

May
2024

ASCENSION NEWSLETTER

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

8888 County Rd 64

Daphne AL 36526

Church: 251-626-7500

School: 251-348-7510

"No greater to love than a friend lay down his life for another." John 1: 13

We are almost through our Easter season of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus and how His resurrection empowers His people for faithful, fruitful living. What Jesus has done to set us free from the guilt and shame of our sin is to relieve us from the fear of God's judgment and wrath. ***"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us,"*** says the apostle Paul in Romans 5:8. We have been justified before our holy and almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ***"As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed your sins from you!"*** Psalm 103: 12. This is Good News indeed!

If you were to read Psalm 103, and I would encourage you to do so as part of your regular devotions, you would see that God made His ***"ways known to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel."*** And it recounts all the things God has done and continues to do through His forgiving love. ***"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love (vs 8); "He does not treat us as our sins deserve... he knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust... But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children – with those who keep His covenant and remember to obey His precepts (vs 17-18)."*** On and on it goes, this grace of God and favor from above when His face is turned toward you!

That is why at the beginning we are exhorted to ***"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits – who forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."*** While that is quite a mouthful, there is even more as you dig into His Word you find that there ***"is no greater love"*** than the one who would lay down His life for you!

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Ascension Christian School News

Ascension Christian School will soon complete its fifth year of "Sharing God's Love Through Christian Education." What a year it has been! Our students are learning through play, exploring, and, most importantly, learning about Jesus in the classroom each day and in chapel weekly. Dr. Baxter, University of South Alabama, told me after the screening service they provided that our students met the age-appropriate benchmarks, and she will heartily recommend our school to parents!



The end of this school year is bittersweet for me. Sally will be leaving our school to pursue another opportunity. Her wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion for teaching children has taken ACS to the next level. Sally exemplifies our school mission statement, "Sharing God's Love through Christian Education, by living her faith daily. I appreciate all Sally has done for our school, and I hope you will join me in thanking her for all her efforts. I wish her well in her future endeavors.

Royce, the ACS Administrator, will leave us at the end of this school year. Royce and her family will return to Illinois, where their families reside. She has done a fantastic job in the school office, and for the first time, we will begin the 2024-2025 school year with a waiting list! Please tell Royce, "Job well done!"

I thank you for your continuing prayers and monetary support for Ascension Christian School. We could not continue this mission without your help. Cynthia Tellman



This brings us into full view of God's desire to save sinners like us, redeem the unqualified, disenfranchised, the oppressed, by becoming as one of us, yet without sin. He did so because, as sin came into the world and death with it by one man's disobedience, so by a man through obedience to God, many will be made righteous. (Romans 5: 19) And that was, is, and will always be Jesus! As spoken in a previous message, Jesus came and undid what the devil and sinful man did to destroy our relationship to God, one another and even creation itself. Jesus' suffering and dying and rising from the dead has brought restoration and peace to the world, especially to those who believe. There is no greater love than Jesus' sacrifice for the world's sin.

And in John 15: 13ff, Jesus tells His disciples that He no longer calls them His servants, but His friends for whom He will lay His life down for! As you read this, He also says that in calling them His friends, He does so because He has told them His plans and business. ***"Everything I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last."*** And there you have it. God's will made known to you, his redeemed and sanctified friend for whom He laid His life down and took it up again so that we would live in the strength and power of His promise that ***"I will forgive them of their wickedness and remember their sins no more."*** (Jeremiah 31:34) That is freedom to serve as friends of the King! For this we ***"Praise the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not His benefits!"***

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

May Worship Themes

May 5 – The Overcoming Difference a Friend Makes
May 12 – Protected By The Power of His Name
May 19 – The Spirit's Testimony is Always About Jesus!
May 26 – You Must Be Born Again

Thank you Ascension ,
your giving to the school
in April was \$902.

Ascension Christian School Teachers Letter

I cannot believe how quickly the end of the year is approaching! At the beginning of the school year, I decided this would be my last year at Ascension since my daughter, Reese, will be going to Kindergarten in the fall. I have had the tremendous honor to work at Ascension Christian School for the last 3.5 years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to serve as a member of the Board of Education, Lead Teacher, fundraising committee member and had the pleasure (most of the time ☺) of teaching both of my daughters. Most importantly though, I have had the privilege to share the love of Jesus with our students and families.

As a member of the church, I will still remain on the Board of Education. Although I will not be at the preschool school everyday, I will continue to be involved in order to support our very special students and talented teachers.

Royce Shaw, our director, has done a remarkable job spreading the word about our preschool. We already have 22 children signed up for the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Royce, as the children call her, has been a blessing to our program!

Our end of the year program is this Thursday, May 2 at 10:00. We hope you can attend! Our last day of school is on Friday, May 17.

Thank you for all your love and prayers. Thank you for supporting our school and giving us the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with children from Daphne and surrounding areas.

In His service, Sally Norton

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

May 2024 Elders Message

A Community of the Word

This message is taken from the article of the same title found in the March 2024, The Lutheran Witness. This article encourages us to be a hopeful community.

In current English usage, “hope” usually expresses a wish about something yet to be determined, such as, “I hope I don’t have Covid” or “I hope the Saints go to the Super Bowl.” In the Bible, hope does not convey mere wishfulness; rather it conveys expectation – patiently waiting for God’s reliable promises in His Word to be fulfilled, since He “has caused us to be born again to a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”(1 Peter 1:3). This article concludes by referencing additional versus from 1 Peter 1: 21 & 25. Christian **hope** is not in this life, with all its changes and chances but that our faith and **hope** are in God and Our **hope** is sure and certain because it rests upon “the Word of the Lord”. Please read 1 Peter 1 and have **HOPE**.

Mike Schulz

Running Slowly

At a track meet, we sat in the stands, cheering for our son. I chuckled as a young sibling of an athlete asked, “Why are they running so slow, Mommy?”

These athletes had been training for years, and many were setting personal best times and even state records. Most spectators would provide little competition for the runners. But the child was comparing how he’d felt while running at the park, sprinting to a soccer game.

Along the track, dozens of teammates and coaches cheered. Each time an athlete passed, she heard strong, pointed encouragement. “You’ve got this!” “Someone’s approaching; time to pick up the pace!” “Great stride — keep going!” The coaches and runners knew what was helpful and understood how hard the athletes were working.

My point: Consider who you allow to speak truth into your life. Do you listen to loved ones who “train” alongside you? Or do you give sideline critics too much space in your thoughts? Heed Proverbs 2:2 (NLT), which advises, “Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.”

—Janna Firestone

Ascension Christian School Fundraising Information

Greetings to all! May has just arrived and our school year is almost over! Your school’s staff, teachers, and school board members would like to thank each of you for your gracious gifts of time, energy, and dollars that have continued to support our little school this 2023-2024 school year! We are growing! We have our classes filled for the 2024-2025 school year!! Your support of this ministry has given our school the chance to encourage and teach these little ones about Jesus, so they can, and will, become disciples for Jesus! There are plants out in the breezeway as a small “thank you” for each of you. Please take one, repot or replant it at home, and thank you for helping this ministry to bloom and grow!

If you have any fundraising ideas, wish to join our school board or fundraising committee, or join a support team for teachers and staff, please let any of the following persons know about your thoughts or interest: Pastor Ralph, Jim Dube, Mike Schulz, Cynthia Tellman, Debbie Ellis, Sally Norton, Beth Navarro, Diane Havard, Jean Hershberger, or Lynn Nichols. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!!

Have a wonderful summer! And blessings to all!

Lynn Nichols



Bob Zortman, who during his military career achieved the extremely high Non Commissioned Officer rank of Command Sargent Major, received a Quilt of Valor at a ceremony on Thursday, April 18 in Fairhope. The quilt was made and presented by members of the Baldwin County chapter of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

A large number of Bob’s family including grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as a number of friends were present to see Bob receive the quilt and celebrate his exceptional career.

Jim Dube



Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”



Shelby Dove	May 3
Cynthia Tellman	May 7
Michael Schulz	May 10
Alex Norton	May 12
Phil Stolfa	May 12
Bob Zortman	May 12
Mel Willie	May 17
Jean Canupp	May 17
Karen Magdech	May 24
Janet Partridge	May 28
Teri Wingate Duck	May 28
Mike McAllister	May 30
Ruth Kelley	May 30
Joe & Leslie Nelson	May 4
Michael & Kathy Schulz	May 19
Jim & Susan Dube	May 24

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 Colossians. Please come and be a part of the fellowship and learning. Invite a friend and fill your spirit! 9-10:30am .



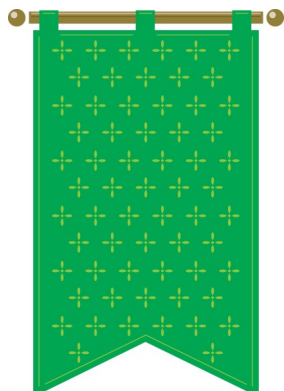
MEN'S
BREAKFAST

3. **Men's Breakfast**--May 11 – 7:30am. Come join us as we continue in our study "Thirty Virtues That Build a Man" – we will look at Change and Conflict. Thanks!

4. **May Stewardship Corner** – *"Stewardship is the joyous activity of the Christian in service to the Kingdom of God."* "Time, talent, and treasure, O My! Time, talent, and treasure, O My!" Well, that's not exactly the line from The Wizard of Oz but, it can be a very useful way of emphasizing our heavenly Father's gracious gifts to us so we remember from Whom all these blessings come! We are to rejoice in our salvation and in thanksgiving for God's provision for our life in the here and now. One of the ways of giving thanks we rejoice is that the hand which so thankfully received is also the same hand that remains open to bless others as a way to honor these gifts from our Father above! As Ascension continues to serve others in many ways, but especially through our school, let us be reminded that the gifts to the ministry of the school continues to bless the children and their families beyond what we can often know. Planting the Gospel seed at an early age and encouraging continual growth in our faith in Christ will ensure that the next generation will continue in the Kingdom's blessings and work. May God continue to assure you of His provision for this work even as He continues to assure you of His love for you in Jesus!

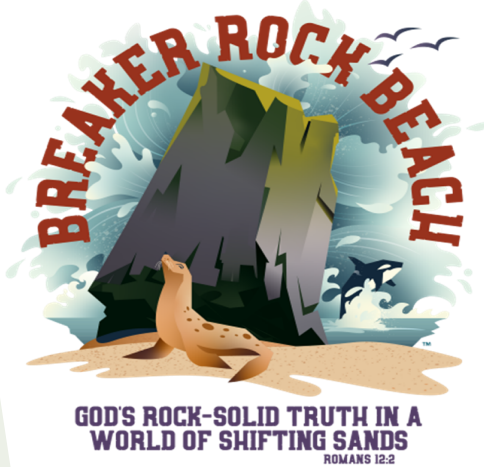


5. **For Such a Time as This** -- Women's Bible study will be meeting at church every Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. Our video sessions will be on the Old Testament story of Esther led by Beth Moore. Interestingly, even though the name of God does not appear in the book of Esther, God was quietly working through Esther, and His "fingerprints" are all over the story as He protects His people from annihilation. Just as God was working behind the scenes in Esther, so too we may not see His overt presence in world events and/or our individual lives, but we are in His caring eye nonetheless! We are not called to an easy life. We are called to a purposeful life.



6. **GREEN** — Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.

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 10-14 from 1- 4 pm. Volunteer Sign Up in Narthex. More info: call Donna Scully (251-422-0934) or P Ralph Thank you!**

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.