, all are welcome in this place.’”

Thank you for all you do to bring Christ's welcome to members we support in the Mosaic family.”

Sue Trinko, Social Outreach Team Leader

Nursery Available

We encourage children to participate in worship on Sundays, including at the communion table. We also realize some families might prefer for their child to spend some of worship in the nursery. Our nursery is located downstairs and is staffed during every worship service. You can bring your child down for some or all of the worship service. An usher can assist you in finding the nursery.

Men of Ascension: You're Invited!

Men of Ascension, those of us who gather each Thursday at 8 AM for breakfast at Wooglin's Deli & Cafe (4750 Barnes Road) are amazed. Those of you who are retired and even those who are still working (but with flexible hours) must be extremely busy. There are weekly church services, adult Sunday School, and an evening Bible study offered for you. Why not take time to socialize with other men from Ascension to get to know each other on a more personal basis? If you need a "kitchen pass" from your wife to attend, assure her that she will enjoy about 2 hours of "personal time" while you are away. Details, or other ideas for times or locations, text Rich Johnson at 719-360-3411, or email me at rich64johnson@gmail.com. Bon Appetit!

We still need a few more ushers!

Are you friendly and faithful person between the ages of 13 and 113? You can usher! The time commitment: 9 Sunday's (Sept - May) for the 10:30 service. If you can't commit to 9 Sundays, we are also seeking help for both services on the three Sundays where there are five weeks in the month: Oct 29, Dec 31, and March 31. This would be a very minimal time commitment.

Worried about vacations or unexpected events? Don't be! The usher team will find you a substitute if needed. Worried you're inexperienced? Don't be! We will train and you'll work with an experienced usher. This is a great way to get involved and meet people. Questions: Call Rob Koehler (719) 963-5748 or email: cmkoehle@gmail.com.

Donuts!

Join us each Sunday for donuts or other treats in the fellowship hall after worship! And if you'd like to help bring donuts to church, it's really easy. It's a quick stop at King Soopers where they bring the donuts to you. Please consider giving it a try by clicking the link in the What's Up email or contacting Marcia Oltrogge (marcia@oltrogges.com 719-640-6577). <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084AAAAF23A3FE3-fellowship>

Grounds Upkeep

Grounds Group help us keep the outside looking beautiful. We will meet 9:00am on the third Saturday of the month. Please if possible to help keep the landscape tidy.

Join the Quilters!

If you are interested in joining the Quilters on Wednesday morning, feel free to stop by or contact Anita at 719-651-3470 or Barb at 719-264-1630.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet on **October 14th 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.

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 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 four 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. **WE ARE ABOUT OUT OF PRIZES FOR THE RESIDENTS.** Prizes include gently used men and women's clothing (mostly sizes Large and higher for men and large and Plus sizes for women), sweatpants and tops (large sizes), baseball caps, hygiene products (body washes, lotions, toothpaste, shampoo, etc), playing cards, some small containers of ladies' perfumes, adult coloring books/crayons, and costume 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 also 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.

- Website: ascensioncos.org
- Facebook: facebook.com/ascensioncos
- Instagram: instagram.com/ascensioncos/
- Online Directory: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>
- YouTube: tinyurl.com/YouTubeALC
- Prayer Request Form: <https://forms.gle/iQEWie3LkVt3cmLA>
- Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8673682609>



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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
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Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org
November newsletter deadline: Octt. 24



Melvin Allen, Mary Ann Bond, Allen Brooks (Foster son of Darcy & Tom Johnson), Brad Buhler, Ferne Dillow, Michael Foret, Elaine Glover, Eileen Hedstrom, Stewart Hellem, Eric Howe, Cheri Hughes, the family of Bob Kelly, Don Knight (friend of John Hayes), Pam Landry, Carol Passon, Cerne Rieves (ALC Quilter), Rick Rogers, Fran Schumacher (friend of Ron Mohler), Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer (friend of Trents), Cathy Stanley (sister-in-law of Marilyn Gulliksen), Bruce Thompson (Brother of Sandy Trent), Carol Thompson, Bob Vanlandingham, and all of our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon.