



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – June 21, 2026



Rev. Adam Thompson, Pastor, pastor@ascensionpgh.com
Lisa & Emily Marcellus Music Director, music@ascensionpgh.com
Alicia Weisser, Secretary secretary@ascensionpgh.com

8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
www.ascensionpgh.com 412-364-4463

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): Cooper Blake & Kurt Dolph
LAY READER: Trish Young
USHERS: Matt Gunther & John Russler
ACOLYTE: Gabriel Blake

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Dave Dille & Mike Fiffik
LAY READER: Dave Dille
USHERS: Edie Krom & Matt Gunther
ACOLYTE: Craig Fleishauer

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

Welcome

Prelude

Our service today follows Divine Service Setting Three in the Lutheran Service Book starting on page 184.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation - Children of the Heavenly Father

LSB 725

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

Exhortation

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

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

Confession of Sins

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely**

repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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).

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 56:3–4, 10–11; antiphon: v. 13; John Russler chanting



For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from | falling,*
that I may walk before God in the | light of life.

When I | am afraid,*

I put my | trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not | be afraid.*

What can flesh | do to me?

In God, whose | word I praise,*
in the LORD, whose | word I praise,

in God I trust; I shall not | be afraid.*

What can man | do to me?

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from | falling,*
that I may walk before God in the | light of life.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Hymn of Praise - Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



L 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, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 20:7–13

⁷O LORD, you have deceived me,
and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all the day;
everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out,
I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
⁹If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
¹⁰For I hear many whispering.
Terror is on every side!
"Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
say all my close friends,
watching for my fall.
"Perhaps he will be deceived;
then we can overcome him
and take our revenge on him."
¹¹But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble;
they will not overcome me.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
¹²O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous,
who sees the heart and the mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you have I committed my cause.
¹³Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hand of evildoers.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 91:1–10



- L** He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.
- C** I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my | fortress,*
my God, in | whom I trust.”
- L** For he will deliver you from the snare of the | fowler*
and from the deadly | pestilence.
- C** He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find | refuge,*
his faithfulness is a shield and | buckler.
- L** You will not fear the terror | of the night,*
nor the arrow that | flies by day,
- C** nor the pestilence that stalks in | darkness,*
nor the destruction that wastes at | noonday.
- L** A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your | right hand,*
but it will not come | near you.
- C** You will only look | with your eyes*
and see the recompense of the | wicked.
- L** Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*
the Most High, who is my | refuge—
- C** no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.

Epistle

Romans 6:12–23

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart

to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:5a, 21–33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .

²¹“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those

who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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

Children's Message

Pastor Cwynar

Hymn of the Day - We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

LSB 941

Sermon - Values, Pauline Values, Matthean Values

Pastor Cwynar

Offering

Meditation Song - As Long As You're Glorified

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Create In Me

Psalm 51:10-12

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

After each prayer, the response will be:

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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.

- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- C** It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 Our Lord *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."

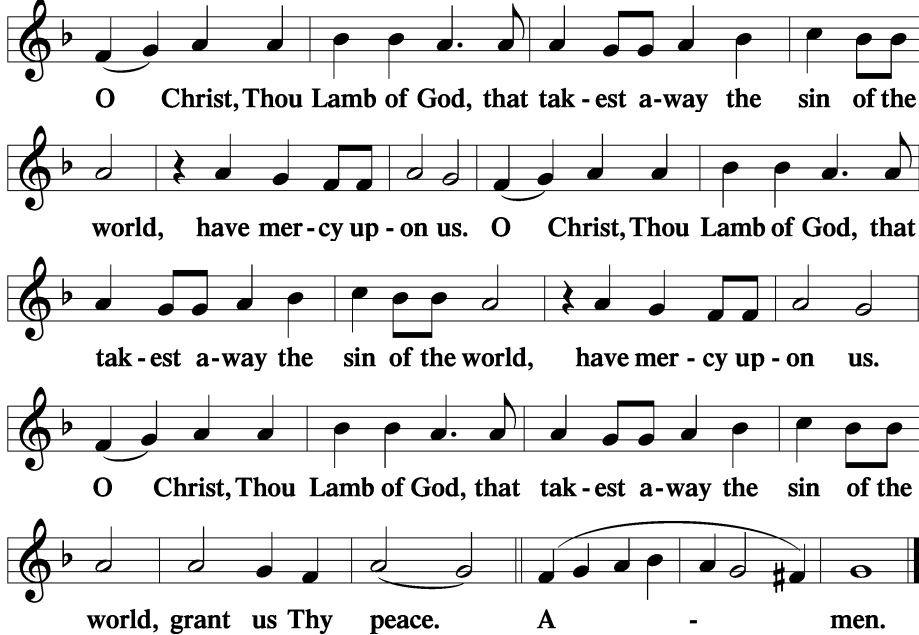
Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns - How Beautiful

Verse 1

How beautiful the hands that served
The wine and the bread and the sons of
the earth
How beautiful the feet that walked
The long dusty roads and the hill to the
cross

Chorus

How beautiful how beautiful
How beautiful is the body of Christ

Verse 2

How beautiful the heart that bled
That took all my sin and bore it instead
How beautiful the tender eyes
That chose to forgive and never despise
(Chorus)

Bridge

And as He laid down His life
We offer this sacrifice
That we will live just as He died
Willing to pay the price
Willing to pay the price

Verse 3

How beautiful the radiant Bride
Who waits for her Groom with His light
in her eyes
How beautiful when humble hearts give
The fruit of pure lives so that others may
live
(Chorus)

Verse 4

How beautiful the feet that bring
The sound of good news and the love of
the King
How beautiful the hands that serve
The wine and the bread and the sons of
the earth
(Chorus)

Abide

Verse 1

For my waking breath
For my daily bread
I depend on You
I depend on You
For the sun to rise
For my sleep at night
I depend on You
I depend on You

Chorus 1

You're the way the truth and the life
You're the well that never runs dry
I'm the branch and You are the vine
Draw me close and teach me to abide

Verse 2

Where the Spirit leads
As I'm following
I depend on You
I depend on You
For the victories
Still in front of me

I depend on You
I depend on You

Chorus 2

You're the way the truth and the life
You're the well that never runs dry
I'm the branch and You are the vine
Draw me close and teach me to abide
Be my strength my song in the night
Be my all my treasure my prize
I am Yours forever You're mine
Draw me close and teach me to abide

Verse 3

When I pass through death
As I enter rest
I depend on You
I depend on You
For eternal life
To be raised with Christ
I depend on You
I depend on You
(Chorus 2)

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

Luke 2:29-32

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
- C** and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn - Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

Verse 1

Jesus I my cross have taken
All to leave and follow Thee
Destitute, despised forsaken
Thou from hence my all shall be
Perish every fond ambition
All I've sought or hoped or known
Yet how rich is my condition
God and heaven are still my own

Verse 2

Let the world despise and leave me
They have left my Saviour too
Human hearts and looks deceive me
Thou art not, like them untrue
Oh, while Thou dost smile upon me

God of wisdom love and might
Foes may hate and friends disown me
Show Thy face and all is bright

Verse 3

Man may trouble and distress me
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast
Life with trials hard may press me
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest
Oh 'tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me
Were that joy unmixed with Thee

Verse 4

Go, then earthly fame and treasure

Come disaster scorn and pain
In Thy service pain is pleasure
With Thy favor loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father

I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl and clouds may
gather
All must work for good in me

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Dismissal

P Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Jer. 28:5-9; Psalm 119:153-160; Rom. 7:1-13; Matt. 10:34-42

This week we pray for:

- Healing and recovery for Lynn Rodina as she battles a respiratory infection.
- Lynn Gunther, for successful knee surgery and a smooth recovery.
- Thanksgiving for Aaron and Catherine Townley and the gift of new life given. Protect Catherine and baby Townley throughout her pregnancy through delivery.
- For pregnant moms Sierra Toto, granddaughter of Eileen Vogel, and Claire Fiffik, daughter of Mike and Cristen Fiffik, that they and their unborn babies remain healthy throughout their pregnancies and result in the safe and joyous delivery of new life.

- 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.
 - 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.
 - Kurt Dolph's continued cancer treatment and for a quick recovery and healing.
 - Greg Horne, husband of Rosalie Horne, as he deals with physical and mental distresses. Grant him relief and healing from his afflictions.
 - **UPDATED:** Darryl Gunther for a successful surgery.
 - 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's continued cancer treatments to give good results and for continued faith in the midst of her suffering.
-

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Anniversary: Rob Weber June 23rd

Happy Birthday: Bill Seitz June 22nd
 Bob Marcellus June 24th
 Barb Marcellus June 25th

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.

Outdoor Sign Ideas: Have a funny saying idea for our church sign? We'd love to hear it! There is a jar in the Narthex under "Connect", please submit your ideas

for consideration! We always need 1-2 sentence ideas for: church holidays, seasonal holidays, etc!

Bridal Shower: Women and girls of Ascension, help us celebrate the upcoming nuptials of Emily Marcellus and Michael Shildt with a bridal shower on Saturday, July 11th from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by text to Janine Nicolette at 412-965-0428. Emily and Mike's registry can be found through theknot.com. Please contact Janine Nicolette if you'd like to help with food and set up at 412-965-0428.

Chosen Season 2 Summer Study - join us this summer as we continue to study and discuss the hit show The Chosen. The first bible study will take place on July 12th and will cover Episodes 1-4 and the second bible study will be on August 9th and will cover Episodes 5-8. The link for the episodes is in the weekly reminder email.

Church Council Secretary – Trish Young has expressed interest in leading our Board of Stewardship! Church Council is now seeking someone to fill Trish's role as Council Secretary. Responsibilities include managing documentation from our monthly Council meetings and quarterly Congregation meetings; such as taking meeting minutes, maintaining copies of reports, and attendance records. Serving as Council Secretary is a great stepping stone into church leadership and gives you a behind the scenes look at how the church operates. If you would like to learn more about this vital role, please contact Pastor Thompson, pastor@ascensionpgh.com or Beth Gard, president@ascensionpgh.com.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 06/21	Divine Service	9:30 AM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Sunday 06/28	Divine Service	9:30 AM