

Ascension Lutheran Church

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Ascension Storey



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

Ascension Lutheran Church

Cheyenne, Wyoming

ascensioncheyenne.org

May 2018



VBS set July 18–22

As children eagerly await the end of school, plans are being made for Vacation Bible School 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. Pre-registration will be required, and forms will be available on the church's website later this month or parents may look for them in an email.

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.

"We are very excited about the counselors from Sky Ranch doing our programming this year," Kris Rude, coordinator said. "While they will provide not only their talents but also the games and crafts, we will still need to supply snacks and additional adult and youth small group helpers." Signup sheets will be out soon for items needed.

"Most importantly, we will need to organize and staff the entire pre-school program as Sky Ranch works only with children who have completed kindergarten," she noted. "We are looking for volunteers to help with this part."

Contact Kris Rude at rudfam@yahoo.com.

3 new electronic offerings methods to be implemented

Ascension Lutheran Church is embracing new technologies in order to make stewardship easier for some of its members.

The three ways include (1) texting donations with a credit card; (2) using the Give+Church free app to donate with a credit card, debit card or ACH credit (direct electronic payment); and (3) following a link on Ascension's website to donate with a credit card, debit card or ACH credit (direct electronic payment). The technology is offered through Vanco Payment Solutions, a company recommended by the ELCA, but donors will continue to receive statements of giving from Ascension.

Texting: Enter 307-317-1456, the 10-digit Give+Text number, and the amount you wish to donate and press Send. You will receive a registration link where you will enter your contact and payment information; then click Process. You will receive a verification text and an email receipt.

Cellphone app: At the App Store or Google Play, download the free GivePlusChurch app. Then select Ascension as your default church and tap Donate Now. Choose a fund and a preset amount or another amount; select Add, and scan or enter your credit/debit card or banking account information. Select Complete Donation.

Website link: From a link on the Ascension website, create an account with an email address and a password, with an option to use the TouchID/Fingerprint feature or a PIN. You can select a preset amount or another amount and the recurring frequency. From Recurring Donations, you can view or delete any scheduled donation.

In addition, congregation members will have the opportunity to opt out of personal offering envelopes by signing a sheet in the narthex or calling the church office. The church spends \$800 annually on these envelopes, yet they are not well used. Offering envelopes will still be available in the pews.

Church Council Meeting Highlights

April 12

Treasurer's report

- March **offerings** came in at \$17,678.67 year compared to \$18,668.11 last year, but April is off to a good start.

Committee reports

- The **Endowment Committee** has established a fund dispersal policy so that a \$200,000 base level was set, and no distributions will draw the fund below that except in an emergency. Annual distributions will be 4 percent of the assets based upon a rolling average of the previous four calendar quarters and will be computed at the end of the third quarter.
- The **Building and Grounds Committee** reported an initial kitchen remodel meeting set for April 21; possible rehabilitation of the west parking lot; seeking new sign bids; and possible hiring of a ground penetrating radar company to determine the cause of the sanctuary floor problems without opening the floors.
- The **Tech Committee** is working on extending the Wi-Fi signal so that it will reach the education wing.
- The **Social Concerns Committee** reported "Pig

Banks" are in production to be placed in the church for ELCA collections to purchase piglets.

Old business

- The council will look into hosting congregational **cottage meetings** to check progress and re-evaluate goals set forth during the pastoral transition.

New business

- Tim Leberman will talk to Erin Edwards about ways to inform the congregation about **our involvement in the community**.
- **Guidelines** for contacting committee chairs and getting items added to the agenda were passed out. It is hoped establishing procedures for maintaining contact between committees and the council will increase committee participation and communication.
- After reviewing the synod's guidelines for **pastoral compensation** and discussing them with Pastor Wes, the executive committee recommended and the council approved a raise for pastor. A resolution was approved for the council to conduct an annual review of pastor's compensation prior to passing the budget each year.

Next meeting • May 10 • 7 p.m.



Cheyenne Day of Giving Friday, May 11

8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Kiwanis Community House

Ascension Lutheran Church members are encouraged to participate in the 13th annual Cheyenne Day of Giving.

At the event you can donate nonperishable food, personal care items including new underwear; blood through United Blood

Services; prescription eyeglasses, hearing aids and cellphones; craft items; leftover prescription medication and medical supplies; durable medical equipment; register as an organ, tissue or bone marrow donor or make cash donations.

The day before on

May 10 a youth event will be held from 3:30–6:30 p.m. Last year, the youth in our community collected 3,500 pounds of personal care items and food items.

For more specific information, go to www.cheyennedayofgiving.org.

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Dr. Jane Iverson
and Gaela Young
Newsletter Editor
Rosalind Schliske

Church Council
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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.

May 25 Newsletter Deadline

Youth activities

Youth to bake 'Muffins for Mom'

To celebrate Mother's Day, the youth group will provide muffins for the congregation after the service on Sunday, May 13. Youth volunteers will be needed to bake muffins on Saturday, May 12. Please watch your email for details about the time and location.

VBS youth volunteers needed

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.

Two to be confirmed

On Sunday, May 20, Riley Logan and Luke Moore will be confirmed.

Riley is an eighth-grader at McCormick Junior High School, and her parents are Scott and Kelly Logan.

Luke, who attends Carey Junior High School, is also an eighth-grader. His parents are Justin and Kirsten Moore.

VICAR'S VIEW

As I write this, we've passed the half-way point in the season of Easter and approach the long "green season" of Ordinary time or "Time after Pentecost" as the ELW renders it.

While it's easy to lose grasp of Easter's grand joy throughout the spread of the remaining weeks—the seven Sundays in the season—the church calendar provides a few "minor" holidays here at the close of this crown of the year and one to begin our long growing season to give us focus and grounding.

First comes one that should be familiar to us, at least in name: the feast of the **Ascension!** This feast comes 40 days after Easter Sunday—which puts it in the unfortunate spot of being a weekday holiday, and as such, seldom recognized; often we observe it, as a result, on the following Sunday.

It is the evangelist Luke who gives us the texts for this day, writing in Acts of Christ ascending, wholly and entirely, to Heaven, to be seated at the right hand of the Father. While some have characterized this strange holiday as being one of abandonment,

Christ is Risen!

liturgical scholar Phillip Pfatteicher noted that, at its heart, "Ascension celebrates not only the glorification of Christ, but also in him the exaltation of the human race." We, too, have been lifted up.

The second holiday comes on the last day of the Easter season, **Pentecost**, the 50th day. We end the season of Resurrection and new life with the gift of the Holy Spirit, with fire in our hearts and on our lips, given us by the Risen Word. Scholars note that Pentecost, like Easter, is an ancient holiday, one where baptisms have traditionally taken place.

The third is the feast of the **Holy Trinity**, on the first Sunday of the new season; of the three, it is the youngest, showing up on our calendar around the 10th century. It would be easy to sum this day up as a holiday celebrating the triumph of dogma or to opine the heavy hand of orthodoxy, but that same scholar, Pfatteicher, helpfully suggested, rather, that this holiday "is perhaps best understood not as the feast of a doctrine, but as the celebration of the richness of God...the occasion



Colorado summer camp registration to be accepted

Ascension Lutheran Church will continue to offer financial assistance to its youth in the first through 12th grades to attend Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp this summer in Colorado.

The cost is as follows: Completed first- to third-grade students (Round Up) will pay \$50, while the church pays \$150; completed third- to fifth-grade students (Homesteaders) and completed sixth- to eighth-grade students (Mountaineers) will pay \$100, while the church pays \$300; completed ninth- to 12th-grade students (Rendezvous) will pay \$120, while the church pays \$320.

The six-day summer camps for Homesteaders and Mountaineers run June 24–29; July 8–13; July 15–20; July 22–27; July 29–August 3 and August 5–10. Round Up starts on the same date but lasts only three days. Rendezvous meets for four sessions: June 24, July 7, July 15 and July 22.

Sky Ranch is situated 55 miles west of Fort Collins. Driving from Fort Collins to the camp takes about one and a half hours.

For information or to register, contact RC Reiman, Nichole Morris, Chris Muggenberg or a Sunday school teacher. The camp's website is www.skyranchcolorado.org.

Vicar Katelin Bingner

News

Important upcoming May dates noted

Some dates in May for the congregation to make note are as follows: (1) Church secretary Cheryl Collins will be **out of the office** on Friday, May 11. (2) Wear red on **Pentecost Sunday** on May 20; (3) On May 20 you will be able to take home a variety of **four-packs of herbs** that are growing now. "The goal is to have all plants go to new homes," Sid Strand said. (4) The church **office will be closed** on Monday, May 28, to mark Memorial Day.

WELCA Bible study to meet May 15

The Women of the ECLA (WELCA) will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 15, in the upper fellowship hall. Their study will be a devotional from the May 2018 issue of Gather magazine, based on Hebrews 13:1–2, titled "All Are Welcome," by the Rev. Julie A. Kanarr, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Belfair, Washington. For questions or more information, contact Shirley Toppenberg at 634-4946.

Family Promise volunteers requested

Ascension Lutheran Church will join with St. Paul's Lutheran Church to host the May rotation for Family Promise from May 20–27. Volunteers are needed to provide dinner and to serve as hosts for the evening, Saturday day and overnight in order make a successful week for the participants. Contact Margie Sewell at 634-5602 or mrgtswll@gmail.com.

COME A volunteers needed for May 20

Volunteers from the congregation are needed for the next COMEA meal preparation on Sunday, May 20. 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. For information, contact RC Reiman.

Two delegates to attend RM Assembly

Doug Cook and Gaela Young were elected in January to represent Ascension as voting delegates to the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly May 3–5 in Westminster, Colorado, whose theme this year is "For the Life of the World." Pastor Wes will also attend. One major item of business will be the election of a synod bishop to a six-year term.

Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, professor of theological and social ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Church Divinity School of the Pacific and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, will be the keynote speaker. She has lectured or consulted in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Australia, and North America in theology; ethics; and matters of climate justice and climate racism, moral agency, globalization, economic justice, eco-feminist theology and faith-based resistance to systemic oppression. Her most recent book, "Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation," won a Nautilus Award for social justice. She is author or co-author of six volumes and numerous articles and chapters.

Art Gallery to exhibit military uniforms

Sid Strand said the May display in the Art Gallery will be military uniforms, which should be brought to the church during the first week of May. "The uniforms don't need to still fit you!" he said, but they should include name and branch/years of service. In June, favorite wedding dresses will be exhibited.

Church offers can, battery recycling

You can recycle both your used batteries and aluminum cans at the church's east entrance. Recycled batteries stay out of the landfill, while the recycled cans support Habitat for Humanity. Crushed cans take up less room. Mike Smith and Craig Hood volunteer to take these items to the appropriate recycling centers.