

Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod



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April 11, 2021

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pastor@ascensionpgh.com

Secretary: Barbara Marcellus

secretary@ascensionpgh.com

Music Director: Vanessa Candreva

music@ascensionpgh.com

Welcome To Our Guests

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!

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11, 2021

Worship Service - 9:30 AM

WELCOME

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. But the disciples had all these things and heard Jesus promise His resurrection, and still they gathered behind the locked doors of their fears. What we do have is Christ, His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His body and blood. Though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with doubting Thomas to confess, "My Lord and my God!"

(stand)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight" LSB 720, vs. 1-4

**We walk by faith and not by sight,
No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
But we believe Him near.**

**We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice
And cry "My Lord and God!"**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near
And seek where You are found.**

**For You, O resurrected Lord,
Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word,
Beneath the bread and wine.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:6–10*

Pastor: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,

People: we lie and do not practice the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

People: and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: If we say we have not sinned,

People: we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy, You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

(sit)

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32–35 (*The believers were of one heart and soul.*)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: 1 John 1:1–2:2 (*If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ.*)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19–31 (*Blessed are those who have not heard and yet believe.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Congregation reads together:

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “O Sons and Daughters of the King”

LW 130, vs. 1-8

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

ALL: O sons and daughters of the King,
Whom heav’nly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia!

ALL: That Easter morn, at break of day,
The faithful women went their way
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia!

ALL: An angel clad in white they see,
Who sits and speaks unto the three,
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.” Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

WOMEN AND CHILDREN: That night the apostles met in fear;
Among them came their master dear
And said, “My peace be with you here.” Alleluia!

MEN: When Thomas first the tidings heard
That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples’ word. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

WOMEN AND CHILDREN: “My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon my hands, my feet;
Not faithless but believing be.” Alleluia!

MEN: No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried. Alleluia!

**ALL: How blest are they who have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia!**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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(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: "By Faith"

(stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all His adopted children in Christ, that they would always long for the pure spiritual milk of the Word, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Church on earth, that her ministers would faithfully pronounce the free forgiveness of sins to all repentant sinners and so show forth the peace declared between God and man in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Church in her works of mercy, that she would be united in the common life and love of our Savior and so share that life and love with those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For Christian parents, that the peace of the risen Christ and the forgiveness of sins would be freely shared in the home and so bind families together in love, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the authorities God has placed over us in federal, state and local governments, that He would give them the desire to serve with integrity and honor and to work for the benefit of all, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the sick and sorrowful, for those who mourn, and for all who stand in need of our prayers, *[especially . . . individual prayer requests may be spoken at this time followed by the petitioner saying "Lord, in Your mercy" after each request]* let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that out of Your indescribable grace and for the sake of Your Son You have given us the Holy Gospel and instituted the Holy Sacraments, that through them we may have comfort and the forgiveness of sin. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily believe Your Word, and through the Holy Sacraments establish our faith day by day, until at last we obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: 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: "The Cross of Christ"

Pastor: Go in peace and

People: serve the Lord.

LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings of the Church Calendar for next week are Acts 3:11-21, 1 John 3:1-7, and Luke 24:36-49.

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

APRIL 11, 2021	WORSHIP SERVICE IN-PERSON AND LIVE-STREAMED	9:30 AM
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOLLOWS WORSHIP	
TUESDAY	WORSHIP COMMITTEE	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	PRAYER AND PRAISE GROUP VIA ZOOM	10:00 AM
THURSDAY	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
FRIDAY	STAFF MEETING	10:00 AM
	BACKYARD BONFIRE AT THE BLAKE'S	6:30 PM

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.

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.

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.*

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 Candrea if you can help.

BULLETINS and **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS** are available on our website: www.ascensionpgh.com.

ACOLYTE: Isaac Krieger
ALTAR GUILD / APRIL: Janet Seitz
ELDER ON DUTY TODAY: David Dille
LAY READER: Bob Booth
USHERS: Cristen Fiffik / Ken Lindsey
ATTENDANCE MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 04/01/21: 27
ATTENDANCE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 04/02/21: 43
ATTENDANCE EASTER SERVICE 04/04/21, 9:30 AM: 62
ATTENDANCE EASTER SERVICE 04/04/21, 11:30 AM: 26

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 12: Vanessa Candreva; April 13: Emily Marcellus, Ruth Redondo, Katie Straszheim;
 April 16: Jeff Watson

BIBLE STUDY FOR TEENS RESUMES TODAY – Remember that Bible study about C.S. Lewis that we started right before the pandemic hit? Well, we are ready to bring it back and start over! **Today** we’re going to restart “**Aslan’s World**” during Sunday School Hour in the **Youth Room**. All confirmed youth are welcome to attend! We can’t wait to see you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES TODAY – In addition to the youth class above, Sunday School will resume in-person **today** with two children’s classes. Social distancing will be observed. Please wear a mask.

PRAYER AND PRAISE GROUP is meeting via Zoom. Join us on **Wednesday** (April 14) 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

BACKYARD BONFIRE AT THE BLAKE’S – Are you excited about the warm, Spring weather upon us? Are you looking forward to all of the things that we love when the weather turns like yard games, bonfires, and seeing your friends safely outdoors? Join us on **Friday** (April 16th) at **6:30 PM** for a family bonfire complete with yard games and s’mores. We’ll keep it COVID safe and we are currently asking that you wear a mask and socially distance when enjoying snacks and beverages. **RSVP NOW to Ronette at youth@ascensionpgh.com or 412-443-3704.** Ronette will email additional details but feel free to contact her with questions.

THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **Thursday** (April 15th). Please submit any articles/announcements/meeting dates, etc., for the newsletter or May calendar to Barb via her email at secretary@ascensionpgh.com or her mailbox in the Narthex. Thank you!

SPRING APPEAL – **WE DID IT!!** The \$11,000 goal for the Spring Appeal was not only met, it was exceeded!! Almost \$14,000 raised! THANK YOU to everyone who gave in support of this project! The generosity of the members and friends of Ascension continues to shine on everything that is done here. God bless and thanks again!

HAVING A MEETING, GROUP STUDY, OR GATHERING AT THE CHURCH? If so, you should request access to the church building by contacting the secretary at secretary@ascensionpgh.com or by contacting a trustee at trustees@ascensionpgh.com. We are here to help make your function go smoothly.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP NOTE – **John 20:19** – “**Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’**” The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us – not our works – we are now free to do good works. Good works shouldn’t be done out of self-interest but for the right reasons – out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

PRIVATE COMMUNION SERVICES are available to members who should not attend or who are not yet ready to return to worship in person due to Covid-19. Appointments will be made every 20 minutes on Tuesdays between 7:00-9:00 AM and Fridays between 4:00-6:00 PM. Please email Pastor Thompson at pastor@ascensionpgh.com to make your appointment.

GET TO KNOW YOU VISITS – Have you scheduled your get to know you visit with Pastor Thompson yet? There are three options—Zoom (Tuesdays-Fridays from 2:00-7:00 PM meeting times, as available), in person, or if neither of those options work, a telephone call option. For scheduling, please email Pastor Thompson at pastor@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 on our YouTube Channel. Just click on this link https://www.youtube.com/channel/Ucu_ARgzTTcfZZXuZAeiyEVQ/videos or search in YouTube for Ascension Lutheran Church PGH. More detailed directions are available on our website (www.ascensionpgh.com). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Vanessa Candreva at music@ascensionpgh.com.

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

Pastor Thompson	pastor@ascensionpgh.com
President (Russ Lucas)	president@ascensionpgh.com
Treasurer (Patti Lopresto)	treasurer@ascensionpgh.com
Financial Secretary (Bob Marcellus)	finance@ascensionpgh.com
Elders	elders@ascensionpgh.com
Board of Christian Education	education@ascensionpgh.com
Board of Trustees	trustees@ascensionpgh.com
SOAR Respite Nights	soar@ascensionpgh.com
Music Director (Vanessa Candreva)	music@ascensionpgh.com
Media (Cherie Shaginaw)	media@ascensionpgh.com
Vacation Bible School	vbs@ascensionpgh.com
Youth (Ronette Blake)	youth@ascensionpgh.com
Secretary (Barbara Marcellus)	secretary@ascensionpgh.com

SOCIAL MEDIA – Ascension is on Facebook (www.facebook.com/AscensionPgh) and Twitter (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 PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN April issue is available to read at this link: [The Pittsburgh Lutheran April Issue](#). If you would like a printed copy, please call Barb Marcellus at 412-364-4463 or email her at secretary@ascensionpgh.com.

"GOD WITH US" ON THE RADIO – If you are not attending in-person worship services and do not have access to a computer for online services, the Lutheran broadcast "God With Us" is **available on WORD-FM 101.5 on Sundays at 10:30 AM**. "God with Us" features Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Hahn Jr., Pastor of Tri-Parish (St. John's, Bethel and Zion, Lawrenceville).

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. **April 18, 2021: “One Greater Than Mrs. McCalliter”** Where does one go to hide from God? Dr. Michael Zeigler says the book of Jonah is about God, on a mission to get through to you. (Jonah 1) Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

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 and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). **This week on KFUO.org**, study 1 Peter 2-3 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), finish 2 Thessalonians and begin 1 Kings on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and worship with us in Daily Chapel at 10:00 a.m. CT. Renew, resume, or begin your partnership with KFUO Radio during Sharathon 2021 on April 22-24. Learn more at kfuo.org/sharathon!

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: “Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter clinched it for Paul. If God’s Son, divine and holy from all eternity, would take on human flesh for me, obey the commandments for me, suffer and die for me, and rise again to guarantee my forgiveness and resurrection, there can be no doubt. He loves me.” *Rev. Mark Jeske, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

PRAYER REQUESTS – April 11, 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

Glenna Powers (recovery from rotator cuff surgery); Kelly Vogel (recovery from surgery); Natalie Gaertner (health issues); Roy Wiegand (health issues); Ruth Miller; Elva Fields; for all those ill with coronavirus; Gene Williams (mesothelioma); Clay McClellan; Nadine Weber

FOR STRENGTH & COMFORT

For all those who lost loved ones, especially Deb (friend of Cristen Fiffik) and family on the death of a daughter; 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 our country and leaders; 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.**