

Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

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

August 7th



Welcome To Our Guests

It is a great joy to have you here today. We pray that your time with us helps 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!

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NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

Today's Epistle is from Hebrews 11, the "by faith" chapter. It lists heroes of faith, people who trusted in God's promises, assured of what they hoped for (the definition of faith). The Reading from Genesis singles out Abram believing God, for which God counted it to him as righteousness. Now we can look back, knowing that in one descendant of Abraham, Jesus, all God's promises were kept. His calming words in the Gospel give us the assurance we need to rely on God's care and concern when we don't have all we think we need. "Seek [God's] kingdom, and these things will be added to you," He promises (Luke 12:31). Our faith-filled response echoes today's Psalm: "Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You" (Psalm 33:22).

Stand

INVOCATION

- A** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING HYMN - What is the World to Me

LW 418

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- A** Let us go to our gracious God, confessing our sins, trusting Him for grace and forgiveness.
- C** **We confess, heavenly Father, that 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.**

Forgive us for Jesus' sake, strengthen our faith, and focus our hearts on Your kingdom, the inheritance He won for us in His death and resurrection.

- A** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

GREETING OF PEACE

At this time, you may turn to those around you and greet each other with the peace of Christ.

GATHERING SONG - Merciful Father

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 11:1-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased

God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:22–34

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory

was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY - I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

LW 408

THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Stand

APOSTLES CREED

C 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

OFFERING / MEDITATION SONG - How Rich A Treasure We Possess

Praise Team

Stand

OFFERTORY - My Worth is Not in What I Own

GRADUATE BLESSING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each prayer, the response will be:

- A** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

- A** The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor and ☩ give us peace.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING SONG – The Greatness of Our God

DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace and
- C** Serve the Lord!

**LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings for next week are:
Jeremiah 23:16-29; Hebrews 11:17-12:3; Luke 12:49-56**

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SERVING TODAY

LAY READERTrish Young
ELDER(S).....Dave Dille & Cooper Blake
USHERS.....Ron Curcio & Lynn Gunther
ACOLYTE.....Elijah Blake

SERVING NEXT WEEK

LAY READERBob Booth
ELDER(S).....Kurt Dolph
USHERS.....Ken Lindsey & Edie Krom
ACOLYTE.....Daisy Lucas

SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date for Rally Day - September 11th after Sunday Service

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRADUATE BLESSING – Today we’re blessing our graduates! As some were not able to attend today, you can find more details on our graduates in the August newsletter. You can find the newsletter on our website, or grab a copy in the narthex. Please keep our graduates in your prayers as they continue onto where the Lord is leading them next!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Our next congregational meeting is scheduled for after the service on August 14th, 2021. Join us in the sanctuary for our quarterly meeting!

DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY - The Stewardship Committee invites you to attend a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University event this fall. Please see insert for more information, or contact Amy Diak at abdiak@comcast.net or cell # 412-538-7735 or see Pastor with any questions.

FACILITATORS NEEDED - The Stewardship Committee needs 3 or 4 facilitators for DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY. If you have previously taken the course and would be willing to facilitate for 2 or 3 of our 9-sessions, we would appreciate your assistance. Please contact Amy Diak if you can help at abdiak@comcast.net or 412-538-7735 (cell).

SPEAKER EVENT – Save the date and mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 7th at 2 pm. We are pleased to have Detective Sergeant Eric Egli , Supervisor of Investigations of the McCandless Police Dept. here to present: “Crimes Targeting Senior Citizens”. Sergeant Egli will help you to protect yourself from online scams, phone scams & distraction crimes. We hope you will be able to make it, and please invite a friend. More details to come as the event nears.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE - Learning is a big part of what we do here as Jesus' disciples at Ascension Lutheran. How is your summer reading going? We hope you are learning and growing in your faith. We will be gathering on Sunday, August 28th after church in discussion groups to talk about each book. Each book will have its own group: Bible Stories will be led by Emily Marcellus, Mere Christianity will be led by Janine Nicolette, and Joining Jesus on His Mission will be led by Pastor Thompson. The specific rooms where the groups will meet will be announced as we get closer to the date. We are looking forward to discussing these books with you!

ASCENSION CHURCH GARDEN – Come and help pick some of our garden's bounty! Rob will be at church every Thursday from 9-10:30 a.m. during the growing season. What is harvested will be available in the narthex on Sundays for free will donations. All proceeds will be used solely for upkeep & improvement of the garden. If you have any questions please see Rob Weber or email at rbtweber@gmail.com

REDEEMER LUTHERAN'S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING – Redeemer Lutheran School is hosting its 28th annual "Golf Scramble" at Rolling Fields Golf Course, in Murrsville. The outing will be held on Saturday, August 27th, with a 1 PM shot-gun start. You can sign up individually or bring your own foursome. All proceeds benefit Redeemer Lutheran School. If you're unable to participate, you may also sponsor a hole to contribute to this worthwhile cause. Additional details and sign-up sheets are available in the narthex, or you may contact Charlie Buttgerit at 412-477-4010. Please visit their website for more information. <https://rjspittsburgh.org/>

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY - The women will be doing an 8 week co-lead bible study called "Chosen: A Study of Esther" by Donna Snow this Fall. It will take place from 7-8:30pm on Thursdays from September 29 - November 17. Chosen is a women's Bible study about a fascinating biblical woman, Esther, and how God used her in a beauty contest to save an entire nation. Through each page of this women's Bible study, you will see how God uses you for His plans, even if He may seem absent. You'll grow in your faith by knowing that God is always with His chosen people, guiding them toward salvation and His saving work each and every day. Sign up in the Narthex. Locations may rotate between our homes or at the church. Questions to Marissa Thompson at marissarinas@gmail.com

USHERS NEEDED - Ascension Lutheran Church has ushers to direct members and guests during the Worship Service. We are looking for additional ladies and gentleman who have the spirit and heart for serving others, who can direct members and guests, and who can work as a team. If this is you, then this is your opportunity to connect, learn and serve in our Christ-centered community. Contact Ron Curcio or Pastor Adam Thompson to sign up.

ASCENSION PRAYERS

- ✦ We pray for God's healing strength for Glenna Powers who suffered a fall.
- ✦ We pray for God's healing for Janet Seitz who is recovering from surgery.
- ✦ Please pray for relief from suffering and a diagnosis for Harper, cousin of the Mayes family.
- ✦ We pray for the residents of the US Virgin Islands. There is a major water shortage & severe supply line problems for other necessities.
- ✦ We give thanks to God for a successful knee surgery for Dennis Meier and ask God to bless him with a swift recovery.
- ✦ We give thanks to God for a successful knee surgery for Zach Foust and ask God to bless his recovery.
- ✦ We pray for God's continued strength & healing for Barb Marcellus's cousin Dale. He has Hodgkin's Lymphoma and is undergoing chemotherapy.
- ✦ We give thanks for the gift of Holy Baptism given to Emma Thompson, Pastor and Marissa's niece. We pray that God would bless and nurture her faith in the promises of God's love that are now hers in Jesus.
- ✦ We give thanks for the healthy birth of Caleb Rajendaran, Melissa's son, and for watching over the health of mom and baby. We pray for a speedy recovery for Melissa and healthy growth for Caleb.
- ✦ We pray for God to provide a person to serve as Ascension Lutheran's Music Director.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

SUNDAY	WORSHIP SERVICE	9:30 AM
TUESDAY	OUTREACH MEETINGS	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	PRAYER & PRAISE	10:00 AM
THURSDAY	COUNCIL MEETING	6:30 PM
SUNDAY 08/14/22	WORSHIP SERVICE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	9:30 AM 10:30 AM

