



From the heart of
ASCENSION
Lutheran Church

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

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Saints of Ascension,

Wow, what a week of celebrating God's amazing and wonderful work of salvation in Jesus! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

I want to give a heartfelt and grateful thank you to everyone who helped out with the services of Holy Week. There are a lot of extra moving parts in those services and everyone from the music, A/V, ushers, acolytes, elders, readers, and more made everything run smoothly. Thank you for the giving of your time and talents in service to the faithful and beautiful worship of our amazing God!

More personally, I want to thank the congregation for taking such good care of me and my family. It is hard to believe that Henry is almost 1 year old (April 14th)! We are very grateful for the kind, generous, and compassionate family of God we are a part of here at Ascension.

I am excited for Sunday Bible Classes to resume as we finish out our learning time before the break for the summer. Confirmation Sunday is also just around the corner, and we are blessed to have 3 young ladies who will be confirmed this year: Blythe Letters, Daisy Lucas, and Ella Krieger! Don't miss the celebration on April 28th!

Have a blessed and happy Easter this year! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Blessings, Pastor Thompson

save the date!

Sunday School & Bible
Classes Return
Sunday at 11:00am

Prayer & Praise Weekly on
Wednesdays at 10am

Confirmation Class
Wednesdays at 7pm

FREE Drive Thru Spaghetti
Dinner
Monday, April 15 4-7pm

FREE Speaker Seminar:
Children & Technology
Monday, April 22 6:30pm

Ladies Craft Lunch
Thursday, April 25 11:30-1

Men's Bible Study
Saturday, April 27 8:30am

stay connected
with us!



ASCENSIONPGH.COM

recent happenings



We had so much fun during Lent and on Easter! So many kids enjoyed the egg hunt!



Members went out to support Anna Fiffik at her school musical!



Thanks to everyone who used their talents to enhance our lenten & Holy Week services and fellowship time!



Hannah Koontz worked hard to participate in the Western PA Christian Schools Music Festival Concert. Approx. 100 students in grades 5-12 participated in the event.



Our secretary, Alicia, recently participated in the Myrtle Beach Marathon!



did you know..



Easter isn't over! Most people think Easter is one day. But Easter is actually a whole season in the Church. It starts on Easter Sunday and then continues for 40 days until Ascension Day (the day Jesus ascended into heaven). At church, there are a couple of ways you know it is Easter. The first way to tell is the paraments (cloth that hangs on the altar and pulpit) are white. The second way is that the Paschal Candle (the really tall white candle) is lit each Sunday and, until Ascension Day, it is up by the altar.

member spotlight: CLAYTON MEES



- Clayton was born on 3/8/1926. He grew up in Tolstoy, South Dakota and played basketball and Baseball in High School. He also played trumpet and was in a traveling dance band.
- He enlisted in the Navy when he was 17 years old during WWII. He was drafted, by mistake, into the army during the Korean War. He served two years in the army before the army realized their mistake and he got to go home.
- His career was in Marketing and worked for Illinois Power Company in Decatur, Illinois where he met his wife Joan and raised his family. He has 3 kids, 10 grandkids, and 5 great grandkids.
- His favorite past time has always been playing golf. He still plays. He has played golf for over 90 years. He also enjoys following all types of sports, especially Golf, Football, and college basketball.
- He loves animals but especially horses and dogs. But he now has a cat, named Kat, that he adores.
- He joined Ascension two years ago with his daughter, Janeen, and loves the warm, friendly, family atmosphere as well as the great teaching.
- He enjoys people and loves to be social, and he believes that faith, family and friends are the most important things in life.

operation christmas child update

The numbers are in! Shoeboxes have once again been processed and counted for OCC. Even though the season of purchasing items and collecting boxes is long past, the job of distributing and teaching the children about the Good News of Jesus Christ is ongoing. Each shoebox is a tangible example of God's love to the child who receives it.

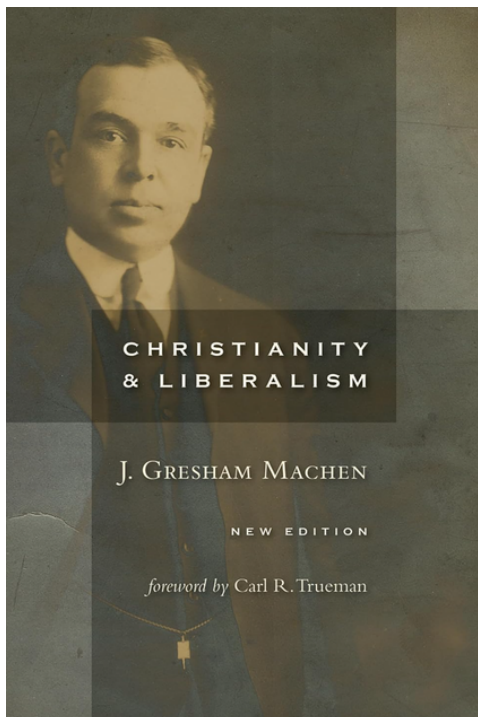
Here is a breakdown of the number of shoeboxes collected for 2023:

Worldwide: 11.3 million **United States:** 10 million+ **Allegheny County:** 12,000+

Since 1993, over 220 million shoeboxes have been collected and distributed to spread the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We did the Follow-Your-Box option and found that our shoeboxes went to the Dominican Republic and Namibia. If you did the Follow-Your-Box option, just go to Shoebox Label Options on samaritanspurse.org

If you have any questions about this program, see Bob Marcellus or visit the Samaritan's Purse website at www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child.

christian ed's reading corner - monthly book recommendation



We will be recommending a new book each month!
Did you read it? Let us know what you thought!

**J. Gresham Machen. Christianity and Liberalism.
William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1923.**

"The growth of ignorance in the Church is the logical and inevitable result of the false notion that Christianity is a life and not also a doctrine."

John Gresham Machen (1881–1937) was one of the most significant figures in the evangelical church throughout the 20th century. He is best known for his vision for a truly evangelical church in America, and as the founder of Westminster Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania.

This book offers a classic defense of orthodox Christianity, written to counter the theological liberalism that arose in the early 1900s. It establishes the importance of scriptural doctrine and contrasts the teachings of liberalism and orthodoxy on God and man, the Bible, Christ, salvation, and the church. It is as relevant today as it was then.

game night is also cake night!



Mark your calendars for Game Night at Ascension on April 19th at 6:00 pm.

We are excited to come together to have some fun & **celebrate Pastor's birthday** one day early!

Please bring your favorite game and a snack to share. BYOB. We hear there will be some ham sandwiches and perogies so far!

All ages and friends are welcome!

LWML conference in pittsburgh

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League's (LWML) Convention will be held in Pittsburgh and will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Mars, PA. It is a three day event but if any women of the congregation would be interested in just attending on Saturday, June 15th, please see Janet Seitz at janetseitz@hotmail.com
Deadline to register is April 24.

save the Date.. VBS is coming!

Join us on July 8-11th from 6-7:30pm.
The theme this year is "START THE PARTY", celebrating the good news of Jesus!

Dinners will start at 4:30 for volunteers and 5:00 for families. There will be ongoing updates and ways you can help get us ready for this wonderful outreach.

help us "connect"!

Did you know there are simple ways in which you can help us at Ascension Lutheran Church further our mission of "CONNECTING" to others outside of our church walls?

- A personal face to face invitation can be one of the most effective ways to have others come try something new! Don't just send an email or a text - reach out and actually invite them in person. Maybe even say you'll save them a seat next to you!
- Bring the families your neighborhood the flyers from the narthex for our upcoming events.
- Share our Facebook events or posts! One simple "Share to Feed" can share the good news or spread details for our exciting activities it to your whole Facebook community.
- Wear your Ascension Lutheran Church t-shirt around town. You never know when it might strike up a conversation with a stranger or spread our name to those searching for a church home.

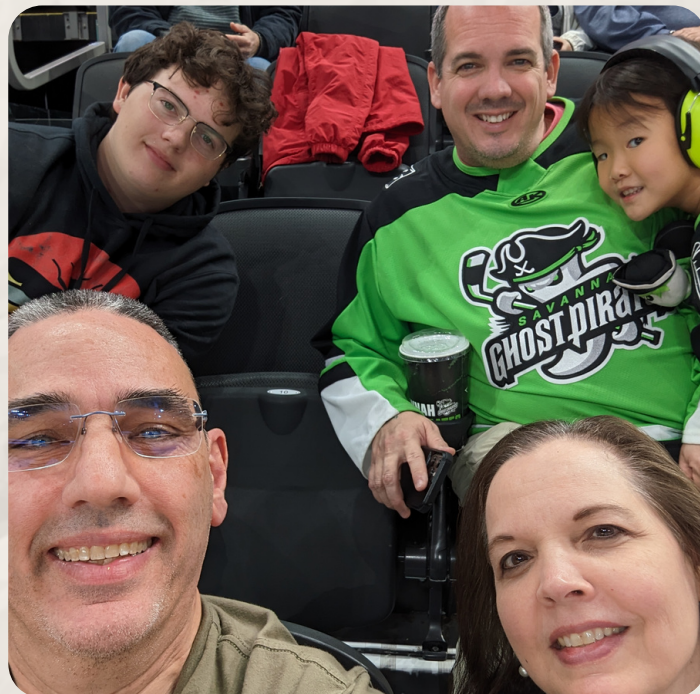
the candreva communique

Follow members, Pete, current seminarian at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, & Vanessa on their journey towards becoming a Pastor!

This Winter Quarter has sure been a whirlwind for the Candrevas. It started in mid-December and ended on Feb 23rd, and Symposia week was held in January for good measure (Pastor visited us for that). The three-week break during Christmas saw the two of us headed to Savannah, GA where Vanessa's nephew and his four boys and daughter live. We were able to spend time with them, which was very nice. We even got to take in a Savannah Ghost Pirates hockey game!!

The winter quarter has been Pete's toughest so far. He took 17 credit hours which included: Pentateuch I (a study in Genesis), Pastoral Theology I, Pastoral Theology II, Pastoral Counseling, Theologia I (an in-depth study into Baptism), and a memorization of the Small Catechism on Baptism. Whew!! Spring quarter will be comprised of the following classes: Theological Ethics, Lutheran Confessions III (Formula of Concord), Theologia III (an in-depth study into the Lord's Supper), and a memorization of the Small Catechism on the Lord's Supper. He will also be auditing a doctoral class called Christology of the Gospels.

While Pete was busy studying, Vanessa was busy playing music. She joined a flute quartet that is comprised of a deaconess student, a seminary student, a seminarian's wife, and herself. They have played at several churches and sounded really good!! She also headed up the Jazz Band again this year and they played at one of our Friday Gemütlichkeits. (Ask Pastor Thompon what Gemütlichkeit is.) She's also in the middle of planning and directing a recital comprised of several of the students at the seminary. This recital will be held during the Spring Quarter. There will be an orchestra, a choir, and a jazz band. Video will be available on YouTube after the recital. Stay tuned!



After a grueling Winter Quarter, Pete and Vanessa were blessed by one of the congregants at Pete's field work church. Vanessa mentioned in passing that Hawaii was on her "bucket list." A dear couple overheard her and said they have an overabundance of credits on their time share in Maui and offered it to us. At the end of February, Pete and Vanessa journeyed to Maui for a week of respite. It was breathtaking.



Time at the seminary is starting to become bitter-sweet, however. Pete is entering into his last academic quarter. After the Spring, he is on to vicarage for one year and then, he will be called as an ordained servant. Keep your calendars open, because on April 23rd, at 7pm, there is a special service in which the announcement of the seminarians' vicarage assignments will be held. This will be live-streamed, so you all can watch where Pete and Vanessa will be headed.



We miss all of our brothers and sisters at Ascension and we thank you heartily for all your prayers and well-wishes. God's blessings to everyone!

P.S. Stay tuned in May. We plan on visiting near the end of that month.

**Blessings, Pete & Vanessa
Candrea**



**Ascension is hosting a
"Vicarage Assignment Service"
Live Stream Party for Pete & Vanessa!**

Join us on Tuesday, April 23 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
We will tune into the livestream at 7pm.
Dinner will be provided.

RSVP in the Narthex. Questions to Pastor.



FREE SPEAKERS' SERIES: CHILDREN & TECHNOLOGY

OUR SPEAKERS

Join us as we examine the impact of social media and technology on the emotional, relational and mental health of the most vulnerable members of our society: our children. Learn how social media aggressively targets children and young adults, and how they are more prone to negative affects like addiction and loss of empathy.

Finally, we will consider the spiritual repercussions of replacing real human interactions and interactions with the natural world with screen time.

Monday, April 22nd
6:30pm
Fellowship Hall

Please enter at the rear of the building. No registration required.



KENT RODGERS
L.P.C.

Clinical Supervisor



Kent graduated from Franciscan University in 2008 with a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. He graduated from Plattsburgh State University College of New York in 1997 with a B.A in Secondary Education. Kent holds the following license: Licensed Professional Counselor (State of Pennsylvania).



REV. ADAM
THOMPSON

Pastor at Ascension
Lutheran Church

Pastor Thompson graduated from Truman State University with a Philosophy and Religion Degree and Concordia Seminary with a Masters of Divinity. He spent four and half years as an Associate Pastor of youth and family ministry in Ohio before moving to Pittsburgh.



ASCENSION
Lutheran Church

8225 Peebles Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Questions? Call 412-364-4463

FREE!

DRIVE-THRU SPAGHETTI DINNER

NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED

**MONDAY
APRIL 15
4-7PM**



**DRIVE UP AND GET A TAKE-OUT DINNER FOR YOURSELF OR YOUR FAMILY.
EACH SERVING INCLUDES: SPAGHETTI, MARINARA SAUCE, MEATBALLS,
TOSSED SALAD, ROLL, BUTTER & DESSERT! WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!**



ASCENSION
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8225 Peables Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Questions to Trish at 412-538-8339

we pray for

- A blessed Easter and thanksgiving for all our God has given to us!
- God to bring the right person to accept the position as President of the congregation.
- Baby Luke, nephew of Lindsay Fleishauer, for continued growth and removal of oxygen assistance.
- God's guidance of Lora Koontz's doctors on determining the best drug therapy for the next phase of her treatment.
- Matt, son of Cherie Shaginaw, and his platoon for their year long deployment to the Horn of Africa. Prayers for protection and safe return.
- Peace, strength and comfort for Olga and family, friend of Shirley Waselko, whose son, George has pancreatic cancer.
- Maggie Larrow as she is undergoing medical testing.



april birthdays

4	Linda Sweeney
12	Vanessa Candreva
13	Emily Marcellus
13	Ruth Redondo
13	Katie Straszheim
14	Henry Thompson
20	Kayla Arnett
20	Pastor Thompson
27	Karen Booth
28	Matthew Shaginaw
29	Edie Krom

want to add to our prayer list?

Email the office at
secretary@ascensionpgh.com

happy anniversary!

4/7 Allyson & Kim Hosilyk





ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

8225 Peebles Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237
www.ascensionpgh.com

WORSHIP WITH US

Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for worship in our Sanctuary.
View our live streamed services on our YouTube Channel: AscensionPGH

CONTACT US

CHURCH OFFICE

Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 3:00pm
412-364-4463

CHURCH CONTACTS

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STAY CONNECTED TO US

