

# Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod



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<https://plus.google.com/+AscensionLutheranChurchPittsburgh>

January 10, 2021

Pastor: Rev. Adam Thompson  
[pastor@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com)

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!

# THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 10, 2021

Worship Service – 9:30 AM

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

### AS WE GATHER

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Such a day is also a good time to remember our own Baptism. In Baptism, we are buried with Christ. We are united with Him in a death like His. In Baptism, we are also raised to new life as re-creations. As we are united to Christ in death, we will also be united with Him in resurrection when He returns and raises the dead.

*(stand)*

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

**OPENING HYMN: “Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy”** LW 224, vs. 1, 3, & 4

**Baptized into Your name most holy,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among Your seed, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
I have Your Spirit now within.**

**O faithful God, You never fail me:  
Your cov’nant surely will abide.  
Let not eternal death assail me  
Should I transgress it on my side!  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.**

**All that I am and love most dearly,  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Oh, let me make my vows sincerely,  
And help me Your own child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In Holy Baptism, each of us was baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, we were united with Christ. Yet, we have often lived as if we were entirely independent and autonomous. We have lived as if our identity were not in Jesus, but in our own selfish desires. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to turn back to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. On account of Jesus, forgive us, renew us, and unite us to Your name.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. In Baptism, you were united to Christ in both His death and resurrection. You were buried with Him, but also raised to walk in newness of life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

*(sit)*

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Genesis 1:1–5 *(God creates the heavens and the earth.)*

**EPISTLE:** Romans 6:1–11 *(We are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection.)*

*(stand)*

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Mark 1:4–11 *(Jesus is baptized by John.)*

*Congregation reads together:*

**<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes He who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."**

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.”

**SONG OF THE DAY: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

*(sit)*

**THE APPLICATION OF GOD’S WORD FOR TODAY**

Pastor Adam Thompson

*(stand)*

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*(sit)*

**OFFERTORY MEDITATION SONG: “Clean”**

*(stand)*

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Dear heavenly Father, in the Jordan River, You revealed Jesus to be Your beloved Son. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**People: reveal Your grace to us.**

**Pastor:** Lord, strengthen all those who have been baptized, especially those who have been baptized recently, with Your heavenly protection. Lead them to find their true identity in You as Your beloved sons and daughters. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**People: reveal Your grace to us.**

Pastor: Lord, comfort all those who are suffering in grief. Console them with the sure and certain hope that just as we have been united with Christ in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**People: reveal Your grace to us.**

Pastor: Lord, give courage to all those who live in conflict with their family members, especially regarding differences of faith. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**People: reveal Your grace to us.**

Pastor: Lord, bless all pastors, church planters, missionaries, and servants in Your Church who proclaim Your Word and administer Your Sacraments. Embolden them to seek and to save the lost and bring those who have strayed back into Your family. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**People: reveal Your grace to us.**

Pastor: Lord, place Your healing hand upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . . individual prayer requests may be spoken at this time followed by the petitioner saying "Lord, in Your mercy" after each request*]. Have mercy upon them, and lead them on the path to health according to Your will. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**People: reveal Your grace to us.**

Pastor: Lord, we commend all these things to You in the name of Your beloved Son, Jesus. Lord, by mighty work and wonder,

**People: reveal Your grace to us. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*(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 SONG: "Jesus"**

Pastor: Go in peace and

**People: serve the Lord.**

**LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings of the Church Calendar for next week are 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20), 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, and John 1:43-51.**

### **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.





**THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION**

JANUARY 10, 2021	WORSHIP SERVICE IN-PERSON AND LIVE-STREAMED	9:30 AM
	ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN-PERSON AND ZOOM	10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY	MORNING WITH THE LORD VIA ZOOM	10:00 AM
FRIDAY	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	

**ASCENSION NEWS**

**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.

**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 outside as you visit from six (6) feet apart!

**HAND SANITIZER** – Hand sanitizer is available in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, 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.

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

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

**IN CHRIST WE EXTEND OUR LOVE AND SYMPATHY** to Linda and Gene Williams and their family. Linda’s mother, Grace Eichelman, went to be with her Lord and Savior on January 6th. Please keep the Williams and Eichelman families in your prayers, and may God be with them and comfort them.



**ACOLYTE:** ..... Kayla Arnett  
**ALTAR GUILD / JANUARY:** ..... Ruth Redondo  
**ELDERS:** Mike Fiffik / Cooper Blake / Bob Booth / Pete Candreva / David Dille / Darryl Gunther  
**LAY READER:** ..... Pete Candreva  
**USHERS:** ..... Ron Curcio / Lynn Gunther  
**ATTENDANCE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** 4:00 PM: ..... 30; 7:00 PM: ..... 21  
**ATTENDANCE 12/27/20: WORSHIP** ..... 32  
**ATTENDANCE 01/03/21: WORSHIP** ..... 24

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

January 13: Michael & Leah Agostino

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

January 10: Hannah Steines-Wolfson;  
 January 11: Ron Davis, Jr., Nadine Weber; January 13: Joe Jarboe

**PRAYER AND PRAISE GROUP** is meeting via Zoom. Join us on **Wednesday**, (January 13) 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

**THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is **Friday** (January 15). Please submit any articles/announcements/meeting dates, etc., for the newsletter or February calendar to Barb via her email at [secretary@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:secretary@ascensionpgh.com) or her mailbox in the Narthex. Thank you!

**THANK YOU** to all the people who volunteered in the church office during Barb’s vacation: Ronette Blake, Bob Booth, Jennifer Ciccone, Nancy Hughey, and Vicki Wiegand!

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** – Because we only ordered 100 envelopes this year, there has been a reassigning of some envelope numbers for 2021. If your envelope number is over 100, it has been assigned to a number below 100. **Therefore, please do not use your 2020 envelopes anymore, especially if your envelope number has changed!** If you have any questions, you can email Bob Marcellus at [finance@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:finance@ascensionpgh.com) or call him at 412-635-8458.

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES PART 2** – The 2021 giving envelopes are in the mailboxes in the Narthex. If you do not attend in-person services due to the pandemic (or any other reason) and believe you have envelopes at church, you can contact Barb, the church secretary, and arrange to pick them up at the office during normal church business hours. You can contact her at 412-364-4463. **Also**, if you have not been assigned envelopes but would like to receive them, please contact Bob Marcellus at [finance@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:finance@ascensionpgh.com) or call him at 412-635-8458.

**HELP FILL THE FREEZER FOR PASTOR THOMPSON!** We would like to provide Pastor with a freezer full of home cooked meals to get him started upon his move to Pittsburgh. As you are cooking over the next several weeks please consider making an extra portion or two for Pastor. You can bring your meals to church either on Sunday mornings or during office hours during the week and place them in the freezer. Please try to use disposable containers so he doesn't have to worry about returning anything to the correct person, and mark them "For Pastor Thompson" along with the contents. Bon Appetit!

**FLOWER CHART** – The 2021 flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex to order altar flowers. The cost for altar flowers is \$35 per arrangement. We purchase our altar flowers from West View Floral Shoppe.

**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. 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 [vcandreva@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:vcandreva@ascensionpgh.com).

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

Pastor Thompson	<a href="mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com">pastor@ascensionpgh.com</a>
President (Russ Lucas)	<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>
Music Director (Vanessa Candreva)	<a href="mailto:vcandreva@ascensionpgh.com">vcandreva@ascensionpgh.com</a>
Secretary (Barbara Marcellus)	<a href="mailto:secretary@ascensionpgh.com">secretary@ascensionpgh.com</a>

**LCMS STEWARDSHIP NOTE** – **Baptism of Our Lord – Mark 1:7** – “And (John) preached, saying, ‘After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.’ ” John is right. Jesus is immensely greater than any of us yet behold how He came to serve! That is the upside down, outlandish grace of God. The innocent Jesus takes our sinner's place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know. The Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

**CANCELLED STAMPS** – If you are saving cancelled stamps for the LWML, please make sure that there is a ¼ inch margin around the stamp and there are no damaged edges. Please put your stamps in Sandy Malarkey's or Janet Seitz's mailbox in the Narthex.

**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.

**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).

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** is on WWNL/1080 AM on Saturdays at 3:30 PM and on Tuesdays at 12:30 PM. Read or listen to the sermon at [www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org). **January 17, 2021: “Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise!”** (Mark 3) Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

**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 [kfu.org](http://kfu.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @**KFUOradio** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). **This week on KFUE.org**, study the Gospel of Mark on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), continue in 2 Corinthians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and take a moment in creation, scripture, faith, and family on Midday Moments (weekdays at 12:00 p.m. CT).

**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.

**LIFE QUOTE:** “The world needs your voice to declare Jesus’ words of eternal life. The world needs your voice to declare God’s value of life in all of its stages. The world needs your voice to declare God’s convictions born of His Word. The world needs your voice to declare that God’s word of forgiveness purchased with the blood of Jesus extends to all of us sinners, including those who have chosen abortion. The world needs your voice!” *Rev. David Eibel, Living Word Lutheran Church, Grapevine, Texas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

## **PRAYER REQUESTS – January 10, 2021\***

***“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**

Pastor Thompson; Susan Stewart and Barbara Howe (cancer – sisters of Carolyn Walker); Tim Koontz (depression); Ruth Miller; Elva Fields; Sandi Weber; for all those ill with coronavirus; Joe (mass on heart – Cheryl Sedar’s son); Gene Williams (mesothelioma); Helen Goettmann; Clay McClellan; Nadine Weber

### **FOR STRENGTH & COMFORT**

For all those who lost loved ones, especially Linda and Gene Williams and family on the death of Linda’s mother, Grace Eichelman; Ruth Holmes, Mark Kitzki and the Kitzki family on the death of Phyllis Kitzki; 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; 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; healthcare workers; college students; school students, teachers, staff and bus drivers; missionaries; our armed forces; unborn children

### **FOR DIRECTION AND FAITH**

For those who are experiencing a crisis of faith; women with unplanned pregnancies

### **GENERAL PRAYER, GUIDANCE, AND PROVISION**

For Pastor Thompson’s transition; 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)

***“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.**