

The Heart of Ascension

Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

A Christ-centered community
where we *connect, learn, and serve.*

MAY 2022



The Spring Appeal has concluded with a total of \$11,099 in generous donations. Thank you to all who supported the Appeal. The majority of funds will be used to improve the audio/visual booth in the sanctuary and to improve drainage outside the Fellowship Hall door.

The congregation voted to tithe 10% to Living in Liberty, a local nonprofit that combats commercial sexual exploitation/human trafficking in our community. Living in Liberty prepares human trafficking survivors to live independently by providing temporary housing, food, clothing, education, and life skills training in a secure and nurturing environment. Women who receive assistance are encouraged to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

More information will follow about the giving of the donation to Living in Liberty.

As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated! Blessings to you and yours.

CONNECT



Dear Lord, we give thanks for the new members that You have called to join Your Church at Ascension Lutheran. We pray that by Your gracious will, they grow in love and faith. Help them find Your blessings of Word and Sacrament and the fellowship of the saints here at Ascension.



*Ascension Lutheran annual church plant sale is scheduled for
Sunday May 15th and May 22nd.*

*We have tomato plants, pepper plants, zucchini, cucumber plants, basil and parsley.
This year we also have dahlia bulbs and canna bulbs to help your yard look beautiful!
All money collected goes to the church.
Hope to see you there!*

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Ascension Lutheran just had its first men's fellowship event in quite some time. They gathered at Cinderland's Tap Room, in Wexford. A great time was had by all. We will be planning another Men's event to be held at ShuBrew in Zelienople. Date & time to be announced in the near future.



HALLELUJIA HE IS RISEN!!!



Easter Sunday Service





Speaker Event

Ascension Lutheran Church hosted a long awaited speaker event last month and had a wonderful turn out!!! Kent Rodgers, L.P.C. from Christian Counseling Associates presented on the topic of Fear & Anxiety, specifically how it affects us as Christians.



It was wonderful to hear his message, and learn how it affects us as Christians. It was also great to connect with non-members in our community! We would like to say a special thank you to Kent and to Christian Counseling for the presentation.

We look forward to hosting more events in the future!

Farewell!

Please join us in bidding farewell to Vanessa & Pete Candreva. We will gather together after Worship service on Sunday, May 1st in our Fellowship Hall.



Dear Friends at Ascension, We have been so blessed in the 10 years we've been here at Ascension! We have met so many wonderful people, participated in many Worship services, Bible studies, and fellowship events, and have seen the work of the Lord through your love and kindness. As we move forward on God's journey, we want to say thank you to everyone here in this church family for all of your thoughts and prayers as we enter the Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN. We know that you have all touched us in some way, and the bonds of friendship in His love have helped to mold us into better disciples of Christ. Please keep in touch with us. We will be in Ft. Wayne for 2 years, then on to wherever God is calling us. This church and its people will always be in our prayers!

Love in Christ,
Pete and Vanessa Candreva
4126 Hexhill Ct. Ft. Wayne, IN 46818

May the LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26



FAMILY SMALL GROUP

Ascension's Family Small Group will once more before summer break. Please join us for a brief meeting on May 22nd after Christian Education from 12-12:30pm in the Fireside Room. We hope you will be able to join us.

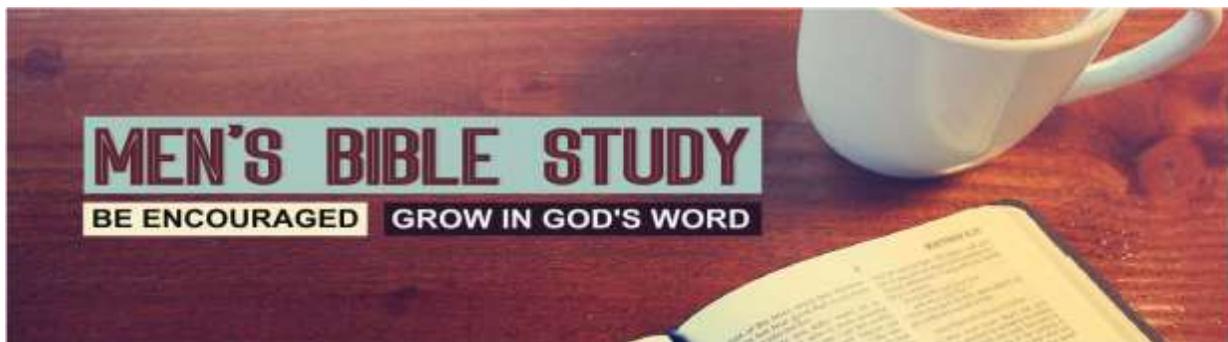
LEARN



The Ascension Women's Bible Study has started up again! They will be held on the first Saturday of each month in the Fireside Room. We would love to have you join us, and our next meeting will be Saturday May 7th at 9:00 AM. For additional information please contact Shannon Schroeder at slschroeder2014@gmail.com

If you are interested in attending via Zoom, please see the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86391743004?pwd=VEg2N0QzUWZyUTZJdjZRQ2x5QmIkUT09>



THE ASCENSION MEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, MAY 28TH AT 8:30 AM. PLEASE JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE.

THE ZOOM LINK IS BELOW.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98747781194?pwd=VHI4TkpDNU1Xa1lwY05Bb3c5MDZYdz09>

SERVE



This section will be in the newsletter each month to regularly acknowledge our members who faithfully and steadily serve. Too often service goes unrecognized, and we want them to know they are appreciated!

- ✚ To Janet Seitz for your dedication to so many ministries at Ascension. We know many of the ways you served but gather there must be more you have done behind the scenes. Your heart of gold and sense of humor lift us all up.
- ✚ To the call committee that worked so hard to find Ascension's new Pastor. The time you spent has paid off, as we have witnessed the good work Pastor Thompson is doing within our community. Our church is growing in a positive direction and we thank you for your part in that.
- ✚ To Pastor Thompson for shepherding all of us through the Lenten journey and the Easter season. Your preparation has led us into a deeper relationship with Jesus. God has blessed you with special talents for use in this congregation and we are grateful.
- ✚ To Bob Marcellus for many years of work as Financial Secretary, and for sharing your knowledge with Kristin Mayes as she takes on the position. It takes a lot of time, organization and detail to do this job and you did it very well.

We appreciate all of you for sharing your special talents with Ascension!

ASCENSION CHURCH GARDEN PROJECT



DO YOU HAVE A "GREEN THUMB" OR ENJOY SPENDING TIME OUTSIDE PULLING WEEDS AND GARDENING? ROB WEBER HAS BEEN PUTTING IN THE SWEAT FOR OUR LITTLE GARDEN, BUT WE NEED VOLUNTEERS AND TOOLS TO HELP IT GROW!

BELOW ARE SOME ITEMS NEEDED, WHETHER LIGHTLY USED OR NEW.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

GARDEN OR LEAF RAKE; SPADE; POINTED HOE; REGULAR HOE; WATER HOSE AND ANY OTHER GARDENING TOOLS YOU MAY HAVE LYING AROUND.

WE WILL PUT THEM TO GOOD USE!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, IDEAS OR CONCERNS, YOU MAY CONTACT ROB WEBER AT RBJWEBER@GMAIL.COM



Operation Christmas Child

Tidbits

It's been a while since we have talked about shoeboxes, so I thought I would catch you up on last year's event and look at what's happening this year.

Who gave what? Here is a breakdown of shoeboxes that were collected:

Worldwide: 10,505,155

USA: 9,127,591

Mid-Atlantic (PA & NJ): 610,234

Allegheny County: 13,834

Ascension: 204

Worldwide shoebox gifts were collected in Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Countries receiving shoeboxes from Allegheny County: Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Mali, Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Philippines, Botswana, Mexico and Hard to Reach Area(s).

Follow your box. Have you found out where your shoebox went to last year? If you activated your label, it's easy. Go to www.samaritanspurse.org/occ, click on "Follow Your Box Look-up Tool", enter your email address (or label code) and it will tell you. The ones my family packed went to Botswana and a Hard-To-Reach area.

Breakdown. Here is a breakdown by gender and age group of the shoeboxes collected at Ascension:

Boy 2-4: 15 Boy 5-9: 33 Boy 10-14: 36

Girl 2-4: 17 Girl 5-9: 40 Girl 10-14: 23

Ukraine. Samaritan's Purse was in the process of sending and distributing over 600,000 shoeboxes to 3,200 churches in Ukraine when the war broke out. Please pray for a quick and peaceful end to this conflict and for all the refugees and especially the children who have been displaced.

2022: This year, kick-off will be October 23rd with the last day to bring in your shoeboxes being November 20th. Start looking for those deals now on items to put in your box. It's never too early to shop!

If you have any questions about the Operation Christmas Child program, see Bob Marcellus or go to the Samaritan's Purse website at www.samaritanspurse.org/occ.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

We are committing \$3 million to respond to this crisis and are on the ground working with partners in and around Ukraine to rapidly develop programming plans based on short- and long-term needs. As part of this response, we are providing emergency funds to Ukrainian refugee families in Poland. Cash will be distributed at Lutheran churches throughout southwest Poland. To help Ukrainian families who have fled to safety, Lutheran World Relief is air-lifting Personal Care Kits and Mission Quilts as part of our first response. We are grateful for the thousands of Lutherans across the United States whose care and generosity have made it possible for us to respond immediately. To find out more you can visit their website. If you have any questions regarding your donation, please feel free to reach out to us anytime at 800.597.5972 or via email at lwr@lwr.org.



STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

If you want to contribute to this ministry, here is what we look for:

1. Intact picture postcards. Do not cutoff the stamps.
2. Foreign stamps & Large commemorative US Stamps
3. Small definite (common) US Stamps (including USA nonprofit bulk stamps)
4. Do not save Love, Flag, Bell or Christmas stamps.
5. Any collections of stamps, save on sheets if possible and do not remove stamps from pages or album. Stamps should be trimmed, leaving 1/2" margin around the stamp. Be sure the perforations are intact. You can put them in **Sandy Malarkey's** or **Janet Seitz's** mail slots in the narthex.

MITES FOR MISSIONS



LWML is always collecting “mites”; spare change and donations for missions. If you would like to donate to our mites for mission projects, please put your offerings in the large Mite Box on the table in the Narthex. There are also small mite boxes that you can take home to fill with your spare change. There are cards with a list of the 2021-2023 LWML Mission Grants printed on them for you to see where your mites will go. Monies are

divided 75% for District mission work and 25% for national LWML missions.

ALTAR FLOWERS



To order altar flowers, please sign the flower sign-up chart located in the Narthex & complete a form with your dedication message for the bulletin. You can put this in the Office Secretary mailbox in the narthex. Flower cost is \$35 per vase, supplied by West View Floral. Please make checks out to Ascension Lutheran Church, and place your payment in the offering plate.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS



The **Care Committee** is always seeking anyone interested in serving. If you are interested in joining our care committee, please contact Mike Fiffik at sambeau923@gmail.com.
New members are always welcome!

PENNIES FOR JESUS



Christian, Alison and their sons, Zachary, Hudson, and Judah have endured many medical issues in the last few months. Christian has tendinitis and severe pain. In January, he had a procedure in the hospital where they manipulated his shoulder to break up the scar tissue & help his torn rotator cuff heal properly. They arrived in Cambodia on January 6 where they

were tested and unfortunately Hudson and Judah tested positive for COVID. Alison stayed with them as the boys were taken to a hospital for two weeks and were tested every other day. Christian and Zachary were quarantined for seven days. Alison, Hudson, and Judah were finally able to quarantine at home after 16 days at the COVID hospital. As we continue collecting our Pennies for Jesus offering for this family and mission, please pray for Christian and his shoulder healing, pray for their transition back home to Ratanakiri, pray that they raise additional funds due to having to stay in a hotel for a month in the capital of Cambodia with increases in food costs since they could not cook, and for additional medical costs.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Ascension Family Birthdays



Ken Lindsey	May 10
Leah Lucas	May 16
Savannah Vogel	May 18
Gabriel Blake	May 20
Matthew Gunther	May 20
Ron Curcio	May 24
Robert Booth	May 27
Ken Lindsey	May 10
Leah Lucas	May 16
Gabriel Blake	May 20



Darryl & Lynn Gunther	May 12
Steve & Amy Diak	May 14
Michael & Mariann Kaczmarek	May 14
Joe & Karen Meinert	May 18
Michael & Lydia Jarboe	May 19

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



IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Below is our Ascension Community Prayer List. If you have special prayer concerns, please send via email by Wednesday of each week to: secretary@ascensionpgh.com. This weekly prayer list will be posted in the bulletin, weekly reminders, and in this newsletter, per families' request. 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.

- ✦ We pray for Michael Miceli, friend of Janine Nicolette, he has been diagnosed with late-stage small-cell lung cancer.

- ✦ We pray for Dale, Barb Marcellus' cousin, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and is undergoing chemotherapy.

- ✦ We pray for Lanaya Barnes, granddaughter of Karen Meinert, for her mental health and recovery and for her family who is trying to support her.

- ✦ We pray for God to provide a person to serve as Ascension Lutheran's Music Director.

- ✦ For Shirley Rinas, Marissa Thompson's grandmother, whose breast cancer has returned.

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 **MAY 2022**

May 1

"Three C's of Christian Witness"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Competence, Conversation, and Caring-the three C's of Christian witness.
(Daniel 3:28)

May 8

"What the Bible Is Like"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Bible is like an encyclopedia, a love letter, a self-help book, and a Good News article--but these comparisons all fall short.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

May 15

"What the Bible Is About"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

May 22

"What the Bible Is For"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(1 Timothy 4:13)

May 29

"Imagine That!"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy

(Revelation 22:1-7)

*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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 AM Service in-person and livestreamed

YouTube channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu_ARgzTTcfZZXuZAeiyEVQ

PASTOR:

Rev. Adam Thompson
Pastor's cell phone: 314-691-0625
EMAIL: pastor@ascensionpgh.com

SECRETARY'S EMAIL:

secretary@ascensionpgh.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S EMAIL:

music@ascensionpgh.com

SOCIAL MEDIA: Website - www.ascensionpgh.com

Facebook - www.facebook.com/Ascensionpgh

CHURCH EMAIL ACCOUNTS

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

President (Lynn Gunther)	president@ascensionpgh.com
Vice President (Mark Straszheim)	mark.straszheim@gmail.com
Treasurer (Patti Lopresto)	treasurer@ascensionpgh.com
Financial Secretary (Kristin Mays)	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
Media (Cherie Shaginaw)	media@ascensionpgh.com
Vacation Bible School	vbs@ascensionpgh.com