

Ascension Lutheran Church

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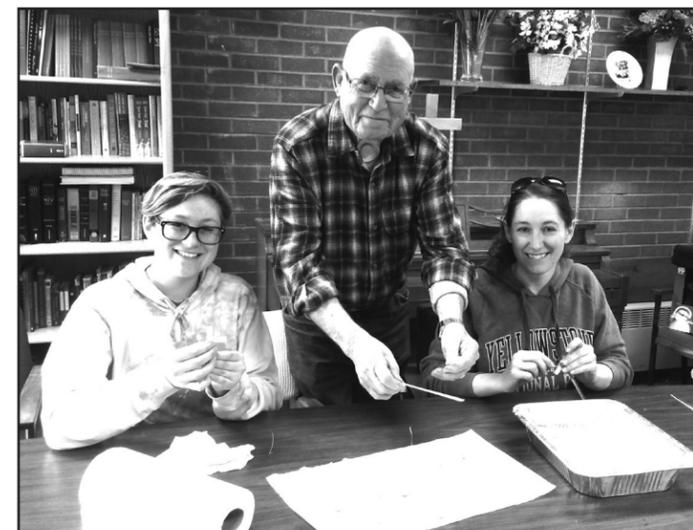
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Ascension Lutheran Church

Cheyenne, Wyoming

ascensioncheyenne.org

April 2018



Passing along a tradition

On March 23 at Christ Lutheran, Bill Whittle from St. Paul's Lutheran taught Anessa Bensley and her mother, Jacy Kruckenberg, from Ascension to make palm crosses. They were distributed at all three local ELCA congregations on Palm Sunday. (R. Aardahl photo)

Church Council Meeting Highlights

March 8

Treasurer's report

- February **offerings** came in at \$22,544.30 year to date compared to \$21,138.80 last year.
- Doug Cook and Katie Wisdom volunteered to facilitate the **Vanco e-giving** sign-ups, tentatively scheduled April 22 and April 29.
- The **Audit Committee** was scheduled to begin the internal audit March 13. Scott Meier, Barbara MacKenzie and Keren Meister-Emerich were approved as the 2018 Audit Committee.

Pastor's report

- During the last several months, Pastor Wes has attended interfaith council meetings, led a baptismal meeting, made several communion home visits and hospital visits and led Thursday morning Bible studies.
- Wyoming Lutheran pastors will attend the Bishop's Conference in Thermopolis on April 9–11. Pastors Wes and Rebecca will visit their son Kristian Aardahl in Senegal from April 16–29.
- The Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly will be in Westminster, Colorado, from May 3–5.

Committee reports

- The **Endowment Committee** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, at the church.
- The **Building and Grounds Committee** reported the kitchen task force has four to five volunteers so far. Sid Strand is getting information on permits for warming and commercial kitchen options.
- The **Social Concerns Committee** held a reverse offering for the church's Little Free Pantry.
- Erin Edwards will be the council liaison for the **Stewardship Committee**. Carolyn Rude will be the council liaison for the **Youth Committee**.

New business

- To increase council-committee interaction and to streamline meetings**, the following procedures will be implemented: Church Secretary Cheryl Collins will send an email reminder to liaisons two weeks prior to the council meeting. The liaisons will contact committee chairs and send their reports to Cheryl by the Monday before the council meeting. She will send information to the council president by the day of the meeting (second Thursday).

Next meeting • April 12 • 7 p.m.

PASTOR'S PIECE Morning meditation

This morning, the morning of Holy Saturday, I awoke in a harried state of mind. Holy Week is a week of good observances and contemplations, but it is also a very full week for all who attend Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services and for altar guild members, acolytes, Communion assistants, accompanists, choir members, conductor, intern, pastor and all whose planning and preparations make for especially full heads and hands.

This Holy Week included unexpected arrangements for a memorial service, with all the sadness and hope that attend the loss of a cherished member of our congregational body.

It has been a full week already, with more participations and preparations at hand including the writing of this overdue newsletter column.

It is tempting to think of the responsibilities of such a week as burdensome, to become occupied with evaluations of each event, to become stalled in the face of the tasks that lie ahead.

This morning, I arose early and promptly fell into a different mode. I left my laptop closed. I sat facing the eastern exposure of our picture windows and enjoyed the gradual passage from darkness to light. I savored my coffee instead of simply consuming it. And I took the time to reflect on some of the comings and goings that are at hand:

The Civic is warming up, and Rebecca will soon drive away for morning prayer. There will be two services this evening, and two services tomorrow morning, with a

dinner and a breakfast served. There will be much coming and going!

Vicar Katelin will soon travel to Valparaiso, Indiana, for an Institute of Liturgical Studies conference, where she will be in her element. Rebecca and I will travel to Thermopolis for the annual Wyoming Conference Bishop's Retreat, where we will immerse ourselves in hot springs in the pleasant company of our colleagues. We will also soon travel to Senegal to visit our son Kristian, who is very much in his element among the hospitable people of that colorful place.

In May, some of us will travel to Westminster, Colorado, to take part in our Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly. "Snowbird" members of our congregation will return from their winter roosts in Southern states. New lives will enter the orbit of our lives, and familiar lives will part company with us.

Somehow, in the embrace of the sights, sounds, tastes and feelings of the morning, this new day began in a good way. As I was living fully in the present moment, past and pending comings and goings could be entertained without anxiety. That's an experience worth repeating and commending. Before any of us set our workaday wheels turning, it may be good to embrace one present moment of this new day.

*The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.*

—Psalm 121:8

Pastor Wes Aardahl

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Staff

Pastor

Rev. Wesley Aardahl

Vicar

Katelin Bingner

Secretary

Cheryl Collins

Saturday Music Coordinator

Mark Christie

Adult Choir Director

Dr. Jane Iverson

Organists

Dr. Jane Iverson

and Gaela Young

Newsletter Editor

Rosalind Schliske

Church Council

President

Tim Leberman

Vice president

Doug Cook

Secretary

Katie Wisdom

Treasurer

Patti Riesland

Mike Bell

Yessica Cordova

Erin Edwards

Dr. Frank Mellblom

Ryan Mitchell

Carolyn Rude

If your address, phone number or email address has changed, call the church office or email ascensioncheyenne@gmail.com.

Ascension Lutheran Church seeks to be a community that nourishes relationships with God and one another that lead to a deeper spiritual life, based on a grace-oriented Lutheran perspective.

April 27 Newsletter Deadline

Obituaries

Shirley Jean Pepmeier

A funeral for Ascension Lutheran Church member Shirley Jean Pepmeier, 80, who died March 7, was held March 14. Born August 4, 1937, in Pelican Rapids Village, Minnesota, she was confirmed at Bethel Lutheran Church there. During World War II, her family moved to Seattle and later returned to Minnesota and farmed near Rollag.

She married Harold Warren Pepmeier on August 13, 1955, and they lived in Minnesota and Iowa before settling in Cheyenne in 1966.

Shirley retired from the Cole Shopping Center Safeway as the bakery manager. She enjoyed attending plays and musicals with her friends, but her greatest joy was spending time with family.

She is survived by three sons, Michael (Kathy Johnson) Pepmeier and Gary (Dana) Pepmeier, both of Cheyenne, Robert (Debbie) Pepmeier, of Laramie; a daughter, Cindy (Rod) Jensen, of Cheyenne; eight grandchildren, Desiree (Paul) Ives, John (Anna) Pepmeier, Heather Pepmeier-Dunlevy, Tara Johnson, Lauren Jensen, Jessica Mulberry, Cole Jensen, David Mulberry; 13 great-grandchildren, Ethan, Lilly, Hunter; Lucy, Zyla, Ziona, Zinnia, Zipporah, Zeke, Darian, Aubreyel, Jadan and Emma; a sister, Lorraine Murray; and numerous nieces, nephews and other extended family.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 43 years, Harold Pepmeier; parents, John and Hansina (Peterson) Svare; four sisters, Marion Johnson, Phyllis Bigner, Patsy Lindsay and Lillian Svare; and two brothers, Harley Svare and Wallace Svare.

Jerry R. Zang

A funeral for Jerry R. Zang, MD, 67, last year's president of Ascension Lutheran Church's Church Council, was held March 29 at the church. He died March 25 at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center.

Born June 20, 1950, in Quincy, Illinois, to Jack and Phyllis Zang, he married Mary Schulz on June 2, 1984, in Springfield, Illinois. Jerry was the chief of staff at the Veterans' Affairs Medical Center.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Zang; daughters, Alison Holliman, of Cheyenne, Tori (Josh) Steveson, of Fort Riley, Kansas, and Ina (Dennis) Hollender, of Copenhagen, Denmark; grandchildren, Lucas, Kiley, David, James, Ulrikka and Kajsa.

Donations may be made to midwestexperience.org, which teaches disabled veterans and children of deceased veterans to hunt.



The youth spent the afternoon of March 11 glass painting at the Flydragon Art Studio. There was no word on how their mothers will hang these projects on their family refrigerator doors. (N. Morris photo)

Youth activities

Thank you given for all helpers with Soup Suppers

The youth noted they "had an amazing turnout for the two Soup Suppers at Ascension in March." They thanked all who brought their delicious soups, breads and desserts to share. A special thank you was extended to the youth group members and parents who helped set up and serve and all who helped with cleanup.

Mark your calendars for April 22 youth activity

A youth activity is tentatively planned for the afternoon of Sunday, April 22. More details will be provided by email soon.

VBS youth volunteers needed to help Sky Ranch staff

For this year's Vacation Bible School, Ascension is partnering with Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. If you are interested in working with a team of four amazing counselors from Sky Ranch June 18-22, contact Kris Rude or Nichole Morris.

VBS Beyond Belief

Mark your calendar for this year's Vacation Bible School to be held at Ascension Lutheran Church from 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, June 18-22. This year, counselors from Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp will conduct VBS. Registration forms will be available soon.

This year's theme, "Beyond Belief," is based upon Ephesians 3-20: "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

VBS is designed for children entering kindergarten through those completing fifth grade. A preschool option will also be available during the same timeframe for those who are 3 years old and diaper-free.

News

Family Promise volunteers thanked

A sincere thank you is extended to the volunteers from Ascension Lutheran Church who worked during the March 11-18 rotation of the Family Promise Program. Ascension's next rotation will be May 20-27.

Dinner hosts: Carol Toft and Shirley Kaezter, (thanks and an ear scratch also to JoJo), Linda and Angela Oliverius, Margie Sewell, Patti Riesland, Marcia Talley and Kari Chandler.

Evening hosts: Kris Rude, Karen Ferchen, Denise Martin and Dave Talley.

Saturday hosts: Shirley Toppenberg and Anne McGowan.

Overnight hosts: Tom Kaetzer, Doug Chandler, Lynne Iversen and Margie Sewell.

Weekend transition help to next church: Wally Rice, Margie Sewell and Eric Miller from St Paul's.

WELCA Bible study to meet April 17

The Women of the ECLA (WELCA) will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 17, in the upper fellowship hall. The Bible study is a continuation from the April issue of *Gather* magazine titled "Multiple meanings: learning from other interpretations," with this one based on the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. Copies of the study are available in the church office. For questions or more information, contact Shirley Toppenberg at 634-4946.

COME A volunteers needed for April 29

Volunteers from the congregation are needed for the next COMEA meal preparation on Sunday, April 29. Six to eight cooks/servers are needed each month to prepare and serve the dinner. Food preparation starts at 2 p.m. and continues until 5:20 when the dinner is placed in vehicles for transport to COMEA. Serving takes place from 6-7 p.m., then back to the church to finish cleanup and unload utensils. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. The May COMEA date will be Sunday, May 20. For information, contact RC Reiman.

Comprehensive internal audit outlined

The Internal Audit Committee met with Council President Tim Leberman and Treasurer Patti Riesland to outline the scope of a comprehensive audit, which they believe will provide the congregation with an accurate and detailed financial report. It was decided to review the church's financial reports back to 2010 through the current position to ensure accuracy. "It has been my intention to be completely transparent with the congregation," Patti said, "so while currently our reports indicate we have \$123,448 in general funds and \$124,996 in special funds, these numbers may be adjusted as we proceed in the audit process."

Church Council liaisons

The Church Council has designated its members as liaisons to various church committees. They are as follows:

Building & Grounds—Frank Mellblom

Church Life—Tim Leberman

Education—Yessica Cordova

Evangelism—Katie Wisdom

Social Concerns—Doug Cook

Worship—Patti Riesland

Endowment—Katie Wisdom,
Patti Riesland

Tech—Ryan Mitchell, Mike Bell

Stewardship—Erin Edwards

Youth—Carolyn Rude

Karen Marcy offers thanks for prayers, support

Thank you for the ongoing prayers and support for my health and treatments for neuroendocrine disease/carcinoid. My third treatment is scheduled May 4, and the final one is eight weeks later. I am blessed to get this new treatment in Denver. Results of my treatment will be available in September.