



THE HEART OF ASCENSION

November
2020



FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND FROLICKING!! Come help Ascension Lutheran Church inside and out for our **FALL Cleanup on November 14th from 9 AM to Noon**. There are many leaves outside and much dust inside that needs many hands. Come one, come all. There may even be pizza afterwards for diligent workers. For more information, please contact the Head Trustee, Pete Candreva at pvcandreva@verizon.net



The Men's Study Group is scheduled to meet on **Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 8:30 AM** and continue on the second Saturday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. If anyone is interested in participating from home via Zoom, please call or send Barb an email (bemarcellus1@gmail.com) expressing interest and we will set up a Zoom link.

Congregational Meeting

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, **November 15, 2020** immediately following the worship service in person and via Zoom.



Please note that there will be no Thanksgiving Eve worship service.



SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, December 5th from 9 AM-Noon to decorate the church for Christmas

StreamingLive[®]

Live-Streamed Worship Services Available On YouTube

Sunday worship services are live-streamed, hosted on Ascension's YouTube Channel. Go directly to our [YouTube Channel](#) and click on the VIDEOS tab. Or for directions on how to view the live-stream, click [HERE](#). If you are unable to watch during the 9:30 AM worship service, you can view the video later.

THE PRAYER AND PRAISE GROUP is now meeting via Zoom on **Wednesdays** at 10 AM 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



Congratulations to Martha and Jim Obringer who were married on October 2, 2020. May God richly bless your marriage!

FOR PASTORAL NEEDS/EMERGENCIES, 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





Operation Christmas Child

Why We Pack Shoeboxes

I had the privilege of hearing a Full Circle speaker the other day. A Full Circle speaker is someone who received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox as a child and now speaks as an adult about the impact it had on them and others. His name was Yves. Yves grew up in one of the poorest countries in Africa: Togo. He spoke about how he used to brush his teeth with a stick and how it would cut his gums. (He said people in Africa like to cook with a lot of spices, so this made it especially painful.) He also spoke about how the children could not attend school unless they brought their own school supplies. Having received a shoebox with school supplies in it enabled him to attend school. But not only him, but because he received enough school supplies, his best friend could attend school also. Fast forward many years, and his best friend is now a software designer in Ghana. (And making more money than Yves ever will, according to Yves!) All because you took the time to pack a shoebox. It changes lives! It really does!

Yves also spoke about what was at the bottom of his shoebox: a wool scarf. Remember, he lived in Togo where it's 90 degrees every day! He had no idea what to do with it. But he held onto that scarf. His family ended up in a refugee camp and eventually got in the refugee relocation program. They ended up getting relocated to ... Buffalo, NY (where he is to this day)! And he still has his scarf and knows exactly what to do with it now. God knows where each box is going and which child is going to get what box.

As great as it is to have an effect like this on someone here on earth, the real gift we give with these shoeboxes is the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Some of these kids have never heard the name of Jesus before. Along with the shoebox, the kids receive a short Bible lesson and The Greatest Gift booklet written in their own language. They are then invited to attend The Greatest Journey, a 12-lesson course that goes more in-depth about God's great love for us and introduces them to the Bible. The information is never forced on the children. It is given to them in a loving and child-friendly way.

So, you see that each shoebox can have a great impact on the life of a child and those around him. There are numerous stories of not only the shoebox recipient coming to Christ, but also friends and family members. And even if you only pack one shoebox (or one more), that one could be the difference. Yves spoke about how his village received 300 boxes. Because he was the pastor's kid, his father told him to go to the back of the line. He received the last available shoebox. If they had only received 299 shoeboxes, he would have never received one and none of this would have happened.

So, pack a box today. Pack it online if you like. Pack two, three or more if you can. Have an impact on a child here on earth and eternally.

Bob Marcellus (and Chance)





November Anniversaries:

10 Paul & Mary Jasper
26 Ron & Myra Davis

November Birthdays:

4 Tommie Tinneny
5 Sally Long
7 Darryl Gunther
10 Michael Lipinski
17 Janine Nicolette
18 Kyle Agostino
18 Patricia Young
21 Flo Pizzica
24 Ryan Preisendefer
26 Laurence (Gaertner) Clark
27 Lydia Jarboe
27 Bekki Weber
28 Stephan Weber
30 Gene Williams, Sr.



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



Congratulations to Pastor Barry Keurulainen as he retires from active ministry on November 15, 2020! Thank you for all the guidance and help you provided to us over the last couple of years. May God bless your retirement with many wonderful years!

ADVENT – a time to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's coming – is almost here. Once again Evangelism/Outreach is providing window calendars to our children. Due to COVID, they will be mailed to children belonging to Ascension as well as those who attended VBS or SOAR. If you know of any other child who would enjoy receiving a calendar (grandchild, neighbor, friend, etc.) please call or text Maggie at 724-882-4468. We will get a calendar to him/her.





November Eucharisteo Project
Reading and Writing Scripture — Giving Thanks to God

During the days leading up to Thanksgiving, consider setting apart a time of reflection and *Eucharisteo* (a Greek word meaning 'saying grace' or 'giving thanks'). Beginning November 1, you are invited to participate in a Scripture reading plan that is focused on giving thanks to God.

You might even take it a step further, selecting a verse (or portions of verses) from the day's reading to write out on index cards, a note pad, or a journal. The discipline of writing Scripture engages your head, hands, and heart. It slows us down, letting the Word sink in. It also gives us tangible reminders to keep at our fingertips, to display in our homes, or to share with our family and friends.

The November Scripture Reading Plan begins November 1 and ends November 26.

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 1 Chronicles 16:8–12 | 14. Psalm 30 |
| 2. Psalm 107:1–9 | 15. 1 Chronicles 16:23–36 |
| 3. Philippians 4:4–7 | 16. Psalm 28:6–9 |
| 4. Psalm 147:1–7 | 17. Hebrews 12:28 |
| 5. Colossians 2:6–7 | 18. Psalm 116:12–19 |
| 6. Psalm 145:1–13 | 19. 1 Thessalonians 5:12–18 |
| 7. Isaiah 12 | 20. Psalm 111 |
| 8. Psalm 136:1–9 | 21. 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 |
| 9. Ephesians 5:15–21 | 22. Psalm 9:1–2, 7–10 |
| 10. Psalm 100 | 23. 1 Corinthians 15:50–57 |
| 11. 1 Timothy 4:4 | 24. Psalm 118:19–24 |
| 12. Psalm 75:1–3 | 25. Revelation 4:8b–11 |
| 13. Colossians 3:12–17 | 26. Psalm 95:1–7 |

www.lwml.org





The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



FOR HEALTH & HEALING

Elva Fields; Sandi Weber; Ron Killcrece (recovery after cardiac arrest – Ronette Blake's father); Eileen Vogel; for all those ill with coronavirus; Joe (mass on heart – Cheryl Sedar's son); Gene Williams (mesothelioma); Shut-ins: 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; 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 Pastor Adam Thompson as he discerns God's will; our country and leaders; Pastor Lee and his family; the Gaertner family; SOAR Respite Nights 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)

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

November 1, 2020: “Some People Never Change?” Some people never change. Most people do. With God, all people can. (Daniel 4) Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

November 8, 2020: “Tied into the Same Lifeline” Humble pie is on the menu at an ill-fated feast. (Daniel 5) Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

November 15, 2020: “Bigger” (Daniel 6) Guest Speaker: Pastor Gerard Bolling

November 22, 2020: “Politics in Perspective” (Daniel 7:1-14) Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

November 29, 2020: “TBD” 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>.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, people around the world have been impacted by government restrictions and lockdowns.

For individuals in India, this caused hardships for many people, especially lower income groups and daily wage earners.

Staff at **LHM-India** were faced with the challenge of not being able to freely travel and provide holistic support to people who needed it.

They formulated a plan that in the end, allowed them to reach 6,400 Malayalam-speaking children, 314 Tamil-speaking children, and 238 Hindi-speaking children.

Read about the plan here: <https://www.lhm.org/newsroom/enewsstory.asp?ArticleID=34734>.

LHM – India Ministry: Recognizing the cultural influences of music, song, and drama, LHM—India brings the Gospel to listeners through devotional songs, short dramas, and dialogues. Youth groups of LHM—India perform public music programs, stage plays, dance, and dramas.

As a result of this Christian ministry, converts and non-baptized believers in Christ are identified and located for follow-up by the staff.

At Lutheran Hour Ministries, we have dedicated ourselves to equipping Christians around the world to gain a hearing for the gospel in natural and fruitful ways.

Yours, in Christ, Lou Marting; 949 770 8420; 818 404 6447

Luke 10:2 NIV He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.



Thanksgiving Word Search

N S B P O H T X C W C S T R H
P A G J I Y A S O R A Q H Y O
N I T N L L O R A B S U A N L
R M H I I E G N V E Z A N L I
O T M S V S B R I E F S K U D
C A E D R E S P I E S H S F A
F H I L R O A E C M D T G E Y
Y E K R U T W M L B S O I T P
G N I F F U T S E B Y B V A O
E E A I P O C U N R O C I R T
S N I K P M U P Y E I C N G A
N O V E M B E R F N G C G P T
G A T H E R G O D N V A A X O
K T H A N K F U L I H L N N E
C R F Z Z Q M Q Q D D X V W S

BLESSINGS
CRANBERRIES
FEAST
GRATEFUL
NATIVE AMERICANS
PILGRIMS
SQUASH
THANKSGIVING

CORN
DINNER
GATHER
HARVEST
NOVEMBER
POTATOES
STUFFING
TURKEY

CORNUCOPIA
FAMILY
GOD
HOLIDAY
PIES
PUMPKIN
THANKFUL
WORSHIP

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

**8225 PEEBLES ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237**

Address Correction Requested

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9:30 AM Worship Service

10:30 AM Adult Bible Study (in person & Zoom)

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.

THE HEART OF ASCENSION

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Barbara Marcellus is the Editor.

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