



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Third Sunday of Easter – April 19, 2026



Rev. Adam Thompson, Pastor, pastor@ascensionpgh.com
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Welcome! We're happy you're with us for worship today.

IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME, please take a moment to sign in at the podium at either sanctuary entrance. We pray your time with us strengthens your faith in the Lord. We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). You can find more information about our beliefs at LCMS.org/about/beliefs.

IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN, we understand that God made them wiggly and noisy at times, but we also believe they should be with us in worship. If you need a moment, we have a nursery available to you through the hallway to the right of the altar. Children's bags are also available in the Narthex for use during service.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran on each Sunday. We receive this Holy Sacrament in the glad confidence that our Lord Jesus, as His word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to His table those who, repenting of their sins, believe His word that His body and blood are truly present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession of faith and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament. If you are not yet baptized or are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to come forth during communion and fold your arms over your heart for a blessing. Pastor would be happy to discuss receiving Holy Communion at Ascension with you.

AFTER EACH SERVICE from September to May, please join us for a brief time of **FELLOWSHIP** with coffee and treats downstairs in our Fellowship Hall briefly before we begin our **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** hour for those ages 2 and above.

If you have any questions, seek out Pastor, an usher, or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Mike Fiffik
LAY READER: Darryl Gunther
USHERS: Lora Koontz & Edie Krom
ACOLYTE: Gabriel Blake

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Kurt Dolph & Cooper Blake
LAY READER: Trish Young
USHERS: Ron Curcio & Jim Obringer
ACOLYTE: Hannah Koontz

Third Sunday of Easter

Pre-Service - Abide

Welcome

Prelude

Stand

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Hymn - The Lord Is My Salvation

Verse 1

The grace of God has reached for me
And pulled me from the raging sea
And I am safe on this solid ground
The Lord is my salvation

Verse 2

I will not fear when darkness falls
His strength will help me scale these walls
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun
The Lord is my salvation

Chorus

Who is like the Lord our God
Strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid and the victory won
The Lord is my salvation

Verse 3

My hope is hidden in the Lord
He flow'rs each promise of His Word
When winter fades I know spring will come
The Lord is my salvation

Verse 4

In times of waiting times of need
When I know loss when I am weak
I know His grace will renew these days
The Lord is my salvation
(Chorus)

Verse 5

And when I reach the final day
He will not leave me in the grave
But I will rise He will call me home
The Lord is my salvation
(Chorus)

Bridge

Glory be to God the Father
Glory be to God the Son
Glory be to God the Spirit
The Lord is our salvation

Ending

The Lord is our salvation
The Lord is our salvation

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Following the Absolution, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Hymn of Praise - Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .
³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:17–25

¹⁷If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:13–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow

LSB 476

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Lutheran Catechesis - Confession Part 2

- P** *Which are these?*
- C** Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?
- P** *What is the Office of the Keys?*
- C** The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Stand

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - Abide with Me

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Messenger Doxology

Praise and glory to the Father
Praise and glory to the Son
Praise and glory to the Spirit
Ever three and ever One
(Repeat)

Prayer of the Church

After each prayer, the response will be:

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

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

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Sit

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns - I Am the Bread of Life

Verse 1

I am the Bread of Life
You who come to me shall not hunger;
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
unless the Father beckons.

Chorus

And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.

Verse 2

The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever,
you shall live forever.
(Chorus)

Verse 3

Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man

and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you.
(Chorus)

Verse 4

I am the Resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die,
you shall live forever.
(Chorus)

Verse 5

Yes, Lord, we believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who has come
into the world.
(Chorus)

Tag

And I will raise you up on the last day.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

LSB 770

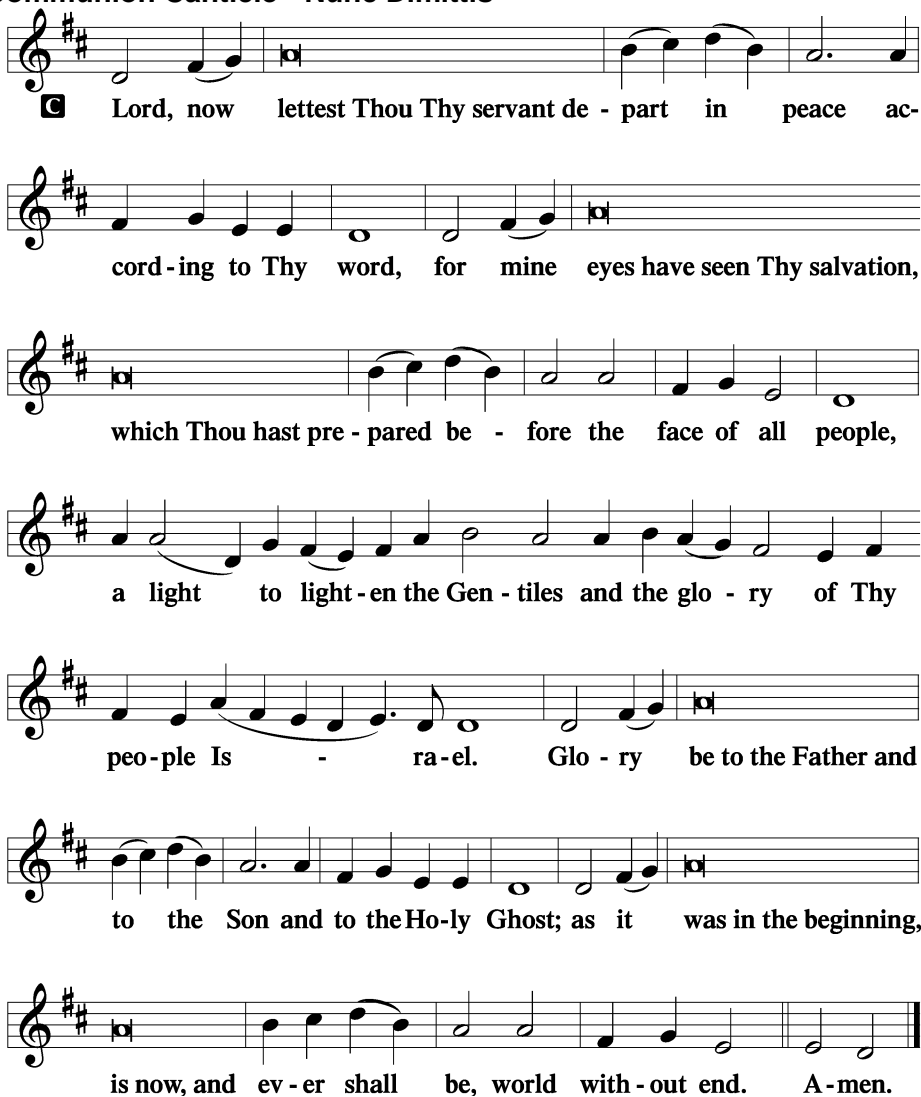
Communion Dismissal

- P** Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ☩ and with joy.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love

toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Song - There Is One Gospel

Verse 1

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 2

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross
No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 3

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks

For death could not keep my Saviour down
He lives and I am free
Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine
For he has promised I too will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 4

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Ending

And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Praise to my Saviour the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Acts 2:39 - For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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**Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10**

This week we pray for:

- For the family and friends of Clayton Mees, who died in the faith. Comfort them with the hope and peace that comes from the promise of the resurrection victory in Jesus.
- For protection for all who serve in our armed forces and especially for Joshua, Lynn Rodina's grandson, who is a marine deployed in the conflict in Iran.
- For the family and friends of Ray, Alan Gard's father, who died in the faith. Comfort them, in the midst of their mourning, with the hope and promise of the resurrection in Jesus.
- For the family and friends of Darlene Harris, former member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, who died in the faith. Comfort them with the hope and peace that comes from the promise of the resurrection victory in Jesus.
- Arlene Rusnica, who sustained a broken arm in a fall, that she recovers quickly and is relieved from pain.
- John Fagen, for strength and faith as he battles cancer.

- Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Kurt Dolph and continued treatment.
 - Greg Horne, husband of Rosalie Horne, as he deals with physical and mental distresses. Grant him relief and healing from his afflictions.
 - Darryl Gunther for healing for his eyes.
 - We give thanks for the progress Jim Obringer Sr. has made recovering from his stroke. We pray you continue to grant him a return to even more mobility.
 - Shirley Waselko, who has started another round of chemo treatments every six weeks. Prayers that she continues tolerate the treatments and that they continue to work.
-



This week's altar flowers are given for the Glory of God and in loving memory of Ruth Templar, mother of Cheryl Saffa and Nancy Hughey.

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Birthday to:

Kayla Arnett	April 20 th
Anitha Brugos	April 20 th
Pastor Thompson	April 20 th

Christian Education Hour - Join us at 11am (after some tasty treats in the Fellowship Hall) for one of our Bible Classes and Sunday School! Options are available for those aged 2 and above. See the Learn bulletin board in the Narthex for more info and about future classes and offerings.

Sunday School- Sunday school meets on the 2nd floor in the education room and is divided into three classes: PreK taught by Mrs. Fleishauer; K-2nd taught by Mrs. Lopresto and 3rd-6th taught by Mrs. Koontz. There are signs located outside of each classroom.

Youth Group (7th – 12th)- Join Janine Nicolette in the Youth Room as she will present Children & Teen Study.

Adult Bible Class-

- **Adult Book of the Bible Study-** Join Cooper Blake for an adult book bible study on Proverbs.
- **Adult Topical Study:** Join Mike Fiffik in Fellowship Hall for Junk Drawer Jesus study. Each of us is the owner of a seemingly random collection of theologies, doctrines, and superstitions—a junk drawer of religious ideas and influences.
 - It's the witticisms your grandmother tossed around with ease that sounded like they came from a religious text
 - It's the mental screenshot of a meme shared on social media.
 - It's the empowering idea you underlined in a book and wrote on a Post-it Note now forever affixed to your laptop.

These are the things stuffed in our spiritual junk drawers because something in us says, "This might be useful." And so we hold on. But should we? In *Junk Drawer Jesus*, the spiritually exhausted are invited to examine our religious clutter and compare it to the person and the promises of Jesus Christ. We'll discover what—if anything—of our spiritual collection should be kept.

Prayer and Praise: We are meeting this Wednesday at 10am for Prayer & Praise! We meet in the Fireside Room at church or we have an online option via Zoom. The link is sent in the Weekly Reminder email. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835.

New Members needed for Praise Team – With the departure of some of our long-time Praise Team members we need some new people to help serve the worship of the congregation on Sundays. Please prayerfully consider joining our Praise Team! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa or Emily Marcellus.

Board of Stewardship- We are currently looking for someone to fill the Head of the Board of Stewardship. The Board of Stewardship's main objective is to initiate programs of good stewardship attitudes amongst the Congregation members regarding their time, talents, and treasures. This can include, but not limited to recognizing members for their stewardship, annual pledges, training

opportunities, and assistance with finding ministry opportunities. If you feel called to serve in this role, please contact Pastor Thompson, pastor@ascensionpgh.com or Beth Gard, president@ascensionpgh.com

Men's Bible Study: Men of Ascension, come join us for some fellowship, conversation and study of the faith **this Saturday**, April 25th at 8:30 am.

Christmas Pageant Team Needed: Will Ascension continue to have a children's Christmas pageant? If yes, a team of members is needed. Costumes, scripts, and operations instructions are available and organized, as is help from the Music Director. If you are interested, please let Janeen Daftary know. A team of 2-3 members must be in place by September 20 in order for a 2026 pageant to take place.

Annual Christian Education Survey: Your Christian Education Team wants to know your thoughts! As we are planning for the upcoming school year starting in the Fall, **please take a moment to answer just five questions** regarding our adult Sunday School hour. Please complete the survey by Thursday, April 30th. If you are completing a hard copy of this survey, please place answers in the Fantin-Nicolette mailbox in the narthex at church. If you are completing online, the link is attached in the weekly reminder email.

Scoops of Thankfulness and Praise Reminder! Just a reminder that anyone involved in the Music or AV ministries (and their families!) in the past year are invited to an appreciation ice cream social next Sunday, April 26th from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to be there at 7:00 for some extra fun!

Attention 7th-12th grade youth: Please join us this Thursday (April 23rd) from 6pm to 9pm in the youth room for a screening of the movie "Soul Surfer" with a discussion after. Please RSVP to Chris Schroeder (youth@ascensionpgh.com) by Tuesday so that we know how much pizza to get for dinner. See you there!

Eden Christian Academy- Come out and support our own Hannah Koontz on clarinet at the Eden Christian Academy Upper School's Fine Arts Night on Monday, May 4th beginning at 6:30 pm with the art show and band concert following from 7 to 7:45 pm. The Fine Arts Night will be held at Eden Christian Academy Upper School Campus, Field House, 318 Nicholson Road, Sewickley.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 04/19	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Elder's Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Confirmation Class	10:00 AM 7:00 PM
Thursday	Soul Surfer Screening	6:00 PM
Saturday	Men's Bible Study	8:30 AM
Sunday 04/26	Divine Service-Confirmation Sunday Scoops of Thankfulness & Praise	9:30 AM 6:00 PM