

# Ascension Lutheran Church



## Missouri Synod

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September 20, 2020

Worship Leader Today: Pete Candreva, Elder

Secretary: Barbara Marcellus  
[secretary@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:secretary@ascensionpgh.com)

Music Director: Vanessa Candreva  
[vcandreva@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:vcandreva@ascensionpgh.com)

### Welcome To Our Guest

It is a great joy to have you here today. We pray that your time with us has helped to deepen your faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. If we can be of service to you or your family, we invite you to talk to us at your convenience. You will always be welcome here. Please do us the honor of signing the guest sheet at the podium at the front of the church or at the entrance from the Education Wing.  
Thank you for coming!

# **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**September 20, 2020**

**Worship Service - 9:30 AM**

## **AS WE GATHER**

A part of us expects justice from God. We think that fairness ought to reign—that each of us should get what we deserve. But this is a dead end. God does not give us what we deserve but acts with mercy and grace beyond belief. He is scandalously generous and lavish with us—giving us what we do not deserve and have not earned. We are tempted to ask God for equity and what we deserve, but God is determined to give us so much more in Christ. Only in faith can we learn to let God be God, to honor His generosity with the only response He desires: faith and thanksgiving. Today we pray the Lord to break through to our hearts and minds with His abundant grace and to rejoice that He is more than fair—He is merciful!

## **WELCOME**

Pete Candreva, Elder

*(stand)*

**OPENING HYMN: “If You But Trust in God to Guide You”**

LW 420

**If you but trust in God to guide you  
And place your confidence in Him,  
You’ll find Him always there beside you  
To give you hope and strength within.  
For those who trust God’s changeless love  
Build on the rock that will not move.**

**What gain is there in futile weeping,  
In helpless anger and distress?  
If you are in His care and keeping,  
In sorrow will He love you less?  
For He who took for you a cross  
Will bring you safe through ev’ry loss.**

**In patient trust await His leisure  
In cheerful hope, with heart content  
To take whate’er your Father’s pleasure  
And all-discerning love have sent;  
Doubt not your inmost wants are known  
To Him who chose you for His own.**

**Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,  
Offer your service faithfully,  
And trust His Word; though undeserving,  
You'll find His promise true to be.  
God never will forsake in need  
The soul that trusts in Him indeed.**

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## **INVOCATION**

**Elder:** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Elder:** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** **I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.**

**Elder:** Is this your sincere confession?

**People:** **I am sorry for all my sins, and I ask for grace that I may do better. Amen.**

**Elder:** As you believe, so let it be. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Elder:** May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*(sit)*

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Isaiah 55:6–9 (*Seek the Lord while He may be found.*)

**EPISTLE:** Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30 (*Let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.*)

*(stand)*

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 20:1–16 (*The last will be first and the first will be last.*)

*Congregation reads together:*

**20:1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup> And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first last.”**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Doxology” (God Be Praised)**

*(sit)*

**SERMON: “What Hour Is It?”**

Pete Candreva, Elder

*(stand)*

**NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(sit)

OFFERTORY MEDITATION SONG: “Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me”

(stand)

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Elder: Lord God, You have promised to hear the prayers of Your people, and so we come to You this day offering You petitions and supplications for all manner and needs of people.

You have invited us to seek Your face and to call upon You while You are near. Lord, grant to us such confidence in Your grace and favor that we seek Your wisdom, walk in Your ways, and delight in Your gift of salvation with thanksgiving in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Elder: We delight in dwelling in Your house, O Lord. Bless Your Church and those who minister to us in Your name. Guide them to preach faithfully the whole counsel of Your Word so that we be steadfast in faith in the face of temptation, threat, and trial. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Elder: You have placed in our ears Your Word and in our hearts Your Spirit, O Lord. Grant that we learn to follow Your Word and live holy, upright, and honorable lives that reflect Your goodness and show forth the fruit of the Spirit in all we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Elder: You are our light and our salvation and in You we rest our fears. Lord, grant Your aid, comfort, and strength to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Be especially with the sick for whom we pray this day, *[especially . . . individual prayer requests may be spoken at this time followed by the petitioner saying “Lord, in Your mercy” after each request]*. Heal them in accordance with Your will and sustain them through their afflictions until the perfect healing comes in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Elder: Your power is greater than all and Your mercy is without limit. Lord, look with compassion upon our world of violence and terror. Bless those who govern here and everywhere that they protect the weak, promote the cause of virtue, administer justice to the criminal, and act with mercy toward those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Elder: You have given us a place at Your Son's Table and grace to receive His very body and blood. Lord, grant that we come with repentance and faith to receive all that Christ has accomplished for our salvation in this blessed communion with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Elder: You have shown us generosity greater than we deserve, O Lord. Silence our complaints when we would question Your mercy, and teach us to be satisfied by Your grace in all that we need for this mortal life and find contentment in God's promise of the life to come. Teach us to rejoice over every sinner who repents and for everyone who comes to You in faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Elder: All these and whatsoever other things we need, we ask You to grant us in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Into Your hands, O gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **PEACE**

Elder: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Congregants are welcome to take a Communion kit from the Narthex near the front door, and will be invited to take Communion in the pews at this time.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*(sit)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(stand)

## THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace.

CLOSING HYMN: "How Great Thou Art"

LW 519

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

### *Refrain:*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain*

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim: 'My God how great Thou art!' *Refrain*

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Elder: Go in peace and  
People: serve the Lord.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The assigned readings of the Church Calendar for next week are Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18, and Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32).



## **ASCENSION NEWS – SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**

**THANK YOU** to Pete Candreva (Elder) for leading us in worship today.

**IMPORTANT** – **EVERYONE please sign in** on one of the attendance sheets located at the Narthex or the Education Wing entrances.

**FACE COVERINGS** – Please wear face coverings indoors in all parts of the building (those who are over age two [2] and medically able to do so). If you forgot a face covering, there are some available in the Narthex and at the office entrance.

**HOLY COMMUNION** – To avoid excessive contact on Communion Sundays, there will be prepackaged Communion packets in the Narthex as you walk in. We ask you pick them up on your way to your seat. When Communion time happens, during the service, we will all partake as a community.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING** – Please practice social distancing in the Sanctuary (six [6] feet between households), and seating in every other pew. Please do not linger inside the building entrances/exits prior to and following worship services. Please enjoy the beautiful weather outside as you visit from six (6) feet apart!

**HAND SANITIZER** – Hand sanitizer is available in the Narthex and at the office entrance for your use.

**BUILDING RESTRICTIONS** – To limit the need for cleaning and disinfection, the classroom areas will be taped off. *If anyone needs to comfort a child, we will temporarily ask parents to use the Narthex.*

**OFFERINGS** – Since the offering plate will not be passed during the service, an offering plate will be available in the Narthex for you to present your gifts as you exit or arrive.

**CHILDREN'S BAGS** – Children's bags will be stored in the closet to the right of the main entrance. Please feel free to take one (or more) from the closet on your first visit and keep it in your car for your kids' use during services. Please do not put any bags back in the closet.

**BULLETINS** and **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS** are available on our website: [www.ascensionpgh.com](http://www.ascensionpgh.com).

**HELP NEEDED** – We are looking for volunteers to wipe down the handrails after the services. Please see Pete Candreva if you can help.

**ACOLYTE:** ..... Anna Fiffik  
**ALTAR GUILD/SEPTEMBER:** ..... Ali & Russ Lucas  
**ELDERS:** Mike Fiffik / Cooper Blake / Bob Booth / Pete Candreva / David Dille / Darryl Gunther  
**LAY READER:** ..... Trish Young  
**USHERS:** ..... Matthew Gunther / Edie Krom  
**ATTENDANCE 09/13/20: WORSHIP** ..... 50

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September 22: Felicity Agostino; September 23: Michael Fiffik;  
September 24: Juliette Schroeder; September 26: Blythe Letters

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

September 21: Paul & Ruth Redondo; September 24: Brennan & Dawn Gaertner

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS TODAY!** At 10:30AM we'll offer adult Bible study. The study will be live at Ascension in the Fellowship Hall AND via Zoom for anyone at home who would like to participate (Zoom link is below). Our study will be: [Irresistible: Reclaiming the New That Jesus Unleashed for the World](#) by Andy Stanley. **Once upon a time there was a version of our faith that was practically . . . irresistible.** But that was then. Today we preach, teach, write, and communicate as if nothing has changed. As if "The Bible says it" still settles it. It's time to hit pause on much of what we're doing and consider the faith modeled by our first-century brothers and sisters who had no official Bible, no status, and humanly speaking, little chance of survival. What made their message so compelling, so defensible, so irresistible? What did they know that we don't? **Buckle up . . .** you're about to find out. In this six-session video study, Andy Stanley will invite you to embrace the version of faith that, against all odds, initiated a chain of events resulting in the most significant and extensive cultural transformation the world has ever seen. A version we must embrace if we are to be salt and light in an increasingly savorless and dark world.

Topic: Irresistible: Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed on the World

Time: Sep 20, 2020 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sun, 6 occurrence(s)

Sep 20, 2020 10:30 AM

Sep 27, 2020 10:30 AM

Oct 4, 2020 10:30 AM

Oct 11, 2020 10:30 AM

Oct 18, 2020 10:30 AM

Oct 25, 2020 10:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97672581726?pwd=QTd0ejZhUDZ1TFc1ZGgwc3NQMIldqZz09>

Meeting ID: 976 7258 1726

Passcode: 767291

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acdgNiNWge>

**COMMUNION AT HOME** – We are making Communion at home available for members who are unable to attend services live at Ascension. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office to make arrangements to either pick up Communion kits or have them mailed to you. These kits have been consecrated and are to be used **ONLY** while viewing the Sunday worship service live (i.e. Sundays at 9:30 AM only). They are not intended for use while viewing recordings of services. If you have any questions, please contact any of the Elders for details.

**NO-SING WORSHIP AREA AT ASCENSION** – For those who are not attending Sunday worship services because of the singing, we have an option for you. On Sunday mornings, the worship service is live-streamed and viewable on the large TV in the Fellowship Hall. That area is designated as a "no-sing zone." So if you're not coming because we're singing during service, we hope this is an option that makes you more comfortable about coming and worshipping with your friends on Sunday mornings.

**PRAYER AND PRAISE GROUP** is now meeting via Zoom. *The Zoom link and information for this group are below. We will be using this same link every week.* Join us on **Wednesday**, (September 23) from 10 AM to 11 AM and then every Wednesday thereafter until we are able to meet in person. If you have any questions or need prayer, please call me at 808-295-1835. In the Love of Jesus, Bob Booth

Topic: Prayer and Praise

Time: 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Wed, until Jul 7, 2021, 50 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99710525952?pwd=d0tyY0t1a2MzWkovY0hhYlBVUnB4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 997 1052 5952

Passcode: 590254

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab28y7sTCG>

**MEN'S STUDY RESUMES ON OCTOBER 10, 2020** – The Men's Study Group will resume on Saturday, **October 10, 2020** at 8:30AM and continue on the second Saturday of each month until further notice (block that appointment out on your calendars!). We'll be in the Fellowship Hall. If anyone is interested in participating from home via Zoom, please call or send Barb an email expressing interest and we will set up a Zoom link. We will continue reading *Fearless*, by Max Lucado. **Fear may fill the world but does not have to fill your heart.** Each sunrise seems to bring fresh reasons for fear. Layoffs at work. Slowdowns in the economy. Health scares. Division. Oversized and rude, fear herds us into the prison of our anxious minds and keeps us from the freedom Christ offers. *New York Times* bestselling author and pastor Max Lucado invites us to turn to faith, not fear, as our default reaction to the threats of life. In this book, Max will help you:

- Find freedom from the fear of insignificance.
- Take comfort that the Lord will never leave your side.
- Unleash your worries and become filled with peace.
- Learn to trust more and fear less.

**MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENT** – After much prayer and consideration, the Adult Choir will not be meeting, at least through November. This also means that the children will not be meeting for music during the Education Hour. As the pandemic changes, this will be reevaluated to determine if/when it is safe for a group in close proximity to sing in the choir room and the Sanctuary. We know this is disappointing, but we wish to keep everyone in our community safe and free of anxiety. Feel free to contact the Music Director with any additional questions or concerns – [vcandрева@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:vcandрева@ascensionpgh.com).

**PENNIES FOR JESUS** – Our mission at this time is our local food banks: The North Hills Food Bank on Perry Highway and the Northside Common Ministries on Brighton Road. This has been a difficult time for a lot of families and these organizations have been helping many in our area. If you would like to make a donation to our Pennies for Jesus fund, please mail your check to the church office, marked with “Pennies for Jesus” in the memo line. There is also a container on the Narthex table for your donation.

**LIVE-STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICES** – Our worship services are live-streamed Sundays at 9:30 AM on our YouTube Channel. Just click on this link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu\\_ARgzTTcfZZXuZAeiyEVQ/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu_ARgzTTcfZZXuZAeiyEVQ/videos) or search in YouTube for Ascension Lutheran Church PGH Music. Then click the VIDEOS tab. Look for the video that says “LIVE” with the current date, and click on it. Then click the “Play” triangle. You can watch on any computer, tablet, or phone. If you can’t watch during the regular church time, the LIVE video will be available when church is over, and you can watch it like you would a normal video. More detailed directions are available on our website ([www.ascensionpgh.com](http://www.ascensionpgh.com)). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Vanessa Candreva at [vcandрева@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:vcandрева@ascensionpgh.com).

**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](mailto: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

**SOCIAL MEDIA** – Ascension is on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/AscensionPgh](http://www.facebook.com/AscensionPgh)), Google Plus (<https://plus.google.com/+AscensionLutheranChurchPittsburgh>), and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/AscensionPgh](http://www.twitter.com/AscensionPgh)). You don’t have to have accounts to view our pages online. Please do check us out (and “Like”/follow us).

**EMAIL ACCOUNTS** – Please use the email addresses below for contacting these individuals/groups:

President (Jennifer Ciccone)	<a href="mailto:president@ascensionpgh.com">president@ascensionpgh.com</a>
Treasurer (Patti Lopresto)	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ascensionpgh.com">treasurer@ascensionpgh.com</a>
Financial Secretary (Bob Marcellus)	<a href="mailto:finance@ascensionpgh.com">finance@ascensionpgh.com</a>
Elders	<a href="mailto:elders@ascensionpgh.com">elders@ascensionpgh.com</a>
Board of Christian Education	<a href="mailto:education@ascensionpgh.com">education@ascensionpgh.com</a>
Board of Trustees	<a href="mailto:trustees@ascensionpgh.com">trustees@ascensionpgh.com</a>
SOAR Respite Nights	<a href="mailto:soar@ascensionpgh.com">soar@ascensionpgh.com</a>
Vanessa Candreva (Music Director)	<a href="mailto:vcandreva@ascensionpgh.com">vcandreva@ascensionpgh.com</a>
Barb Marcellus (Secretary)	<a href="mailto:secretary@ascensionpgh.com">secretary@ascensionpgh.com</a>

**SOCIAL MEDIA** – Ascension is on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/AscensionPgh](https://www.facebook.com/AscensionPgh)), Google Plus (<https://plus.google.com/+AscensionLutheranChurchPittsburgh>), and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/AscensionPgh](https://www.twitter.com/AscensionPgh)). You don't have to have accounts to view our pages online. Please do check us out (and "Like"/follow us).

**CLOTHING RECYCLING PROGRAM** – Don't forget to recycle your clothes in our recycle bins in the parking lot!

### **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** is on WWNL/1080 AM on Saturdays at 3:30 PM and on Sundays at 8:00 AM. Read or listen to the sermon at [www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org). **September 27, 2020: "Room at the Table"** Open doors and loud tables—places where God does His quiet work of changing lives, one dinner invitation at a time. God made room at His table for us so that we can make room at our tables for others. New Series "Households of Faith" (1 Peter 4) Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

**OKTOBERFEST CANCELLED, FIREWORKS SHOW STILL ON** – The Annual Concordia Oktoberfest, which was scheduled for October 3 on the Concordia at Cabot Campus, has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we still plan to have the **Oktoberfest fireworks display** for our residents that evening – and the community is invited to the campus for a safe drive-in viewing opportunity on Saturday, **October 3** at 7:45 PM at the parking lots behind the Lund Care Center (*134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023*). **The event is weather permitting and guests are asked to arrive between 6:30–7:30 PM.** Cars will be parked in every other spot to allow spectators to get out of their vehicles and watch the show. Once the spots are full, we will be closing the entrance, to ensure proper social distancing is followed and a safe distance from the fireworks display is maintained. The fireworks begin promptly at 7:45 PM and last approximately 15 minutes.

**KFUO RADIO**, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). **This week on KFUE.org**, study a curious theological question with Pastor Tyrel Bramwell on Cross Defense (9/21 at 2:00 p.m. CT), study the practical application of our Lutheran confessions on Concord Matters with Pastor Sean Smith (9/22 at 2:00 p.m. CT), and worship with us in daily chapel services at 10:00 a.m. CT.

**YOUR DREAM FOR FREE** – Let Concordia pay for your **NURSING DEGREE!** Concordia Lutheran Ministries and Butler County Community College recently forged a partnership that will provide amazing opportunities for our community members interested in earning a degree in nursing! Here's how it works: Apply and earn acceptance into BC3's Nursing Program; apply for Concordia's BC3 Tuition Assistance Program by visiting [www.concordialm.org](http://www.concordialm.org); graduate in two years; begin your new career as a Registered Nurse with Concordia, debt free! In the program, your tuition is FULLY PAID by Concordia! You do not have to work for Concordia while in school; however, if you do commit to 5-6 days a month, Concordia will also reimburse the cost of your books! Concordia has 16 locations across western Pennsylvania that offer inpatient care or residence, and our home health, hospice, and private duty service lines serve 13 counties – so we have a wide variety of nursing positions available! Interested in a closer look at Concordia? Call 724-352-1571 x8372 to schedule a personal appointment with a safe distance tour of the Concordia at Cabot campus! Concordia is blessed to be able to give back to our local community members with this amazing opportunity! Email [BC3NursingProgram@concordialm.org](mailto:BC3NursingProgram@concordialm.org) to learn how you can turn your dream into a reality!

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** – From September 23-November 1, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life—40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 933 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, and to help spread the word about this important community outreach. Through 40 Days for Life, 17,226 lives have been saved, 206 abortion workers converted, and 107 abortion centers closed! If you would like more information, please contact Nikki Bruni at [nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com](mailto:nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com). To adopt a time slot for your group, contact Fran Morrow at [franmac98fmc@gmail.com](mailto:franmac98fmc@gmail.com). To sign up for hours as an individual, contact Donna Goss at [gdgoss620@gmail.com](mailto:gdgoss620@gmail.com). Visit [40daysforlife.com/pittsburgh](http://40daysforlife.com/pittsburgh) for more information.

**A CELEBRATION OF PIONEER** – Be sure to set aside 5:30 PM on **October 3, 2020** to join with friends of Pioneer from across the nation as we gather in an exciting and moving virtual, online experience to give thanks to the Lord for all that has happened in the 75 years of ministry at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center. Together we will celebrate, worship and give glory to God for the fullness of Pioneer's ministry and the countless lives this special ministry has changed! **REGISTER NOW** for this special October 3rd event.

**ALL EASTERN DISTRICT WORSHIP SERVICE** – You are invited to join your Eastern District brothers and sisters in Christ on Thursday evening, **October 8, 2020** as we gather for the first ever *All Eastern District Virtual Worship Service*. The worship service, led by pastors and musicians of congregations of the Eastern District, will premiere at 7:00 PM on both YouTube and Facebook. Mark your calendars now and watch for further information that will enable you to simultaneously gather with fellow saints from all corners of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to worship the Lord of Heaven and earth who “*Makes All Things New.*”

**CHRISTIAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATES** is a full-service counseling center committed to using the resources of the Christian faith in helping individuals and families achieve emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being. Licensed and certified professional counselors provide all services. Available services include help for those seeking professional help for emotional and life challenges such as depression, anxiety, marital problems, addictions, grief, trauma, or any mental health concern. CCA offers services to adults, children, adolescents, and families. Christian counseling engages a faith-based process of change that can equip individuals to overcome the challenges they face. CCA accepts many different health insurances for payment and offers a sliding fee scale if there is no insurance. Ascension provides office space for CCA. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 724-396-1510.

**LCMS FOUNDATION** – Should I talk with my family about their inheritance before the Lord calls me home? Privacy about inheritance often generates a claim to own things that really are God’s gifts for us to give. It may indeed be very important for you to talk with family about the godly stewardship of the gifts you will give. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can facilitate these conversations with your family members. Contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner at [robert.wirth@lfnd.org](mailto:robert.wirth@lfnd.org) or 716-863-4427.

**LIFE QUOTE** – “The Adoption Creed: ‘Not flesh of my flesh, nor bone of my bone, but still miraculously my own; never forget for a single minute, you didn’t grow under my heart, but in it.’” – *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

### **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.



## **PRAYER REQUESTS – September 20, 2020\***

***“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:15-16)***

### **FOR HEALTH & HEALING**

Paul Krom’s sister with unknown illness and brother hospitalized with coronavirus; Ron Killcrece (hospitalized following cardiac arrest twice – Ronette Blake’s father); Kate Candreva (Pete’s mother); Eileen Vogel; for all those ill with coronavirus; Joe (mass on heart – Cheryl Sedar’s son); Gene Williams (mesothelioma); Shut-ins: Elva Fields, Helen Goettmann, Phyllis Kitzki, Clay McClellan, Don Sohngen, Nadine Weber

### **FOR STRENGTH & COMFORT**

For all those who lost loved ones, especially Chris Schroeder and family on the death of his aunt; Lora, Tim, and Hannah Koontz and the Wade family on the death of Lora’s father, Bob Wade; Jordan and family on the death of Montana (Cristen Fiffik’s family); 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; for all our guests; the gifts of love and God’s Word; family and friends; our country

### **FOR SAFETY/PROTECTION**

For all affected by the coronavirus pandemic; college students; school students, teachers, staff and bus drivers; 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 our country and leaders; VBS families; Pastor Lee and his family; the Gaertner family; SOAR Respite Nights and participating families; Megan and 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)

***“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” (Colossians 4:2)***

**\*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.**