



THE HEART OF ASCENSION

June
2021

Website

ASCENSION'S ONLINE PRESENCE – Check out our website (www.ascensionpgh.com). On the homepage you will find the link for our livestream service on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/Ucu_ARgzTTcfZZXuZAeiyEQ/videos). In addition to the livestream service, our YouTube channel features sermon excerpts and Bible study recordings. At the bottom of the homepage you will also find the link  for our Facebook page where you will find pictures from our events and posts about our upcoming events. Coming soon, there will be a link to our live-updating church calendar that you can access to see what is happening at Ascension at your convenience.

Congregational Meeting

A special Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 6, 2021** immediately following the worship service.

Attention Families! Firefly Hunt in the Blake's Backyard
Friday, June 18th, 6:30PM

Do you remember the pure joy that summertime brought as a child? Did you look forward to the nights that were speckled with the glimmer of lightning bugs that you could carefully catch in cupped hands and gingerly guide into a jar to watch them dance and flicker? Come out for an old-fashioned firefly hunt at the Blake's (10014 Pine Ridge Drive, Wexford, PA 15090). We'll have a fire, a craft for the kids, jars for kids (and adults!) to collect fireflies, and snacks and beverages for all!



Save
the
Date

A special luncheon following the church service on Sunday, **June 27**, is being held to honor Barb Marcellus as she retires the end of June. You won't want to miss it. More details will be forthcoming.



We had a great time of fellowship on Sunday, May 16th picnicking in North Park. Approximately 30 people attended with each family bringing their own dinner. We enjoyed the navigable playground, a competitive Kubb tournament, and lots of laughter! It was great seeing everyone, especially our friends who are transitioning back to church post-COVID vaccination! Life is looking up, dear friends.





A big thank you to everyone who helped lead and all those who attended the **National Day of Prayer Service** on May 6th.

Another big thank you to the artists who performed during the **Community of Faith Concert**. Their performances were truly inspiring, and we raised approximately \$500 for the Foundation for Christian Counseling Associates of Western PA! If you would still like to donate, you can do so on their website: <https://christiancounselingwpa.com/foundation-christian-counseling/>.

Pictures below are from both events.





Congratulations to Zac and Juliette Schroeder who attended classes with Pastor Thompson and earned the God and Me Award through the Boy Scouts! They were presented with their award pins during the worship service on May 9, 2021.

LWML – At the end of 2019, we scheduled our dates on the church calendar for our meetings and activities for 2020. Unfortunately, none of that happened. For 2021, we set up a few dates and June 5th was scheduled for a meeting. So we are going to go ahead and meet in the Fireside Room on Saturday, June 5th at 10:00 AM. We'll have a Bible Study and do some planning for the upcoming District Fall Retreat at Lutherlyn Camp in Butler in September and Convention in June, 2022 in New York and our Christmas Tea. Hope you can join us. It's been too long since we've been together. All women welcome. Hope to see you.



Mystery Island Vacation Bible School (by Answers in Genesis) will be held July 12-15, 2021 from 6:00-7:30 PM! Please plan on joining us as we uncover the truth of our creator God while creating crafts, playing games, making music, and learning what the Bible says about the one true God! Each day, children (entering PreK through 6th Grade) will learn more about one of God's amazing attributes (great, almighty, ruler, Emmanuel, trustworthy) and how that applies to their lives. Grab your sunscreen and get

ready for a taste of paradise as you track down the one true God at Mystery Island! **If you can help in any way, please contact Lisa and Emily Marcellus at vbs@ascensionpgh.com.** Thank you for your help and for your prayers for VBS! ~ Emily and Lisa

VBS REGISTRATION for students will be available at <https://ascensionpgh.myanswers.com/mystery-island/> or paper forms in the Narthex.

VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING – A brief meeting will be held after the worship service on **Sunday, June 13th** for anyone interested in helping with VBS.

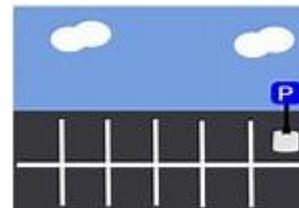
VBS PAINTING PARTIES – Please help us make and paint scenery for VBS! No prior experience necessary! We will be having painting parties on **Saturday, June 26** (9 AM-Noon), **Wednesday, June 30** (6-8 PM), and **Tuesday, July 6** (1-4 PM).

VOLUNTEER CLEARANCES – Volunteers must have state-required clearances to serve in ministry involving minors (VBS/SOAR/Sunday School/Youth, etc.). ***Information about obtaining these clearances is available on the table in the Narthex.*** All clearances for volunteers are free. Volunteers not providing copies of clearances to Ascension cannot serve until they comply with Pennsylvania State Law.



WE'RE HIRING – Oh no – Barb is retiring! We are currently looking for some candidates to try and fill her big shoes. If you know anyone who you think would be a good fit, please share the link to our website post - ascensionpgh.com/administrative-assistant-wanted/.

Thanks to Pete Candreva who on May 14th spent most of the day cleaning off the back row of parking spaces using a Brush Hog®. Thanks also to the anonymous donor who paid the rental fee for the Brush Hog®. We now have more parking spaces available as our worship attendance is increasing.

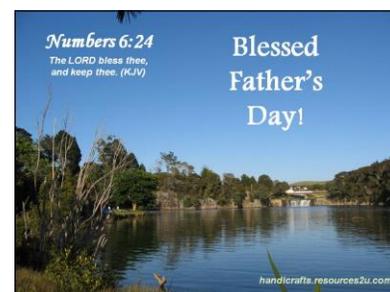


The saints of Ascension Lutheran Church raised money for our Spring Appeal and a portion of those funds were set aside to contribute to a community need. The congregation chose to support our local volunteer fire department, Peebles District Volunteer Fire Company. In 2019 they responded to a fire emergency at Ascension Lutheran Church, and they diligently serve our community in many ways. We presented a check for \$1,400 to the Volunteer Fire Company. (You may watch a video presentation on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AscensionPgh.) This was part of our effort to be good stewards of God's blessings to our congregation by blessing others with what God has given us. Thanks for your service to our community!

A Prayer for Fathers

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Author unknown



You are invited to the Ordination and Installation of Pastor-Elect Donn Woolweber on Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 3:00 PM at Zion Ev. Lutheran Church (237-37th Street, Lawrenceville – parking in lot below the church). Pastor-Elect Woolweber will be serving both Bethel and Zion Ev. Lutheran Churches.



On April 28 our sister in Christ, Ruth Miller, was called to her heavenly home. Please keep the Miller, Gunther, and Meinert families in your prayers as they grieve.

On May 8th Cherie Shaginaw's mother, Nancy Edmundson, went to be with her Lord and Savior. Please keep Cherie, Chris, Matt, Amanda, Emily, and Nancy's family in your prayers as they grieve.

We pray for the peace and the hope of the resurrection for the families of Ruth and Nancy.



June Anniversaries:

5	Mike & Cristen Fiffik	10	Bob & Barb Marcellus
7	Mark & Chris Bocian	23	Rob & Debra Weber
7	Shaun & Jeannie Connolly	27	Dan & Lauren Skrastins

June Birthdays:

1	Matthias Tassotto	12	Steven Ross
2	Joanna Weber	17	Ted Connolly
3	Carter Mayes	22	Bill Seitz
3	Rob Weber	23	Isabel Nicolette-Fantin
4	Jamie Farris	24	Bob Marcellus
5	Bill Powers	25	Barb Marcellus
8	Gary Edwards	28	Melissa Rajendaran
10	Nancy Hughey	30	Simon Blake
11	Scott Gunther		

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

Congratulations to our Graduates!



Michele Krom graduated from Xavier college with a double major in Accounting and Finance. She has a job with Grant Thornton in September.

Sierra Vogel graduated from the University of Pittsburgh this Spring. Sierra was accepted at the University of Pennsylvania where she will continue her studies for a Master's Degree in Education.



17TH ANNUAL CONCORDIA GOLF CLASSIC



The 17th annual Concordia Lutheran Ministries Golf Classic will be held on Monday, July 12 at [Treedale Golf & Country Club](#). Registration is scheduled for 8:30 AM with a shotgun start at 10 AM, reception at 3 PM and banquet/program at 4 PM. Prizes will be awarded to three foursomes for the lowest gross score. Cost per participant is \$225 for golf, cart, gifts, continental breakfast, grilled lunch, happy hour and dinner/reception. We are currently accepting sponsorships and items for the gift basket auction for this event. Sponsorship levels range from \$450 - \$7,500, and include varying levels of exposure for your company or cause. Every gift given to Concordia Lutheran Ministries makes a significant difference in the lives of our residents, especially to those facing financial hardship. All net proceeds from the CLM Golf Classic are directed to Concordia's Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, allowing Concordia to provide high-quality, faith-based care to those with limited ability to pay. [Click here to register for the event or purchase a sponsorship online](#). You can also contact Larissa Yates at 724-352-1571, ext. 8363 or lyates@concordialm.org for more information or to register.

CONCORDIA ANNUAL 140TH SUMMER FESTIVAL

When: Sunday, July 25 from 12:30 – 5:30 PM

Where: Concordia at Cabot Campus

Details: Sunday, July 25 marks the 140th Concordia Summer Festival, with a picnic lunch served at 12:30 PM and entertainment by the Pittsburgh Doo Wop Big Band beginning at 1:30 PM. At 4 PM the traditional worship service will be held with Concordia Chaplaincy Director Rev. Jack Hartman giving the sermon. A car cruise will be on-site from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. A mini fishing derby for kids 12 and under will highlight the children's activities beginning at 12:30. Crafts and games at the pavilion will keep the kids busy for the rest of the day, and they are entitled to one free drink and one free food item from our quick food tent, such as a burger, hot dog or chicken tenders. The entire event is open to the public, and admission is free. Contact Public Relations at 724-352-1571, ext. 8268 or visit the [Events and News page of our website here](#).



St. John's Preschool in Millvale is seeking a teacher, part-time, starting in mid-August, working three days per week. BA or BS in education with prior teaching experience preferred. Please send resume to Preschool@StJohnsMillvale.org.

The Friends of Pioneer Inc. Formally Announces Pioneer on the Lake!



PIONEER ON THE LAKE

"A future and a hope"... Jeremiah 29:11

The Friends of Pioneer leadership team is excited to announce that a partnership has been formed with Concordia Lutheran Ministries of Cabot, PA. Concordia Lutheran Ministries has agreed to purchase the Pioneer property with the stipulation that the ongoing ministry of camp be operated and managed by the board of the Friends of Pioneer, Inc. Both the Friends of Pioneer and Concordia Lutheran Ministries are extensions of the LCMS, and both share a passionate zeal for outdoor ministry! We are thrilled to see God's hand in this and are excited to see all that He has in store for the future of Pioneer!

Concordia Lutheran Ministries and the Friends of Pioneer are grateful to the board of Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Inc. and the leadership of the Eastern District of the LCMS, for their many years of stewardship at Pioneer. Their desire to see the ministry of Pioneer continue has brought us to this exciting place in time.

The good news is that the purchase of the property allows Pioneer to begin with a fresh new start - completely debt free! This means that every dollar raised will go directly into the ministry of Pioneer as well as to restoring, expanding, and enhancing the facility and its many ministry opportunities. This partnership means that future generations will be able to come to hear the life-changing gospel of Jesus and experience the presence of God as in generations past. Pioneer on the Lake: it's a "new future: same legacy."

You can also have a vital part in the future of Pioneer! Your help and generosity can bring this plan to life. Go to friendsofpioneer.org to check out our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page to learn more! Join the Friends of Pioneer on Facebook to see updates and reminisce about this place we all know and love. And most importantly, please continue to pray for the board of the Friends of Pioneer, and for present and future supporters of the ministry at Pioneer on the Lake.

In His Service,

~ The Friends of Pioneer ~



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let’s explore this topic.

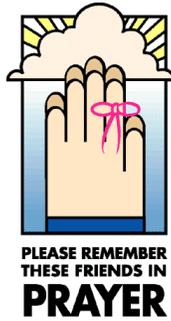
Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.



FOR HEALTH & HEALING

Steve Rake (recovery from quadruple bypass heart surgery – Ali Lucas' father); Paula Fiedler (recovery from hip replacement surgery – Eileen Vogel's sister); 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 the Shaginaw and Edmundson families on the death of mother and grandmother, Nancy Edmundson; Olivia, Emily and Maddie on the death of their mother, Amy (friends of Fiffik's); the Miller, Gunther, and Meinert families on the death of Ruth Miller; Vicki Wiegand and family on the death of Roy; for the citizens, survivors, relief workers, missionaries, and families affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, terrorist attacks and disasters worldwide

FOR THANKSGIVING

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

FOR SAFETY/PROTECTION

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

FOR DIRECTION AND FAITH

For 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)

***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

June 6, 2021: “Out of the Depths” When our words fail us, we find God's word of promise in the words of Psalm 130. (Psalm 130) Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

June 13, 2021: “Clearly Christian: Good” Many think they know what Christianity is all about, but Dr. Michael Zeigler asks, what if what they think it is, it isn't? Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

June 20, 2021: “Clearly Christian: Spiritual” God is above all, but that doesn't mean material "stuff" is somehow beneath Him. Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the unique nature of Christian spirituality. (Genesis 1:31) Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

June 27, 2021: “Clearly Christian: Judgmental” (Matthew 7:1-5) Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Lutheran Hour broadcasts can be heard on WWNL/1080 AM on Saturdays at 3:30 PM and on Tuesdays at 12:30 PM. You may also read the sermon or listen to it at <https://www.lutheranhour.org/sermon.asp>.



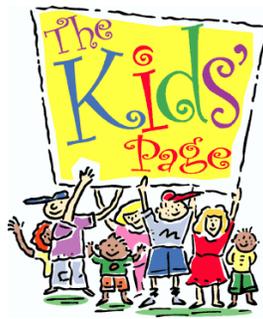
The most accessible and the most promising mission field might be our neighborhood!

The Hopeful Neighborhood Project is a brand-new collaborative network of people who are committed to improving neighborhood well-being around the world. Lutheran Hour Ministries resources and online network equip and encourage neighbors to work together, using their gifts and the gifts of their community, to pursue the common good of their neighborhood. Learn how to love your neighborhood with tools, based on Barna research, that will help you make an impact.

LHM's NEW Better Together Kit at <https://shoplhm.org/better-together-kit/> includes the above 3 books + more!

Together in His service,

Lou Marting
949 770 8420; 818 404 6447



MYSTERY ISLAND VBS WORD SEARCH

H S O H O L Y S P I R I T S E
C S E M M A N U E L A Y C C S
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ALMIGHTY
CLARK THE SHARK
CRAFTS
CREATOR
EMMANUEL
FLIP THE OCTOPUS
FUN
GAMES
GOD
GREAT

HOLY SPIRIT
ISLAND
JAM THE JELLYFISH
JESUS
LIGHTHOUSE
MUSIC
MYSTERY
PARADISE
RAINBOW
RULER

SCRIPTURE
SNACKS
SUN
TIDE
TRUSTWORTHY
TRUSTY THE MACAW
TRUTH
VBS

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

Address Correction Requested

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9:30 AM Worship Service in-person and live-streamed

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

A monthly publication of
Ascension Lutheran Church.
Barbara Marcellus is the Editor.

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