



THE HEART OF ASCENSION

April
2020



With *Eyes on Jesus* as our theme this Lent, we will continuously focus on Jesus Christ and Him crucified, buried, and risen for our justification. This is a vision that will never disappoint, for by trusting in Jesus, He promises that we will gaze upon His beautiful face now by faith and forever in heaven!

On Maundy Thursday, there is “More Than Meets the Eye” to the Lord’s Supper. We will look into the Old Testament background of the Last Supper and rejoice in the mystery that Jesus, in and with, bread and wine, gives us His body and blood in order to deliver to us the benefits of His Passion. On Good Friday, we look through “God’s Eyes” to see what is happening during the Passion: the once-for-all atonement for the sin of the whole world and the justification of all sinners on Easter.

Finally, Easter Sunday gazes upon “Angel Eyes.” The angel in the tomb knows the whole story of Jesus’ resurrection. When he sees the women, he proclaims the Gospel to them, shows them where Jesus’ body had formerly lain, and tells them that they can see Jesus themselves in Galilee. Likewise, the “angels” or messengers of the Church in the apostolic ministry tell God’s people where they can find Jesus and His salvation in the Means of Grace.

FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PLEASE WATCH YOUR INBOX FOR EMAILS AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.ASCENSIONPGH.COM.

Important dates in April:

April 5, 2020	Palm Sunday
April 9, 2020	Maundy Thursday
April 10, 2020	Good Friday
April 12, 2020	Easter Sunday



HOLY WEEK



FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR – While we are **ONLINE** for worship services, please know that the music team and Elders are doing our best to provide you with meaningful worship options. Please go to our main [WEBSITE](#) page, scroll to Worship Resources, and click on the video link for the date you wish to view. Bulletins will also be posted. These videos will be hosted on our newly created [Ascension Lutheran Church Music PGH](#) YouTube page, where you can also find a playlist of blended traditional and contemporary songs to give you a spiritual uplift, should you need one! We hope that you will join us during worship times, and perhaps we can all still worship together in our hearts.

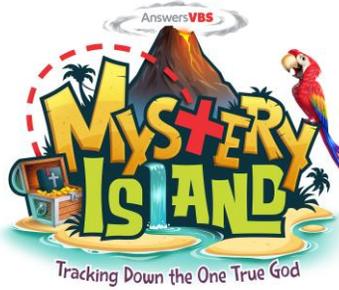
WITH CHURCH SERVICES BEING SUSPENDED, it's very important to remember the church's expenses continue. There's still a mortgage to be paid, payroll to meet, utilities to pay, etc. Now is a great time to try out **ONLINE GIVING!** Go to the Online Giving page of the church website (ascensionpgh.com/giving) or download the app (Give+) from Vanco to your phone. You can set up recurring or one-time donations. Now more than ever it's important to continue your support of Ascension financially. We encourage you to consider giving your offering online. Of course, you may also mail in your donation to the church if you would like. Questions? Contact Bob Marcellus at finance@ascensionpgh.com. Thank you.



SUSPENDED - EASTER FLOWERS: Because our order had to be in by March 29th, and with all the uncertainty because of the Coronavirus, we have decided to suspend our flower sale this year.

SAVE THE DATE!! Ascension will again be participating, pending state and/or local restrictions, with the National Day of Prayer on **May 7, 2020**, the day of observance as designated by the United States Congress. Mark Straszheim invites anyone interested in planning or participating to contact him at mark.straszheim@gmail.com.





JOIN THE FUN IN THE SUN WITH MYSTERY ISLAND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)!

Is there just one God? . . . Who is God? . . . What is God like? . . . Does God love me? . . . Can I know God? Our kids grapple with questions like these every day. At Mystery Island, we'll uncover the truth about our Creator God! There's a sea of confusion about who God is and what He's like, so we'll track down the one true God and learn how amazing He is through the pages of Scripture. Grab your sunscreen and get ready for a taste of paradise as you track down the one true God at Mystery Island on [July 13-16 from 5:45-8:15!](#)

April Anniversaries:

24 Steve & Kelly Vogel

April Birthdays:

4	Linda Sweeney	21	Karen Stauffer
6	Coleen Henkelmann	24	Dollyanne Gaertner
8	Cheri Adams	27	Karen Booth
12	Vanessa Candreva	27	Steve Vogel
13	Emily Marcellus	28	Bj Astridge
13	Ruth Redondo	28	Jeannie Connolly
13	Katie Straszheim	28	Mark Kitzki
16	Jeff Watson	28	Matt Shaginaw
20	Kayla Arnett	29	Edie Krom



IF WE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 412-364-4463.



At our last meeting in March, we learned a lot about making sleep mats for the homeless out of plastic grocery bags. None of us realized how nice they turn out after they are crocheted. We thank Sally Long and Marty Beaty for spending time with us and for sharing their knowledge. If you are interested in getting together to get involved with this project, let Janet Seitz know. We want to make plans to cut and tie the bags together to make “yarn” balls for the crocheters.

We are planning on having our Mother/Daughter Luncheon on **May 2nd** from Noon until 2:00 PM. We will have to see what develops with all the restrictions because of the coronavirus.

The LWML Eastern District Convention that was scheduled to be held in East Syracuse, New York in June has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

If anyone would like to contribute to our Mite Projects, please turn your contributions in by the end of April. You can put them in the “Mite” box on the table in the Narthex or give them to Janet Seitz.

L.O.C.K.D.O.W.N. is a time to:

- L**isten to God’s voice and reflect. Let go and let God.
- O**bey His word and His teachings.
- C**all on Jesus’ name and be calm.
- K**now what is the purpose of all of this.
- D**well in His presence. Do not panic.
- O**ffer a prayer for everyone’s safety.
- W**ait and be patient. This too shall pass.
- N**urture our personal relationship with Him.

From Shirley Freyer at Concordia Lutheran Ministries



**Thank you to Steve Diak for donating
two filing cabinets to the church office!**



Helen Goettmann, one of our shut-ins, would like to thank the congregation very much for all the lovely birthday cards she received on her 101st birthday! Helen called the office and spoke with Barb and was very appreciative. She is not able to send a thank you note, but wanted to let you know how much she enjoyed and loved all the cards, especially the ones from the children.

FOR PASTORAL NEEDS/EMERGENCIES, please call Pastor Barry Keurulainen at 724-352-2777 (office) or after hours at 724-352-3841 (home). You may also reach him via email at bjk@stlukecabot.org. If you would like to speak with an Elder instead, please feel free to contact one of the Elders listed below:

Mike Fiffik, Head Elder	412-780-1647
Cooper Blake	412-654-4146
Bob Booth	808-295-1835
Pete Candreva	412-999-4856
David Dille	412-726-1934
Darryl Gunther	724-272-0441



RESCHEDULED – CONCORDIA SPRING FASHION LUNCHEON – Concordia Lutheran Ministries' 2020 Spring Fashion Luncheon "Pearls and Lace" has been rescheduled for Saturday, **August 22, 2020** at the

Butler Country Club (same location). If this change in date affects you negatively and you are no longer able to attend, please let us know and we will refund your registration money immediately if you have already paid. Please call 724-352-1571, extension 8363, or email Larissa Yates at LYates@concordialm.org.

RESCHEDULED – FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN COUNSELING FUNDRAISER – The annual fundraising event for the Foundation for Christian Counseling has been rescheduled to **June 5, 2020**. More information will be forthcoming. There are three ways you can help: purchase tickets and attend the dinner auction fundraiser, place a booklet ad in the FFCC Dinner/Auction Program, or make an online donation. Visit ccawpa.com for more details.



10 Reasons to Switch to Online Giving

10. It's fast. The church gets your donation faster. They don't have to wait until Sunday, wait for it to be deposited, and wait for everything to clear.
9. It's easy. Once you set up an account, all it takes is a few clicks. Or set up recurring donations and you won't have to do anything else. Just set it and forget it!
8. It's convenient. No filling out checks, finding your envelopes, etc. Just take out your phone (which is always with you!) or get online (which you usually are already).
7. It's flexible. Give by credit card or withdrawal from your checking/savings account. Use the internet or an app. Give one-time donations or set up recurring donations.
6. If you miss a Sunday (and who doesn't), you don't have to worry about making up your donation. The church will still get your donation if you set up recurring donations. Or if you're sick in bed, you can still give even if you're not at church!
5. There's an option that allows you to help offset transaction costs, which will save the church from having to pay this fee.
4. It's more secure. Vanco has never had a security breach. Plus, online giving helps eliminate the middleman.
3. You most likely pay some or most of your bills online already. Why not give to church the same way?
2. Online giving is the future. Fewer and fewer checks are being used every year.
1. All the cool kids are doing it!!



Operation Christmas Child

Last month I reported on the number of boxes that were collected in the United States and worldwide. Here are more interesting facts on shoebox collection:

- * In 2019, 90 churches collected shoeboxes in Allegheny County for a total of 11,916 boxes.
- * Countries where these shoeboxes went to were: Dominican Republic, Honduras, Malawi, South Africa and Togo. (Ours personally went to the Dominican Republic.)
- * There were 1,100 churches planted in the last few years in 54 countries due to Operation Christmas Child.
- * There were 218,501 teachers trained in *The Greatest Journey* for a total of over 2.2 million decisions made for Christ in 2018-2019!

Please continue to pray for these children and all children throughout the world that they may come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. Only a small fraction of all the children in the world receive a shoebox every year. Let's make this year another outstanding year!

Bob Marcellus

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



Sanity Corner from Concordia Lutheran Ministries

We know that many of our residents and patients might be going a little stir-crazy soon, and many of us have kids, teens, spouses, significant others, roommates, etc. at home right now as well. So here is a list of online resources to suggest to residents and patients or your own family when they need a dose of the outside world:

Free Video Chat Apps. There's a variety of apps you can download to help make video chat a breeze.

- **Facetime** for iPhone and iPad users
- **WhatsApp** for iOS and Android users. In addition to video calls, WhatsApp supports video calls and text messages.
- **Skype** for iOS and Android users. Much like WhatsApp, it also supports voice calls and text messages, and you can also support up to 24 participants on a single call.
- **Google Duo** for iOS and Android users. This is a video-focused platform that uses your phone number, so there's no need to create an account.

Virtual Zoos and Aquariums. Because who doesn't want to see cute animals when they're stuck at home?

- **The San Diego Zoo** (zoo.sandiegozoo.org, scroll down the main page for webcams) has 11 live animal cams streaming 24/7. Go outback with the koalas or take a dive in icy water with polar bears!
- **The Smithsonian's National Zoo** (nationalzoo.si.edu, click Animals at the top of the page, then Webcams from the drop-down menu) has two live cams on their giant pandas, Tian Tian and Meri Xiange, who offer endless adorability, as well as their naked mole-rats, lions and elephants.
- **The Monterey Bay Aquarium** (montereybayaquarium.org, scroll down on their main page for webcams) has their live cams on sea otters, moon jellies, penguins, sharks and more!

Virtual Museum Tours. The Google Arts & Culture project (artsandculture.google.com) utilizes Street View technology to provide a unique virtual experience for all users. Whether you are a history buff, art critic, sports fanatic, or an overall admirer of all things cultural, this project will have something for you! Here's a glimpse of the magic you can experience (and this is probably just 1% of the possibilities offered!):

- Take virtual tours through world famous museums - explore masterpieces through high-definition cameras that zoom in on the smallest of details.
- Visit major landmarks (Taj Mahal, Great Pyramid of Giza and others) for gorgeous views
- Tour historic stages all over the world - you can take a bow at the Carnegie Music Hall in NYC or imagine yourself at the Colosseum in Rome

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Concordia Cares Program

Don't forget about our new, multi-part program to lift our residents' and patients' spirits:

A card/video campaign from the community to our residents and patients. To send a card, community members will need to contact the Activities Department at the location they're interested in (the phone numbers for our locations are on our website, www.ConcordiaLM.org). To send a video message, community members, family members or staff who are interested can email us at SendASmile@concordialm.org to get specific instructions on how to send a video, which will then be shared with residents and patients.

A shopping service for all Concordia retirement living residents. Concordia is coordinating a shopping service for our retirement living residents, in which volunteers will shop for items on a list the resident provides, pay with a designated company card, and deliver the groceries to the resident's building. Residents will later be billed for their groceries. For more information or to volunteer to be a shopper, contact Director of Retirement Living Connor Hagey at CHagey@concordialm.org or 724-352-1571, ext. 8343.

The immediate expansion of Concordia's Tele-CareGiver Program. Established in 2001, Concordia's Tele-CareGiver Program is a free service that utilizes volunteers who make daily phone calls to homebound individuals to ensure that they are able to answer the phone – a daily “check-in” and friendly voice every day. If you are interested in learning more about being a client (who gets a call every weekday morning) or a volunteer (who makes calls every weekday morning) call 724-352-6260.

Video conferencing with loved ones available for all residents and patients. The Activities Staff at all Concordia locations are making it easy and accessible for all residents and patients to be able to video conference with their loved ones at least once a week.

Daily online devotions. Look to Concordia's website, www.ConcordiaLM.org, to soon see daily devotions from Concordia Chaplaincy Staff and maybe even some special guest devotions from pastors at our member churches. The online devotions will be on the Mission and Ministry page on the About section of the website: <https://www.concordialm.org/about?service=4>.

A daily online puzzle. Look to Concordia's social media channels for a daily pictogram, puzzle or trivia question to answer:

- o **Concordia Lutheran Ministries** on Facebook
- o **concordia_lm** on Instagram
- o **@ConcordiaLM** on Twitter

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The following report to Jesus from the Jordan Management Consultants is not real, but it is fun to read. The old adage "God sees what we don't see" certainly applies.

To: Jesus, Son of Joseph
Woodcrafter's Carpenter Shop
Nazareth 25922



From: Jordan Management Consultants

Dear Sir:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for managerial positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

The profiles of all tests are included, and you will want to study each of them carefully.

As part of our service, we make some general comments for your guidance, much as an auditor will include some general statements. This is given as a result of staff consultation, and comes without any additional fee.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew had been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind, and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely,

Jordan Management Consultant

(Obtained from President Wicher's Breaking New Ground newsletter; used by permission)

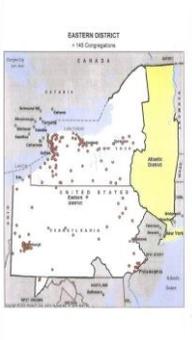
The Eastern District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)
5111 Main Street, Williamsville, NY, 14221
Phone: (716) 634-5111 Fax: (716) 634-5452
www.LCMSED.org

The Eastern District is one of thirty-five districts of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod headquartered in St. Louis, MO. www.LCMS.org



The LCMS is:

- **6,000 congregations**
- **35 districts**
- **2 million baptized**
- **1.6 million confirmed**
- **24,000 professional Church workers**
- **18,000 commissioned Ministers**
- **6,000 ordained pastors**



Your EASTERN DISTRICT is:

- **125 congregations**
- **4 Regions, 16 Circuits**
- **9 Day Schools**
- **47 Early Education Centers**
- **40,000 baptized**
- **30,000 confirmed**
- **140 commissioned ministers**
- **120 ordained pastors**



“We desire healthy leaders **vigorously** equipping God’s people for Kingdom growth.”

In the LCMS we value our common partnership in many areas of ministry, yet we equally cherish congregational freedom. To accomplish our mutual ministry we form circuits, district, even a larger Synod so that together we can:

- Engage in local, regional and world mission outreach
- Train pastors and educators and other specialists through our seminaries and colleges
- Share the ministry of World Relief/Hunger
- Develop Bible based and Christ centered curriculum
- Promote biblical and confessional emphases
- Provide administrative and support services to local congregations
- Network cooperative efforts in synod, districts, circuits and congregations.

(continued over)

Services and assistance provided by the LCMS and the Eastern District. Our congregations working together provide you with:

- + Congregation Ministry Facilitators (District Staff)
- + Call list services to congregations desiring pastors, teachers, staff
- + Congregational Self-Study materials, guidance, consultation
- + Circuit Counselor support, guidance and assistance
- + Consultations for Lutheran schools and pre-schools
 - + Congregational planning and consultation, helping, enabling
 - + Regular prayer to our Lord for one another
 - + Ministerial Health & Support for church professionals
 - + Lay Leadership Conferences
 - + Lutheran Church Extension Fund
 - + Demographic study services
 - + Church worker student recruitment/scholarships
 - + Urban/Ethnic ministry assistance
 - + Gift Planning consultation and guidance
 - + LCMS Concordia University System of Higher Education
 - + Stewardship Education Workshops
 - + Evangelism resources and training
 - + Video, program, small groups & Bible study resources
 - + Consultation for new ministries, partnerships, missions
 - + Assimilation workshops and resources
 - + VBS, Sunday School and Confirmation workshops
 - + Facilities planning and development support
 - + Advocacy for Lutheran Schools
 - + Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center
 - + Youth Gatherings, Retreats and resources
 - + Conflict management assistance
 - + Support for congregational treasurers
 - + Human Care resources
 - + Theological study documents/papers
 - + Salary guidelines for church professionals
 - + Reconciliation
 - + Support to growing congregations
 - + Relationship to world-wide partner churches



February 2020



FOR HEALTH & HEALING

For all those ill with coronavirus; Marie (breast cancer – friend of Becky and Gordon Marquette); Eileen Vogel (recovery from surgery); Susan, Carol, and Karen (health issues – friends of Trish Young); Cookie (health issues – Trish Young’s sister-in-law); Joe (mass on heart – Cheryl Sedar’s son); Gene Williams (mesothelioma); Shut-ins: Elva Fields, Helen Goettmann, Lois Kitzki, Phyllis Kitzki, Clay McClellan, Don Sohngen, Nadine Weber

FOR STRENGTH & COMFORT

For all those who lost loved ones, especially Janine Nicolette, Michael Fantin, and Emily and Isabelle Nicolette-Fantin on the death of Geraldine Nicolette; Gino’s family (friend of Gene Williams); Mark, Coleen, and Nick Koorsen and Mark’s three grandchildren, on the loss of Mark’s daughter, Rebecca; for the citizens, survivors, relief workers, missionaries, and families affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, terrorist attacks and disasters worldwide

FOR THANKSGIVING

For the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; the gifts of love and God's Word; family and friends; our country

FOR SAFETY/PROTECTION

For all affected by the coronavirus pandemic; missionaries; our armed forces; unborn children

FOR DIRECTION AND FAITH

For our pastoral call process; those who are experiencing a crisis of faith; women with unplanned pregnancies

GENERAL PRAYER, GUIDANCE, AND PROVISION

For Pastor Schultz and his family; Pastor Lee and his family; the Gaertner family; SOAR Respite Nights and participating families; Gene Williams, Jr. and DiscipleMakers; Pastor Eric Andræ and Campus Ministry in Oakland; seminary students; the residents and staff of Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship; Food For The Poor; Christian Counseling Associates counselors and their clients; those with special needs (physical, mental, or emotional)

***Please note that prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for 60 days and then be removed unless an extension is requested by notifying the church secretary.**



Upcoming Lutheran Hour Broadcasts

April 5, 2020: “There's Still Time” People can be unreceptive to God's love because they are very bad—or because they think they are very good. (Exodus 11-12)
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

April 12, 2020: “You Haven't Lost Me” (Exodus 14) Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

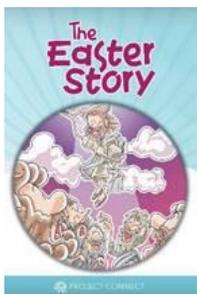
April 19, 2020: “TBA” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

April 26, 2020: “TBA” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Lutheran Hour broadcasts can be heard on WWNL/1080 AM on Saturdays at 3:30 PM and on Sundays at 8:00 AM. You may also read the sermon or listen to it at <https://www.lutheranhour.org/sermon.asp>.

ONLINE RESOURCES – You may visit the Lutheran Hour Ministries’ website (www.lutheranhour.org) or KFUE Radio (www.KFUE.org) for online Lutheran programming opportunities/resources. **Lutheran Hour Ministries** has sermons, devotions, podcasts, Bible study materials, children’s materials, and more. **KFUE Radio** is a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations that shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUE.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfue.org and wherever you get your podcasts or on social: @KFUEradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Easter videos from Lutheran Hour Ministries:



For the video, go to: <https://vimeo.com/59431467> .



“Easter: An Empty Tomb”

For the video, go to: <https://www.lhm.org/easter/> .





April showers



bring
spring flowers!



Make a vase to hold some of the beautiful spring flowers that you find.

You will need:

- ✿ a bottle with an interesting shape (salad dressing, juice, ketchup)
- ✿ white glue
- ✿ paintbrush
- ✿ yarn



Directions:

Brush some glue on the bottle, starting at the bottom. Work on a small area at a time. Wind the yarn around the bottle. Hold it in place until the glue begins to dry. Continue brushing on glue and winding the yarn around until the bottle is completely covered.



Just for KIDS

God's Plan

Jesus was resurrected from the dead. He appeared to his disciples, and he told them about the plan of God.

On the blanks in the first section, write the words that fit the definitions. Transfer those letters to the numbered lines in the second section. Read the Scripture verse. Unscramble the circled letters to finish the sentence at the bottom of the page.

1. Water that falls from the sky 1 2 3 4
2. Birds lay them in nests 5 6 7 8
3. A newly hatched hen 9 10 11 12 13
4. Bloom in the spring 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
5. A caterpillar transformed 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
6. Dirt mixed with water 30 31 32

“J 5 8 31 20 **O** 8 2 3 32 , ‘I 2 30’

19 5 23 31 26 4 11 4 6

24 16 30 29 **F** 2 23 10 18 26

2 4 32 29 16 22 1 **F** 2 24 10 25 19

23 16 30 29 **G** 16 32 2 4 32

29 16 31 1 **G** 16 32 , ’” (taken from John 20:17, NIV)

Jesus has _____ !

Answer: rain, eggs, chick, flowers, butterfly, mud
 “Jesus said, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”
 Jesus has risen!

**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
8225 PEBBLES ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237**

Address Correction Requested

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Prayer time at 8:45 AM in Fireside Room
Worship Service: **Sunday at 9:30 AM**
Christian Education: **11:00 AM**

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday **9:00 AM-Noon; 1:00-4:00 PM**

**OUR MISSION AND VISION
STATEMENT:**

Acknowledging the great gift of God the Father in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior, we the people of Ascension Lutheran Church, as guided by the Holy Spirit, are committed to the furtherance of God's Kingdom. We will share and live the Gospel in our homes, our church, our community, and the world. Motivated by Christ's love for us, we are dedicated to spiritual growth and unity, worship and fellowship, and compassionate service. We recognize this as our common purpose and pray that God will enable us by His strength and wisdom to seek His will.

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A monthly publication of
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Barbara Marcellus is the Editor.

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