

Ascension Lutheran Church

712 Storey Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82009

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Ascension Storey



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

Ascension Lutheran Church

Cheyenne, Wyoming

ascensioncheyenne.org

June–July 2018

GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL

Abby Anderson
Central High School
Daughter of
Cole & Margy
Anderson

Morgan Williams
Central High School
Daughter of
Jason & Brenda
Williams

COLLEGE

Patrick Meier
Bachelor of Arts,
Criminal Justice,
College of Arts
and Sciences,
University
of Wyoming
Son of Scott Meier
and Kathy Meier

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Tim Read
Doctor of Philosophy
(Ph.D.),
Environmental
Sciences with an
Occupational Injury
Prevention
specialization,
School of Public Health,
University of Texas
Health Science Center,
Houston, Texas
Son of
David & Janice Read

**A punch and
cake reception
will follow the
Sunday service
on June 3
in the narthex.**



Vicar Katelin Bingner, Pastor Wes Aardahl and the congregation welcomed two confirmands on May 20: eighth-graders Riley Logan, left, daughter of Scott and Kelly Logan, and Luke Moore, son of Justin and Kirsten Moore (N. Morris photo)

SPECIAL SUMMER CHURCH EVENTS

Worship with the Birds and the Bees

When: Sunday, July 15

When: 10 a.m. (in lieu of 9:30 service)

Where: Hynds Lodge Amphitheater
[Take Happy Jack Road toward Laramie, past the main entrance to Curt Gowdy State Park; turn right on Hynds Lodge Road and right again on Amphitheater Road.]

What to bring: Food and drink for you or to share for a picnic afterward.

Who's invited: The people of Ascension, St. Paul's and Christ Lutheran churches—and anyone else.

Those needing transportation may call the church well ahead of time; we'll try to arrange for carpooling.

Vicar farewell party

After worship on Sunday, August 5, the Intern Committee plans a celebration to honor Vicar Katelin as she completes her contact with Ascension on August 7 and returns for another year of seminary.

Church Council Meeting Highlights

May 10

Treasurer's report

- **April offerings** came in above last year's (\$29,383.63 compared to \$26,687.26), but total year-to-date offerings are down (\$103,777.75 compared to \$109,327).

Committee reports

- The **Building and Grounds Committee** is seeking additional bids for an update to the outdoor sign and anticipates the start of roof repairs soon.
- At the initial meeting of the **Kitchen Task Force** approximately 15 people came up with several ideas for improving how to proceed, including a plan to visit two churches with new kitchens and two churches with remodeled kitchens and considering the question "Where do we want to be in five or 10 years?"
- The **Evangelism Committee** reported attendance for the first quarter of 2018 is on par with attendance from the first quarter of 2017. The committee will report in June with more data so the council can make an educated decision about continuing with one service in the fall.
- The **Youth Committee** reported volunteers are needed for the preschool aspect of VBS this summer.

Attendance at the Easter breakfast was low, and plans are in place to make muffins for Mother's Day.

- The **Social Concerns Committee** reported donations to Sky Ranch and the Cheyenne Day of Giving. Pig bank money will be collected through the end of VBS for ELCA World Hunger.

New business

- The ELCA recommends **background checks for all volunteers working with children.** Currently, Ascension does not have a screening policy for volunteers. Official background checks through the Cheyenne Police Department may be difficult because volunteers must visit the police station to complete the process. The council and youth committee will use a volunteer application for VBS volunteers, will look into having the CPD brief the VBS volunteers on appropriate interactions with the children, and will work to enact a background check program and create a youth interaction safety policy for the church by August 15. Chris Muggenburg, Kris Rude and Doug Cook will head this project.
- The **upstairs kitchen hood** is not up to code, and upgrading it should be considered.

Next meeting • June 14 • 7 p.m.

These little piggies want new homes

During the children's sermon May 20, Kari Chandler of the Social Concerns Committee kicked off Ascension's drive to raise funds for ELCA World Hunger.

Although monies can purchase cows, goats, chickens, honeybees, fish farms, and oxen and a plow, Kari used the example of the big difference a pig can make in an impoverished family. For \$30, a pig can soon have up to 16 piglets, which can be kept, sold and given to neighbors.

Donations from the congregation may be placed in the "big pig," created by the Hohn family, or in the smaller, take-home "piggy banks." The drive will end after Vacation Bible School. With your gift, a family can escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



Kari Chandler wants this little piggy to fight world hunger. (R. Schliske photo)

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Pastor's cell phone
307-421-0159

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.

July 27 Newsletter Deadline

PASTOR'S PIECE

Summer is near

What a lush pattern we're enjoying lately. Clouds gather, and rain falls generously each afternoon or evening. We may tire of mowing our growing lawns, but only the most hardened of us will fail to be uplifted at the sight of so much green in this open, high country.

Spring is in full stride, but summer is near. It may be a good time to preview some of the events that lie ahead of us.

To mark the beginning of summer, we will host **Vacation Bible School** June 18–22. This year, a team of counselors from Sky Ranch Bible Camp will lead our VBS, with the assistance of a retinue of our own volunteers. As always, it will be exhausting fun to have many lively children filling the church with sound and motion.

Calling all book readers! We will convene in the upper fellowship hall on Wednesday, June 20, at 7 p.m. to discuss "Gilead" (2004) by Marilynne Robinson. It's a Pulitzer Prize winner by a major author and should be readily available. We'll meet again on July 25 and August 22, with book titles TBA. I'm envisioning a full table of voracious readers, so help it become a reality!

On June 26 Pastor Rebecca Aardahl and Erica McColl, together with Anessa Bensley, Seneva Sullivan and Morgan Williams, will fly to Houston for the triennial **ELCA Youth Gathering**. This event will draw 30,000 youth and will feature amazing speakers, bands, worship experiences and service projects. The Youth Gathering is one of our church's signature events. It will make a significant impact not only on the youth of our church but also on the city of Houston. Our group will return on July 3.

In the middle of July, we will gather at the Hynds Lodge Amphitheater at Curt Gowdy State Park for an **outdoor worship service and picnic**. Invitations have been extended to our friends at Christ and St. Paul's, too. More information can be found on Page 1 of this newsletter. Thanks to Jane Iverson for the inspired suggestion and for making the arrangements.

Another significant event will occur in early August when **Vicar Katelin Bingner concludes her year of service** and learning among us. Leave-takings carry a note of sadness, but the conclusion of a year of internship also carries many notes of gratitude and satisfaction. We are already laying plans to celebrate Katelin's year with us. [Mark Sunday, August 5, on your calendars.] Our vicar has many evident gifts, including: the planning and practice of worship, acquaintance with foundational church doctrine, teaching and pastoral visitation. She is unusually gifted in the use of language and in her powers of comprehension. I've especially appreciated Katelin's desire to participate so thoroughly in the preaching rotation, committee meetings, appointments and other aspects of pastoral and congregational life!

We've given Katelin invaluable experience, affirmation and constructive criticism. We've shared the love of Christ with her. We can be pleased to return her to Wartburg Theological Seminary with a fuller head and heart! Still, we'll miss her, not only for her abilities or deeds but also for her flashing smiles and sly remarks.

Pastor Wes Aardahl



Military uniforms were the focus of the Art Gallery's display during May. In June, wedding dresses will be featured. Bring them before June 9 and hang them in the entryway closet with your name and the wedding date. In July baptismal gowns will be exhibited. Bring them before July 13 and provide your name and the year the gown was first used. Also in July pictures of your pets will be displayed. (R. Schliske photo)

Assembly re-elects bishop

By Doug Cook

WESTMINSTER, COLORADO—"For the life of the world"—with that theme as background, Pastor Wes Aardahl, Vicar Katelin Bingner, Gaela Young and Doug Cook represented Ascension Lutheran Church at the 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly May 3–5.

The highlight of the assembly gathering was the nomination and re-election of Jim Gonia as our synod bishop on the first ballot of the first day. In addition to electing a bishop, we passed four resolutions: (1) addressing gun violence in churches; (2) economic justice for displaced workers because of technology innovations; (3) peace for Palestinian youth incarcerated by the Israeli military, and (4) creation of a synod youth council. We also passed a social statement on women and justice that will be presented at next year's churchwide assembly for its consideration.

Throughout the assembly we heard numerous presentations from Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda,

Art Gallery

News

Important upcoming summer dates noted

Some summer dates in for the congregation to make note are as follows: (1) The *Ascension Storey* newsletter will go on a summer schedule with no July issue. The **deadline for the August issue is Friday, July 27**. (2) The church **office will be closed** on Wednesday, July 4, to mark the Fourth of July. (3) Church secretary Cheryl Collins will be **out of the office** on Friday, July 13, through Monday, July 23. If you can volunteer some time to man the office, contact Cheryl or pastor.

WELCA Bible study to meet during summer

The Women of the ECLA (WELCA) will meet throughout the summer at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, June 19, July 17 and August 21, in the upper fellowship hall. Their study will be a three-session course from Gather magazine called "Let us pray" by Anna Madsen. June: session one—The paradoxes of prayer (1 Samuel 12:16-23); July/August: session two—The practices of prayer (Psalm 19:14); and August: session three—The products of prayer (Romans 8:26-28). For information, contact Shirley Toppenberg at 634-4946.

Family Promise volunteers appreciated

For the May 20–27 rotation of Family Promise, appreciation and a heartfelt thanks go to the following: *Dinner volunteers*: Peggy Leland, Kari Chandler, Linda Oliverius, Patti Riesland, Shirley Kaetzer; *Evening hosts*: Kris Rude, Karen Ferchen, Kathy Robbins; *Saturday hosts*: Shirley Toppenberg, Dave and Marcia Talley, Denise Martin; *Overnight hosts*: Tom Kaetzer, Doug Chandler, Lynne Iversen, Margie Sewell; *Transition to next church*: Margie Sewell, Wally Rice; *General support and encouragement*: Anne McGowan; *Laundry*: Connie and Guntar Dambro. The next rotation is August 12–19.

COMEA dates set for June 24 and July 29

Volunteers from the congregation are needed for the COMEA meal preparations on Sundays, June 24, and July 29. Six to eight cooks/servers are needed 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. For information, contact RC Reiman.

Musicians wanted for summer worship

Adult Choir director/organist Jane Iverson and organist Gaela Young have invited young members and adults to consider sharing their musical talents with the congregation during summer worship services with singing and instruments. Please let them know as soon as possible so that they can schedule participation.

Service held for Robert Grenwelge Jr.

A service for Robert R.B. Grenwelge Jr., choir member and cantor who died May 7, was held at Ascension Lutheran Church on May 19. He was born to Robert R.B. and Lola Ann (Bowles) Grenwelge in Houston, Texas, on September 24, 1953. After graduating from Scarborough High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He married Diane Mueller (Garrett), and they had a daughter, Erin.

Robert worked in the communicable disease division of the city of Houston for more 11 years, rising to the rank of administration manager. He was hired by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2001, Robert transferred to the Wyoming

Department of Health immunization unit as a public health advisor, where he met Debra (DeWitt) Hamilton. They married in 2014.

He is survived by his wife, Debra; daughter, Erin (Bobby) Leshikar; stepdaughter, Krista (Tyler "TJ") Barttelbort; stepson, Justyn Hamilton; sisters, Lynn (Gary) Schroeder and Kathie (Howard) Klare; brother, Bill (Lise) Grenwelge; aunts, Del Hendricks and Beverly (Cecil) Anderson, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and innumerable friends and family members who will miss his quick wit, sense of humor and his calm, patient manner.

Donations may be made to Davis Hospice Center, St. Jude's Children's Hospital or a charity of choice.