

# The Heart of Ascension

Ascension Lutheran Church   
Missouri Synod  
A Christ-centered community  
where we **connect**, **learn**, and **serve**.

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

### ~ CONNECT ~



**Our Goal – 200 Boxes!**

### DID YOU KNOW....

... that there are now three ways to pay for the shipping of your shoebox?

1. Scan the QR code on the provided label with your smartphone camera. You can pay and follow your box using this method.
2. Write a check
3. Pay online at [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ)

*Note: You only need to do one check or payment even if you're doing multiple boxes (multiply \$9 times the number of boxes you are doing).*

... that Samaritan's Purse would prefer you **NOT** place your check to pay for shipping inside the shoebox anymore? - If you would like to write a check, put it in the pre-paid, pre-addressed envelope attached to the provided brochure and mail it in.

... that there are now **peel-and-stick labels that you can attach to your box to indicate the gender of child and the age range?** - That's right, no more cutting and pasting labels onto your box! All you have to do is peel and stick your label onto the box.

... that there are **three types of shoeboxes?** - There are plastic, corrugated cardboard, and thinner cardboard boxes. The thinner cardboard boxes are being phased out. But they are all still for the same purpose; packing for underprivileged children.

... **you can pack a shoebox online instead of in person?** Yes, just go to Ascension's website ([www.ascensionpgh.com](http://www.ascensionpgh.com)) and click on the link for Operation Christmas Child. There you will find a link to our Goal Page so you can build a shoebox online and have it count towards Ascension's total. It only costs \$25 per box, and that includes shipping!

**Questions?** Contact Bob Marcellus – email: [rembem@comcast.net](mailto:rembem@comcast.net) / phone: 412-635-8458; or visit the Samaritan's Purse website at [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ).

# Ascension's Community Garden



The garden is underway! Three perennial plants have been planted: spearmint, chives, and rhubarb. They will all last for decades. This Spring, enough of the garden will probably be ready to plant 3 or 4 dozen tomatoes and some pumpkin, and perhaps even more.

A lot of different things need to be done to prepare for Spring. Some are arduous labor, and some are extremely simple. Here's what we need help with:

- Preparing the soil (which is especially critical for initial planting)
- Piles of brush need moved to the woods
- Weeds need pulled by the roots and thrown into the woods
- Roots need to be dug/pulled out (*A maddox is the best tool for this, and one is available*)
- The piles of bricks need added to the organized bricks near the edge of the garden



Soon, we will need to rake the church's leaves, which will go to the garden to become very rich soil rather quickly. If anyone typically bags their leaves, those bags of leaves could also be brought to church and added to our collection. They can be left in the bags. The more leaves, the better! Also, if you catch your grass as you cut it, bring the bags of grass to church (without pulled weeds). If you need someone to transport it, let us know.



We have a compost pile, and we certainly need everyone's help for it to grow. Things that are gathered turn into very rich soil in several months. Everyone has scrap food, which makes excellent compost! Here are some things that you can save and drop off for us:

- Fruit cores & peels
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds with filter
- Paper napkins
- Newspaper ripped into shards
- Sawdust (not walnut)
- All of those Halloween PUMPKINS!
- Fruits and veggies that went bad before you used them.
- Leftovers headed to the garbage (*a little meat is OK*)
- Plants and flowers (*not weeds*) that have been pulled
- Stale bread
- Crusts
- Ashes (*they're great!*)
- Paper plates
- Paper that has been shredded
- Part of vegetable removed before cooking
- Shrub trimmings (not evergreen shrubs)

Get in the habit of saving such things all the time, and drop them off, either directly into the compost area that is surrounded by wooden pallets, or into the white trash bin by the parking lot. Small amounts from many homes will add up, and we can never get too much.

Many helping hands will help to make our community garden flourish and grow. Parents and kids can also work together. Join us on the **Fall Clean-Up day, Saturday, Nov. 20**, or contact Rob Weber to coordinate a time that works for you and your family - [rbtweber@gmail.com](mailto:rbtweber@gmail.com)

# PUMPKIN FEST AND FLEA MARKET

**Thank you** from the Outreach Team for helping to make this year's event such a huge success. We were able to have vendors inside and outside due to the somewhat cooperative weather. All of the pies were sold, and the other refreshments and goodies were

also flying out of the kitchen. The entertainment duo of *Paul Mac N'At* was a welcome addition. Even the rain did not stop the crowds, which seemed to 'pour in' most of the day!

There was an energetic, dedicated group of volunteers that we were so blessed to have. Some were regulars, some were new, and one was a former member who has moved and came back to help us. Many folks from the community visited and seemed to leave with many purchases. We are thrilled to report that our profit was over \$1800. We are already in the process of planning for next year. See you there!!!

Enjoy the photos from behind the scenes, making the pies, and some of the vendor areas.



## ~ LEARN ~



Dear Saints of Ascension,

It is almost to the end of the year. It is getting close to the end of calendar year, but I am talking about another year. I am talking about the church year. The church year ends November 21st on the cleverly named "Last Sunday of the Church Year." The end of the church year shifts our focus to the return of Jesus and the promise of everlasting life in His heavenly kingdom. But what is the church year?

The church year calendar tracks through the high celebrations and important Scriptural occurrences in the life of our Lord Jesus. In our congregation, we currently use the *Lutheran Worship* hymnal. You can see a description of the church calendar on page 8 in the front. The church year calendar has two main parts. The first is called the festival calendar, which begins with the season of Advent and ends with Pentecost. The second part of the church year calendar is the post-Pentecost season. This is called the time of the Church. This part of the church calendar focuses on the life of the Church and what we are now called to do between Christ's Ascension and His Second Coming. Which brings us to the month of November and the end of the church year. This section ends with our anticipation of Christ's second return. There is one other practical reason for the church year calendar. That is for the lectionary.

The lectionary is the selection of Scripture readings that are chosen to go along with the different Sundays in the church year calendar. Our church is on the three-year lectionary. It has a three-year rotation that allows for us each year to have a different Gospel book as the focus for the gospel readings. So, you will notice our scripture readings in the month of November focus on Christ's final return and the day of judgement. This reflects the focus of the end of the church year. We are focusing on the ultimate return of Christ and the beginning of our eternal life with Him in His kingdom.

Each week of the church year has a pre-selected Psalm, Old Testament, Epistle reading, and Gospel reading. These readings echo the major events and accounts of the particular focus of that season of the church year. So, during the season of Christmas, we are reading about Christ's birth and during Easter we are reading about the resurrection. One other important function is it prevents pastors and congregations from losing sight of who we are gathered to worship and what the focus of our faith really is. Since we are following the story of salvation in Jesus, we don't get stuck on just talking about topics of faith or issues that may be important just to us, but we stay focused on the whole account of God's work of salvation in Jesus.

Perhaps this has been a review of things you already know, or you can now make sense of some of the things that you see at church, which before caused you confusion. Either way the church year calendar and the lectionary give us a rich and time-tested treasure that fully open the wondrous message of the gospel and brings the Holy Scriptures to life. It helps us join the many generations of churches that have come before us in the task of sharing the good news!

*"We will not hide them from their children, but tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done."* – Psalm 78:4

In Christ,  
Pastor Thompson



## “Notes” from the Music Director

Do you have a favorite hymn? A favorite contemporary worship song? Did you ever wonder about the history of some of the most beloved hymns and worship songs?

We recently celebrated the Reformation and Martin Luther, who founded the Lutheran church. Of course, he was a great scholar, but did you know that he also composed music? He wrote a full liturgical mass in German, published in 1526, and he also composed the famous hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” between 1527 and 1529.

The very first LCMS hymnal, *Kirchengesangbuch*, was published in 1847 in the German language. The first English hymnal was the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, published in 1912. *The Lutheran Hymnal* (TLH), was published in 1941. The *Lutheran Worship* (LW), published in 1982, and newest LCMS hymnal, the *Lutheran Service Book* (LSB) was published in 2006.

(read more - <https://blog.cph.org/worship/2017/02/history-of-lcms-hymnals>)

Contemporary Christian music began as early as the 1950s and 1960s, originally adapted from gospel music. In the 1970s, the Catholic Church adopted a contemporary “folk mass.” Some of the early contemporary Christian artists include Andraé Crouch, Keith Green, Michael Card, Michael W. Smith, and Amy Grant. Today’s worship music embraces many genres, including pop, rock, gospel, and hip-hop, to name a few, and many artists incorporate traditional hymns with modern melodies. Among the most well known Christian artists and songwriters of today are Chris Tomlin, Keith and Krystin Getty, Phil Wickham, Matt Maher, TobyMac, Kari Jobe, and Christy Nockels.

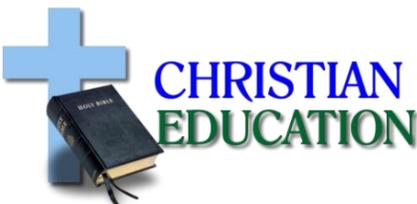
At Ascension, our tradition has evolved into what we call a ‘blended service.’ We sing traditional hymns as well as contemporary songs, and all are chosen to enhance the message of the Gospel reading for each Sunday. The song texts, rather than style, are the reason music is selected. And since singing engages both parts of the brain, it can be used to teach us about the Gospel message of Christ.

Your input is always appreciated! If you have a favorite hymn or contemporary song, please let me know so that I can try to include it when a similar Gospel message is presented. Feel free to hand me a note, or email me at [music@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:music@ascensionpgh.com).

*Vanessa Candreva*

Upcoming Musical Offerings:

- **Sunday, November 21** – Choir and Children will sing “*With Grateful Heart, I Thank You, Lord*”



## WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

The Ascension Women’s Bible Study has started up again! On Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, we had about ten women present and anticipate a few more joining us. Our study is using *Altogether Beautiful* by Heidi Goehmann, and it focuses on a less commonly studied book – Song of Songs. We would love to have you join us at our next meeting at **9 AM on November 6!**

## Family Small Group



Due to the upcoming holidays, our Family Small Group will meet once in November (21<sup>st</sup>) and December (5<sup>th</sup>). Our two holiday gatherings will be fellowship events to gather and enjoy a break from the busyness of the holiday season. The Blakes will be hosting at their house on November 21<sup>st</sup>, which will be a special Thanksgiving gathering. More details coming soon. If interested in joining us, please contact

Pastor Thompson at [pastor@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com). We could also use a few more volunteers to babysit the kids while parents are doing bible study. Let Pastor know if you can help.

We will begin our new study in January 2022!

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## ~ SERVE ~



There will be a congregational meeting after our worship service on **Sunday, November 14**. We will be voting on approval for next year's budget as well as new members serving on the church council.

Christian Education classes will not be held that day; however, there will be a supervised children's activity so that parents may attend the meeting.

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Attention all Ascension Volunteers.... We need YOU for our annual **Fall Clean-Up!** The leaves don't disappear all by themselves, and we need help cleaning the inside, too. On **November 20<sup>th</sup>**, starting at 9 am, we will gather to clean up. For those who are attending the men's or women's bible study, you may join us afterward. We will provide some pizza to say thank you. If you have questions, feel free to email the trustees at [trustees@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:trustees@ascensionpgh.com).

*More information to come.*



It's time to prepare our volunteer schedule for next year. We are always looking for helpers. The service of the altar guild is needed and valuable. It serves by making sure that our place of worship is maintained and set up for the times and seasons of the church year. Both women and men may serve on the altar guild, as well as young or old alike. If you are interested in serving, or would like

some additional information, please see Janet Seitz, or email her at [janetseitz@hotmail.com](mailto:janetseitz@hotmail.com).



If you would like to order flowers for the altar for a special occasion, birthday, or in honor/memory of someone, please sign the flower chart located in the Narthex of the church. You will be given a form to fill out as to how you would like the bulletin notice to read. Our flowers are \$35 per vase, and they are supplied by West View Floral. Please make checks out to Ascension Lutheran Church, and place your payment in the offering plate.



What? Christmas already??  
Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**,  
and come to help us decorate the sanctuary!  
*More information soon...*

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## Celebrating Our Ascension Family This Month



- 3 Jackie Dolph
- 4 Tommie Caroline Tinneny
- 5 Sally Long
- 7 Darryl Gunther
- 17 Janine Nicolette
- 18 Patricia Young
- 25 Melissa Wolfslayer
- 27 Lydia Jarboe
- 27 Bekki Weber
- 28 Stephan Weber
- 30 Gene Williams, Sr.



- 26 Ron & Myra Davis

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office at **412-364-4463** so that we can update our records.

If you would like to update your photo on our church database, you may do so by emailing - [media@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:media@ascensionpgh.com)

. We are accepting both individual as well as anniversary photos.



We would like to begin publishing our **Ascension Community Prayer List** again, but we need your help! If you have special prayer concerns, please send via email **by Wednesday of each week** to: [secretary@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:secretary@ascensionpgh.com). This weekly prayer list will be posted in the bulletin as well as in this newsletter.

**Please note that prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for 30 days and then be removed unless an extension is requested by notifying the church secretary.**

*Below are some general prayers for this month:*

#### **FOR STRENGTH & COMFORT:**

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 the gifts of love and God's Word; for family and friends; for our country

#### **FOR SAFETY/PROTECTION**

For all affected by the coronavirus pandemic; missionaries; our armed forces; and 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; seminary students; the residents and staff of Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Shepherd's Heart Fellowship; Food For The Poor; Christian Counseling Associates (both counselors and their clients); those with special needs (physical, mental, or emotional); and for our shut-ins.

*"Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;  
hold not your peace at my tears!  
For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.*

*~ Psalm 36:12*



## Upcoming Lutheran Hour Broadcasts

Sermon Schedule:

### November 7

#### "The Father of Solomon, by Uriah's Wife"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The story of David and Bathsheba is a scandalous tale of adultery, treachery, and murder—but it also shows God's undeserved mercy for David and for us.

(2 Samuel 12:13)

### November 14

#### "Jesus Keeps Filling"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

In one way or another, we are all broken, cracked vessels. Life leaks out, but Jesus keeps filling.

(2 Samuel 14:14)

### November 21

#### "Between Now and Eternity There Is Much to Do!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Hector Hoppe

In Christ, God forgives our past and secures our future. Dr. Hector Hoppe says, here in the present, there is much we can do.

(Jude 1:20-25)

### November 28

#### "TBD"

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>.

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8225 Peebles Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237



### CHURCH OFFICE:

412-364-4463 / 412-364-5636

### FAX NUMBER:

412-369-0599

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday ~ 9 AM -1 PM

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### SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 AM Service in-person and livestreamed

YouTube channel - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu\\_ARgzTTcfZZXuZAeiyEVQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu_ARgzTTcfZZXuZAeiyEVQ)

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### PASTOR:

**Rev. Adam Thompson**

Pastor's cell phone: 314-691-0625

EMAIL: [pastor@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com)

### SECRETARY'S EMAIL:

[secretary@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:secretary@ascensionpgh.com)

### MUSIC DIRECTOR'S EMAIL:

[music@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:music@ascensionpgh.com)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Website - [www.ascensionpgh.com](http://www.ascensionpgh.com)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/Ascensionpgh](http://www.facebook.com/Ascensionpgh)

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

President (Russ Lucas)

[president@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:president@ascensionpgh.com)

Treasurer (Patti Lopresto)

[treasurer@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:treasurer@ascensionpgh.com)

Financial Secretary (Bob Marcellus)

[finance@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:finance@ascensionpgh.com)

Elders

[elders@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:elders@ascensionpgh.com)

Board of Christian Education

[education@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:education@ascensionpgh.com)

Board of Trustees

[trustees@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:trustees@ascensionpgh.com)

SOAR Respite Nights

[soar@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:soar@ascensionpgh.com)

Media (Cherie Shaginaw)

[media@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:media@ascensionpgh.com)

Vacation Bible School

[vbs@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:vbs@ascensionpgh.com)