

# ASCENSION NEWSLETTER

March  
2024

*"All this is from God... (who has) given us the ministry of reconciliation..."*

2 Corinthians 5:18

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8888 County Rd 64

Daphne AL 36526

Church: 251-626-7500

School: 251-348-7510

### Inside this Issue

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Pastor's Letter          | 1 |
| ACS Note                 | 1 |
| ACS Teacher<br>note      | 2 |
| ACS Fundraising          | 3 |
| Parish Nursing           | 3 |
| Word and the<br>World    | 3 |
| Pressed                  | 3 |
| Birth./ Anniv.           | 4 |
| Altar Guild              | 4 |
| By Faith                 | 4 |
| Grapes                   | 4 |
| More Than Just<br>Sunday | 5 |
| VBS & Picnic             | 6 |

Last month we looked at the story of Mary and Martha as Jesus tells Martha that she is distracted by many things, but Mary has chosen what is better. It is very easy to become distracted by all that involves life, family, community, and church. Not necessarily in that order, but often these distractions keep us, as they did Martha (Luke 10:42) from hearing God's Word in worship, Bible Study and other church fellowship settings. In Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the church in Corinth, he describes God's saving work through Jesus as the means by which we, who have been estranged from God by our sin, have been reconciled to God whereby He does not count our sins against us!

This is the Good News for all of mankind, but especially for those of us who believe since by faith in Christ, we are granted the benefits of forgiveness, love, joy and peace, the Holy Spirit, etc. In fact, all the resources of heaven are at our disposal and stand at the ready in service to God's people. As God has given the Church the command and commission to make disciples, He has also equipped the church to do so as we Baptize and teach God's Word for edification (benefit) of God's people individually and collectively. It is God's desire for us, you and me, since we have been reconciled to God through Christ, as we share the Good News of God's forgiveness and grace in Jesus with others, to implore them to be reconciled to God if they are not already (vs 20).

Paul uses the term ambassador and applies it to how we are to relate to others in this ministry of reconciliation. An ambassador speaks to others on behalf of the one (authority) who sent them the message for which they are sent. In the Christians case, the message is **"God doesn't count men's sins against them."** (vs 19) So when we tell someone that God loves them and that Jesus died for their sins we are simply saying that Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty we deserved for our sin, and God does not count their sin against them. In our catechism under the 2<sup>nd</sup> article of the Apostle's Creed we explain Jesus' work on the cross this way: *He redeemed me, a lost and condemned person... purchased and won me from all sin, death and the devil..."*

Continued on page 2

## Ascension Christian School News

Ascension Christian School is moving into the last three months of the 2023-2024 school year. Time does indeed "fly by". March will be a busy month for our classes, with many activities planned and Spring Break at the end of the month. March 9 will be our yard sale, which is the biggest fundraiser for this school year. We are collecting all kinds of interesting items, and we thank you for donating your objects so we can raise money for ACS. We also have fun and fellowship while we sort and price items, so stop by from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, and join us! The money we raise will be used to purchase sunshade sails for our playground so our students and teachers don't swelter on the hot days that will soon be here.

We will also host the Let's Kick League program beginning March 2. The class will run from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. each Saturday for eight weeks. This is a great opportunity to have our community on our grounds and get to know us. Let's Kick has offered soccer to our students for the last several years and says our grounds are perfect for children learning soccer.

Our students, staff, and School Board members thank you for your continuing financial support and prayers. We cannot do this without you. We continue "Sharing God's Love Through Christian Education".

Cynthia Tellman



MINISTRY  
PARTNERS



Notice those words, “redeemed”, “purchased”, and “won”... they are just a few that signify Jesus, the eternal Son of God, is the one who paid the price we owed God due to our own personal sin. Because of what Jesus has done we are accounted not guilty, acquitted of all charges, released from the penalty not to ever have to pay back God for what He has done to make us His beloved children. This is what it means to be reconciled and brought back into a right relationship to God through Jesus. And we want others to know that God has reconciled them, too!

Every ministry of Ascension, worship, Bible study, fellowship, serving, school, Sunday School, VBS, etc. are ministries that show God’s reconciling love to others and are opportunities to implore, beseech, strongly insist, entreat others with the Good News of God’s reconciling love. Their eternity hangs in the balance. As we continue to pray and serve as God has gifted us, let us be reminded that a steady of sitting at His feet to listen and learn helps and strengthens our witness of Him who died for all! As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5: 15, ***“And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.”*** This ministry of reconciliation makes us not only Jesus’ hands and feet, but also His ambassador delivering a message of Good News to all! May we be found doing so as the time of His return draws near!

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



Thank you Ascension ,  
your giving to the school  
in February was \$770.

### Officers

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

### Directors

#### **Evangelism, Open**

Education , Jean Canupp

#### **Stewardship, Open**

Fellowship, Marian Bencke

Grounds and Board of Properties,  
Greg Nichols

#### **Public Relations, Open**

Cynthia Tellman, Parochial  
School Board Chair

#### **Youth, Open**

### Elders

Jim Partridge  
Michael Schulz  
Randy Kirk

## **Ascension Christian School Teachers Note**

We're marching right in to March! This month we will celebrate literacy! Did you know *Read Across America* is an annual event celebrated on or near March 2nd, which is the birthday of a beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss? It is a nationwide reading celebration that was created to promote literacy and encourage a love of reading among children.

The teachers at Ascension would love to celebrate literacy all month long by having guest readers in our classrooms. If you have a special book you'd like to read to our students, please see Sally Norton.

We hosted an Open House last month for current students and had an excellent turn out! The children had an exciting time showing their parents, grandparents and special friends around the school.

The children continue to grow each day in knowledge and truth. We are grateful for the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our students!  
Sally Norton



## Parish Nurse Notes

The mission of Swaddling Clothes, an LCMS ministry, is to share the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, and friendship, and the forgiving Word of God.

The free community store, housed at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fairhope, AL, serves up to 50 families on the first Saturday of each month, 9am-12N.

I recently received firsthand testimonies from recipients I would like to share with you!

"Swaddling Clothes is a blessing to me and my family. Awesome staff-loving, kind, and very helpful. Thank you."

"Swaddling Clothes has helped me by providing the necessities my children need at times when I need them most. Seeing the volunteers every month, happy to help, makes me so much more appreciative. I've been coming since it started years ago, and it has grown tremendously. But the one thing that has remained the same is the willingness they have to serve. I love Swaddling Clothes so much!"

The mission and the ones they serve are very grateful for your donations of clothing NB-5T, diapers, wipes, and large baby items (car seats, high chairs, etc...) The blue donation bin is under the table at the entrance of the Narthex.

Pass it on if you know a family in need. For more information contact Sonja, Parish Nurse Ministry, @sonjakirk7@gmail.com or text 251-504-2619.

### Ascension Christian School Fundraising Information

Greetings to all! March is the month of the **HUGE CHURCH YARD SALE on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm!!** Please come join us and enjoy the day together as we support our growing school! Any hours you would like to work would be appreciated, and you would have breakfast and lunch provided. If you would like to shop and spend some money, we would appreciate that too! And we do thank you for your donated items, dollars, service, and prayers that will all help to make this event a reality and a success. Sign up sheets are still available in the narthex, but we can always use your help! Hope to see you there! Blessings to all!

### Pressed

*Gethsemane*, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for "olive press." During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering. Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith. In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night. "All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances," the authors write. "We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive."

---

### The Word and the World One

October 7, 2023, the Muslim terrorist group Hamas viciously and brutally murdered and kidnapped Israeli and American citizens. It is a sign of the extent of Satan's power of deception and evil that a great deal of the outrage over this attack has been directed toward the Israeli military defense of their country. In Genesis 12:3 we are told of God's eternal covenant with the father of the Jewish nation Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all families on earth will be blessed." As committed Christians we need to thank God for sending our Savior, Jesus, from the Jewish nation and pray that God would continue to bless the Jews and transform the hearts of those who have been so totally deceived by Satan. God has not turned his back on the Jewish nation and neither should we.


Gary Kinne



## Helpers Needed!



The Altar Guild is seeking some helpers to help set up the Sanctuary for Sunday mornings and clean up after the second service. You serve one month at a time and if needed (maybe you are out of town) you can work with the other people to substitute for a week or so. For set up: you need to be available on Saturday, set up communion vessels, maybe change paraments, and make sure the Altar is set for the next day. For clean up: be available after second service to put up communion ware, clean up used cups and take linens home for cleaning if needed. ALL of this will be taught, and you could even have a guide to help over see the process. YOU ARE NEEDED!! Please come forward and seek out Pastor, Ruth Partain or Jean Canupp if you are interested. Thank You!



### Grape EXPECTATIONS


Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

**What you need:**

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

**What you do:**

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



### By Faith

'Tis by the faith of joys to come  
We walk through deserts dark as night,  
Till we arrive at heaven our home.  
Faith is our guide, and faith our light. ...

Cheerful we tread the desert through,  
While faith inspires a heavenly ray,  
Though lions roar and tempests blow  
And rocks and dangers fill the way.

So Abraham, by divine command,  
Left his own house to walk with God;  
His faith beheld the promised land,  
And fired his zeal along the road.

—Early American hymn



Jesus  
is alive

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Steven Olivier            | March 1  |
| Kathy Schulz              | March 3  |
| David Ellis               | March 9  |
| Mike Drogmiller           | March 10 |
| Diane Retzlaff            | March 15 |
| Richard Tellman           | March 20 |
| Phill Brown               | March 21 |
| Nancy Powell              | March 27 |
| Susan Dube                | March 28 |
| Olivia Tews               | March 28 |
| Darlene Drogmiller        | March 31 |
| Gregory & Lynn Nichols    | March 18 |
| Phill & Deanna Brown      | March 22 |
| Mike & Darlene Drogmiller | March 30 |

# More Than Just Sunday !

1. **Sunday Adult Bible** will focus on the sermon message as we utilize a this format of devotional learning. We meet in the sanctuary. Children meet in their respective rooms in the south hallway! The Sunday School teachers stand at the ready to love, teach and instruct the younger folks! Contact Jean Canupp for more info!



2. **The Wednesday Morning Bible Study**- We are studying Jude. Please come and be a part of the fellowship and learning. Invite a friend and fill your spirit! 9-10:30am .



3. **Men's Breakfast** March 16. ( Note this is the third Saturday for this month only) Come join us as we continue in our study "Thirty Virtues That Build a Man" – we will look at Trust and Margin. Thanks!

4. **March Stewardship Corner** – *"Stewardship is the joyous activity of the Christian in service to the Kingdom of the Christian in service to the Kingdom of God."*

In the Gospel lesson for March 17 Jesus asked the disciples, "Can you drink the cup I drink? We know that on the night Jesus was betrayed He prayed for the cup (of suffering and death) to be removed, yet He did not end His prayer, but continued to pray, "Yet, not my will be done, but thine." And that is tied to Jesus' question of His disciples as they were bantering back and forth as to who was the greatest among them! They answered,



"Yes, we can." "Indeed, you will," Jesus answered. And they did suffer for the sake of Jesus, most unto death as well. Their lives were lived as stewards of God grace and the mysteries of the Gospel. They preached, taught, gave and whatever else was needed for the sake of advancing the ministry of Good News in Jesus. While we may not "drink the same cup" of suffering and death the Apostles did, we do drink from the cup forgiveness and strength for our faith to be lived out in service to our Lord Jesus. Our stewardship, the giving

of ourselves into service in God's kingdom, is a result of the salvation that is already ours through faith in Jesus. I pray it indeed is a joyous activity of getting to serve our Lord and Savior for you!

5. **Eyes On Jesus – Midweek Lent 2024**

We still have 3 Wednesdays in Lent for our midweek services. The Soup, Salad dinner is doing very well. Our numbers have been increasing, so don't miss out on the food, fellowship, and worship as we gather together under our Lord's blessed hand.



## March and Midweek Lenten Worship Themes

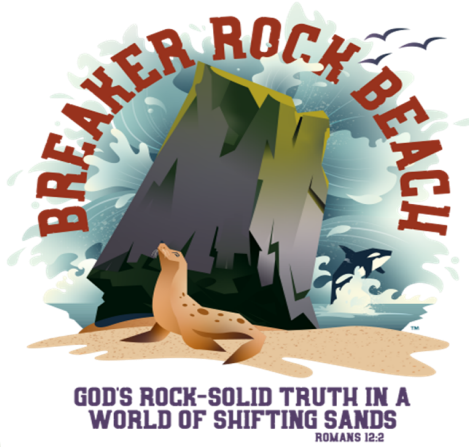
March 3 – Zeal for God's House  
March 10 – Christ Is To Be Lifted Up  
March 17 – Can You Drink the Cup I Drink?  
March 24 – Palm Sunday  
March 28 – Maundy Thursday 7 PM  
March 29 – Good Friday 7 PM  
March 31 – Easter Sunday (He is Risen!) (With Breakfast)  
Midweek Lenten Series – Eyes On Jesus

## EYES ON Jesus: Midweek Lent Schedule

11 am Worship  
5:45 Soup and Salad Dinners!

March 06 – Denying Eyes  
March 13 – Murderous Eyes  
March 20 – Worldly Eyes

# Upcoming Events



At Breaker Rock Beach, kids will learn to recognize the difference between what the world says is true and what God says is true. They'll encounter five everyday sayings that sound right, but dangerously miss the truth found in God's Word. Each day kids will be challenged to know that God's truth never changes—even when it's radically different from what some people say. They'll discover that God does not want them to be conformed to this age, but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds so that they can discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2). **June 3-7 from 9 AM - Noon. Volunteer Sign Up in Narthex. More info: call Donna Scully or P Ralph Thank you!**

## Put this on your calendar: Lutheran Fellowship Picnic

on Saturday April 13 from 12 - 4 pm. Ascension Lutheran is hosting this years Lutheran Church Picnic. That means all sorts of things: Providing the meat (chicken, ribs, dogs, maybe burgers) for about 200+ people, setting up tents tables and chairs. Other churches are providing the main sides of Baked Beans, green beans, and corn but all others can bring salads, sides and/or desserts. It will be a great time to fellowship with other Lutherans in our area!

April 13, 2024  
Noon - 4 pm

Ascension Lutheran  
251-626-7500



Ascension Lutheran Church  
8888 County Road 64  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

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