

October
2021

ASCENSION NEWSLETTER

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

8888 County Rd 64

Daphne AL 36526

Church: 251-626-7500

School: 251-239-5484

Inside this Issue

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Pastor's Letter | 1 |
| ACS Note | 1 |
| Worship Notes | 2 |
| Music to Live By | 2 |
| Preschool News | 3 |
| Parish Nurse | 3 |
| Grace | 3 |
| Elders Note | 4 |
| Anniversaries | 4 |
| Birthdays | 4 |
| Choir Note | 4 |
| Bible Studies | 5 |
| Hurricane Ida | 5 |
| November Elections | 5 |
| Men's Breakfast | 5 |
| Live Stream | 5 |
| Yardwork Team | 6 |
| 40th Celebration | 6 |

“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy,
but I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly!”

John 10: 10

The next verse in John's Gospel Jesus says, *“The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”* How has Jesus come to give life and give it more abundantly? By laying His life down, *suffered under Pontios Pilate, was crucified died and was buried* is how new life begins and is sustained for more life-giving blessings from above to bring fullness of love and hope as we live in peace and harmony with one another! This is the ideal life of the Christian whereby God increases our joy in the hope of ever lasting life by faith in Jesus! It is a life designed by God so that come what may, we are equipped to manage the difficulties as well as the blessings.

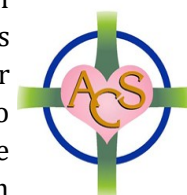
Speaking of managing the difficulties and the blessings, the writer of Ecclesiastes (Solomon) writes what had become a hit song for The Byrds in the mid 60's "Turn, Turn, Turn." "There is a season, turn, turn, turn" if you recall. And in this verse of chapter 3, a dichotomy of seasons of life describes what we humans go through. A *“time to be born, time to die; a time to plant a time to uproot; a time to kill, a time to heal; a time to break down, a time to build up...”* and it continues with weeping and laughter, mourning and dancing, casting away and gathering, etc. You and I can agree as we look back on our lives that, "Yes... these are things we have had to manage in our lives."

As we observe from above, the devil sows his seeds of envy and strife, discontentment and discord to **“steal”** from you your joy in salvation that the Good Shepherd has earned for you. The devil wants to **“kill”** any desire of thanksgiving and gratitude you may show to the Lord, your God. His whole purpose is to drag you into the depths of despair and the disillusionment we see is rampant in our world today that is bringing an ever-increasing brokenness that is **destroying** lives... may of whom were baptized in the Triune God we worship and serve.

Continued to page

Ascension Christian Pre-School

Ascension Christian School will soon be completing the first nine weeks of the 2021-2022 school year. We currently have eight students in our three's class, twelve students in our four's class, and a waiting list for both! Our Director Amanda is doing an outstanding job marketing ACS, giving tours to potential students/parents, and hiring the extra help, we need for our aftercare program. Mrs. Sally shares her enthusiasm for learning with her class through experimentation and play. Miss Madalyn is teaching her three-year-olds to socialize, listen, and follow instructions.



The staff and ACS School Board especially want to thank Jean Canupp, who stepped in to fill the vacancy when Mrs. Wendy left us for health reasons. Jean has helped in the classrooms and been our aftercare giver Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. for the last month. She is most certainly a blessing to us, and the children love her – THANK YOU, Jean! Beth Navarro has been volunteering as a floater in our classrooms; we appreciate her giving of her time, energy and sharing her gifts with our children. We can always use extra hands both in the school and helping our teachers with things you can do at home in your spare time. If interested in volunteering, please call Amanda, 348-7510, see Sally or me, and we will be happy to get you involved.

Thanks for your continuing prayers and monetary gifts for our school; we appreciate each of you and what you do.

Cynthia Tellman



MINISTRY
PARTNERS

Continued from page 1

The devil targets Christians and manipulates non-believers as his agents to spread unbelief. Think in terms of ‘evolution’ that seeks to describe origins apart from God’s creative hand; think of Marxism that seeks to order peoples through government fiat without the leading and blessing of God (the Lord Jesus in particular); think in terms of ‘human philosophies’ that seek to describe how humans are to live apart from God’s Holy Word. There are main-line churches that are following these ‘worldly’ underpinnings that have upended God’s grace and turned it into licentious behaviors that dishonor God and is an affront to His word.

That is why Paul says in Ephesians 6: 11, **“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”** Earlier in chapter 4, Paul says in verse 11, **“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain the unity of the faith...”** What we do at the church is not willy-nilly thrown together, but planned and purposeful. Worship is the process of teaching the faith and our proper response to God’s law and Gospel, with the emphasis on the Good News of forgiveness and peace with God. The term *liturgy* literally means, “the people’s work”. The design of it is to build disciples by preaching, teaching, singing, prayer, giving and receiving the means of grace. Our daily walk with the Lord includes, but not limited to, devotions, prayer, gathering in homes, serving our neighbor or community, etc. This is God at work in His people as we are empowered by the Gospel that gives the assurance of our salvation. This produces joy that is lived out in love towards our fellow man, friend or foe.

Who would want to argue with that? The devil, that’s for sure. But let us stay ahead of his schemes by looking to Jesus, **“the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”** Hebrews 12: 2 And by God’s grace continue to look to Jesus for the joy and blessings He offers so that we may live for Him who died for us! 2 Corinthians 5: 15 **“There is a season, turn, turn, turn...”** and we do by God’s grace!

In Christ service to you and for the advancement of the Kingdom,
Pastor Ralph

October Worship Themes (They were changed to continue our 40 years of celebrating God’s grace at Ascension Lutheran church.)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| October 3 - | The Lord’s Prayer - Prayers that Avail Much |
| October 10 - | Baptism - Entrance Into God’s Kingdom |
| October 17 - | The Lord’s Supper - God Keeping Us in the Kingdom |
| October 24 - | Worship - Why We Gather As We Are Called to Do So! |



Music to Live By

Jesus Loves Me

The text of “Jesus Loves Me” readily brings to mind the familiar scene of Jesus blessing the children, which is shared by three of our four Gospel writers. The love of Jesus for children is reflected in His willingness to take time to speak to them, but to them up into His arms, lays His hands on them and bless them. In this Biblical scene, there is a visible presentation of the love that Jesus evidences for all people of all times!

Officers

- John Peterson, President
- Richard Tellman, Vice-President
- Alex Norton, Treasurer
- Ruth Partain, Recording Secretary
- Kathy Schulz, Financial Secretary

Directors

Evangelism, Open

- Diane Havard, Education

Stewardship, Open

Fellowship, Open

Grounds and Board of Properties, Open

Public Relations, Open

- Cynthia Tellman, Parochial School Board Chair

Youth, Open

Elders

- Jim Partridge
- Michael Schulz
- Randy Kirk

What's Going on at ACS

Our school has grown to over 20 students, now at max capacity. We have started a waiting list of potential students. Our teachers and students are getting ready for fall and our first open house for our students. Students are enjoying dance, STEM and soccer in our after school enrichment programs we offer Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Parents' Night Out has been great. In August we had 9 attend. In September we had 11 attend. Our next one will be October 22nd.



Student of the week: (during the month of September) Lyla K4, Landry K3, Gracie K4, Reese K3, Will K4.

OUR STUDENTS ARE AWESOME! THEY LOVE GETTING TO GO HOME WITH OUR SCHOOL PET, FAITH.

Please continue to pray & share information about our school. Like us on our Facebook page if you have not already. We want to give a BIG thank you to church member volunteers Jean and Beth. They have helped out so much this past month. My staff & I really appreciate it!

One of the greatest ways you can serve our school is to volunteer your time & talents.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHING

Interested in getting on our sub list? Fantastic! Contact our school to register.

JOIN OUR FTP

Ascension Christian School *Family Teacher Partnership* is an organization intended to support our students, teachers, and administrators. Helping with school events, fundraising, helping staff with any day-to-day needs.

Thank you for being such a supportive church family. If you would like to help with anything, feel free to leave me a note with our Pastor or on my desk in my office. Please take a flyer to hand out in the community for our school or parents' night out.

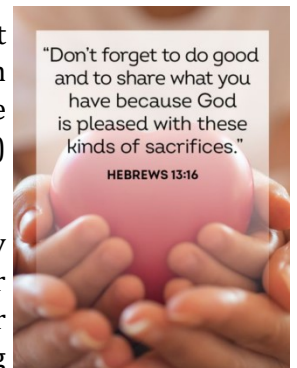
Amanda Wade

October Parish Nurse Notes

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month. Free or reduced cost mammograms are available through the Baldwin County Health Department for women aged 40-64 years who are uninsured or under insured, and women over age 64 who are uninsured or have Medicare Part A only. Call a cancer screening coordinator at (251) 575-3108 ext 202 to confirm eligibility requirements and schedule a screening.

Virtual volunteer opportunity: Would you like to make a difference in the everyday lives of people without leaving your home? The free app, Be My Eyes, lets you lend your eyesight to people who need it. The app pairs volunteers with persons who are blind or have low vision and are in need of help with small everyday tasks. Tasks like reading food expiration dates, checking prices, or finding lost objects. It's a great opportunity to assist visually impaired persons with independent living.

Thank you sincerely for your ongoing donations to Swaddling Clothes, a free LCMS community store serving young families in our area. To learn more about this valuable ministry, contact Sonja Kirk, Parish Nurse at sonjakirk7@gmail.com or 251-504-2619.



Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness. It strikes us when we walk through the dark valley of a meaningless and empty life. It strikes us when our disgust for our own being, our indifference, our weakness, our hostility, and our lack of direction and composure have become intolerable to us. It strikes us when, year after year, the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair destroys all joy and courage. Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: "You are accepted."

—Paul Tillich

The choir will start practice on October 10th at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions



OCTOBER



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Ashley Tews | October 1 |
| John Peterson | October 4 |
| Pat Burke | October 7 |
| Lydia Peterson | October 9 |
| Sharon Hulon | October 13 |
| Deanna Brown | October 14 |
| Pat Zortman | October 14 |
| Clark Hall | October 16 |
| Jennifer Tellman | October 16 |
| Cheryl Pitts | October 17 |
| Sonja Kirk | October 18 |
| Eden Krob | October 18 |
| Ethan Havard | October 19 |
| Keith Hogancamp | October 20 |
| Kenneth Tews | October 20 |
| Donald Gleaves | October 25 |
| Leia Kimmerly | October 26 |
| Nathan Tews | October 27 |

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Tyler & Christina Krob | October 4 |
| Mel & Vangie Willie | October 24 |

We celebrated our 40th anniversary on Sunday, September 12th and the many blessings bestowed on us from above. Thank the evangelism group for putting together the meal and tent and coordinating the celebration. Thank Pastor Hough for having Pastor Eric Johnson, President of the Southern District provide a special message "The Gospel's Saving Power". If you were not able to attend either service you missed a very enlightening and entertaining message provided by Pastor's Johnson and Hough and their lively ongoing exchanges during the message. The message in simplest form was that we all need to share the Gospel message with the world and be excited to share such a wonderful gift. There were 97 total attendees at the two services.

The special offering collected during our 40th anniversary celebration was dedicated to Camp Dixie to assist in repairing hurricane damage. The total of the offering at this writing was over 640 dollars.

Please note that our pre-school outreach ministry has been blessed beyond our expectations with 18 students for this 2021-22 school year. This growth will provide for additional opportunities for the congregation to provide assistance to the teachers and director in the form of physical presence at the school and participating in activities at school. Anyone wishing to volunteer at the school will have to participate in a background check as required for all personnel at the school. Please contact director Amanda Wade or the school board if you would like to volunteer.

We were saddened to receive news from Marty Tews that her Grandson Dylan Tews passed away on September 20th of Covid related complications. A memorial service was held at Ascension on Sunday, September 26th. Many current members may not be aware that Marty's husband was a former Pastor at Ascension and had the vision and foresight to urge us to move from our original sight on Hwy 90 to our current site dedicated in 2001.

Please contact your Elder if there is anything the Elders can be assisting with addressing for our worship services concerning the Covid response.



SOMETHING FOR ALL OF US!

Bible Study Opportunities

1. Sunday school for adults and children have been meeting. Sunday morning. The adults are in the **Gospel of Matthew chapter 23 as Jesus pronounces woes upon the Pharisaical way of Jerusalem's leaders.** We encourage everyone to be in God's Word. If you need a study and a group to gather with, please speak with pastor Ralph. We look forward to seeing you!

2. **The Wednesday Bible Study** is studying the book of Psalms. Recognized as the worship book of the Old and New Testament, we will study the different types of Psalms that give full human expression to our response to God's grace and good will towards those who love Him and His Word. Study guide is free! We begin at 9 and go to around 10:30 in the morning. If you want more information, please call the Church!



3. **Men's Breakfast will be on October 9! Every Man a Man for the Next Generation** is the theme! While this is in the formative stages, we want to encourage you to make the effort to check it out. A synopsis will be in your mailbox. Breakfast begins 7:30 – 9am...

4. **We are still live-streaming the first service.** You will have to determine your level of comfort in attending church on Sunday. We thought we could go back to sharing the peace of the Lord, but due to the virus flaring up, we are not shaking hands. We have been trying to stay as cautious as possible. Some do wear a mask, but since there is no mandate you will have to judge for yourself what to do. Call the office if you have any questions! You can watch the live stream service on www.facebook.com/CoastalLutheran/



5. **Our November Voters' meeting** (November 14th) is quickly approaching, and one of the items on the agenda will be the election of officers. We are looking for people who have a heart for mission and a passion for serving Ascension. If you choose to run for one of the offices below, you will appoint people to be a part of your team, helping plan, execute, and attend a monthly meeting. No, you will not be doing the work by yourself. The Chairperson of each committee will also participate in Church Council meetings which will be once a quarter.

I look forward to speaking with you and helping you determine which position best fits your gifts. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.

Richard Tellman

The following positions will be elected:

Elders (3)
Evangelism
Stewardship
Property & Grounds
Youth
Fellowship
Public Relations



6. **Hurricane Ida relief efforts:** with boots on the ground in the affected areas of Hurricane Ida's landfall 4 weeks ago, the Southern District has a good idea of where the greatest needs of our LCMS people are. Relief efforts of donations can be made directly online at www.southerndistrictlacms.org. Also, Shepherd's Heart Disaster Response Ministry (www.freestormtreehelp.com) is receiving donations as well. The Rev Ed Braisher is the director of this ministry whom we had the privilege of working with after Hurricane Sally and tornados in Birmingham. 100% of the donations will go to relief efforts. You can also earmark a donation in your offering that will be forwarded to the Southern District. If anyone desires to drive supplies to drop off site or do some tree removal help, please Contact P Ralph. Keep in mind that to spend more than one day will require your own sleep/food arrangements. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Yardwork Team is and has been working hard to make the grounds maintained and fresh looking! Please see Pastor if you have time to helping cutting the grass. We have the lawn mowers just need drivers. Thank you



Save this upcoming date:

Night in Bethlehem
December 4 & 5

Ascension Lutheran Church
8888 County Road 64
Daphne, Alabama 36526



For the time being, we have put off doing Purpose Driven Life until next year. With the upsurge in Covid-19 cases some were not comfortable with the small group gatherings and that is understandable. Our desire is to use this resource to 1) strengthen our fellowship so that we can be better encouragers to one another, and 2) as an opportunity to invite friend or neighbor to learn about the Christian faith and how our faith in Jesus is lived out in purposeful ways. More info will come in the months ahead. Thank you!

We are a congregation committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ reflected in our ministries of worship, learning, care and outreach to our community.