

ASCENSION NEWSLETTER

July
2024

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

8888 County Rd 64

Daphne AL 36526

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We have the Word of the prophets made more certain..." 2 Peter 1: 19

"But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son..." Hebrews 1: 3

One of the opportunities we have in the "slower months of summer" is to prepare and plan for our after-Labor Day activities. Often though, as people are vacationing, or stationing, less attention to spiritual feeding seems to be the order. While we are sending our children to school sooner than Labor Day, still in the church we continue in the old calendar recognizing for most the focused attention to the 'business of church' happens in the fall/winter months. So, the opportunity for planning now includes strategies that seek to accomplish our stated goals of mission and vision and demand our time and attention. At Ascension we have the added blessing of our school and its activities to further the Gospel ministry of making disciples, followers of Jesus to consider as well!

But all our labor and love, our striving and giving of ourselves to these holy endeavors continues to need the strength that God alone through Jesus Christ offers. The Scriptures and our Lutheran confessions concur that the place God does His calling, equipping and commissioning is done through the Church, the body of Christ. It is in the Word and Sacrament ministry that the Lord's forgiveness and peace are multiplied into the lives of, we, His people so that as image bearers of our Lord, His holy work is accomplished. As we often quote in worship and Bible studies, Jesus, based on Peter's confession of Him as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, will build His Church on that very confession ***"and the gates of hell shall not prevail."*** (Matthew 16: 18) In other words, we are not in a competition, but rather a spiritual battle for the souls of people and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the sword we are given by which salvation is imparted to mankind!

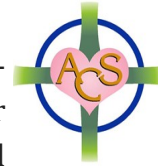
It is the Gospel alone by which the victory is won because what man needs first and foremost is reconciliation to God whom by our own sin we have offended. To be able to recognize and agree or confess this is truly a gift from above because without the Holy Spirit and the Gospel, we would not seek God out or desire to know His Son Jesus who is ***"Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."*** (John 1: 29) As we have said many times as a witness to God's Word, our default position coming into the world is spiritual blindness to the desperate need everyone has for a Savior who reconciles us to the loving creator we have. It is through God's inerrant Word we come to know His love through Jesus Christ who gave His life for our salvation. It is through God's Word we are strengthened in our Holy Spirit derived conviction to its truth above all else. We joyfully say to Jesus and others, ***"to whom shall we go? You (Jesus) have the words of eternal life."*** (John 6:68) The devil is a defeated foe, the world and its evil will pass away, and we are strengthened in our faith and service as we look to and pray for the time of our Lord's return.

This is all because of the ***"certainty"*** Peter spoke about as an eyewitness of Jesus, His ministry, life, suffering, dying and rising from the dead. All of Scripture points to Jesus, eternal Son of God, who at the right moment in time gave His life into death for our sin. Buried with Him into His death in Baptism, and raised with Him in new life, our hope continues to be found in Him. He is the lover of our soul and the one to whom we point in word, song and deed as we remain in the very Word that sustains us in that calling. ***"Let the Word of Christ dwell in your richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your heart."*** (Colossians 3: 16) It cannot be better said than that!

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



Ascension Christian School Directors Note



We are thrilled to share that Ascension Christian Schools' first-ever summer camp is exceeding all expectations! Both our students and parents are over the moon with joy and excitement.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your generous donations, which have been instrumental in making this camp a reality and helping our kids thrive.

As we look forward to the upcoming school year, we ask that you continue to keep our ACS staff and students in your prayers.

With love and gratitude,

McKenzie Sullivan

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

Thank you Ascension,
 your giving to the school
 in July was \$575.

July Worship Themes

July 7 – Two Kingdoms – One Lord
 July 14 – You Have Every Spiritual Blessing!
 July 21 – Because We Have Peace, We Have Access!
 July 28 – Now To Him...!



Karin Marrero	July 10
Debbie Ellis	July 12
Lisa Slaff	July 14
Ruth Mickelsen	July 21
Oscar Timmons	July 29

Eric & Karin Marrero	July 11
Alex & Sally Norton	July 27



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 .



3. **Men's Breakfast** – June 13 – 7:30am. Come join us as we, in prayer, seek to be strengthened in our faith and in service to our Lord's ministry and kingdom. Thanks!

4. **July Stewardship Corner** – *“Stewardship is the joyous activity of the Christian in service to the Kingdom of God.”*

In the heat of the Summer many seek to work in their yards in the cooler early morning hours, while others subject themselves to the later afternoon heat figuring that what needs to get done needs to get done and this will help to condition my body for the elements as they are! Of course, water is the element by which our body's temperature regulation enables a person to withstand the worst the elements throw our way! Stewardship (the joyful management of resources for godly gain) is a lifestyle response to the Good News of Salvation through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. A Christian understands, more and more, that all of God's provision for current life and that which is to come does so from our gracious God's hand. He is happy to provide that we may enjoy and utilize the abundance of His provision for the sake of His kingdom the Church. It is our grateful response that our gifts of time, treasure and talent are utilized for the furtherance of His kingdom and the Gospel upon which we are built and sustained. With that in mind, keep our ministries in prayer as we together give the Lord thanks, praise and the faithful obedience He is worthy of!



5. **The Word and the World**

When you pray to the Lord, what is your mind-set? Sometimes our prayers ask for things; sometimes they ask for strength; and sometimes they are thankful. How confident are you when you offer your prayers? We are warned by Jesus in Matthew 6:5:” And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men.” We are in conversation with God but should not be afraid of him. The Bible tells us that God knows our needs before we approach him. We also are aware of all the promises that God made in the Bible that have come to completion. Therefore, we should use the very words of scripture to speak to our God. You should never be at a loss for words if you use the Bible to pray.

Gary Kinne

6. **Our present hope**--Christian hope involves more than a sunny, cheerful attitude. It is

more than a general kind of optimism. It is more than hope in hope, or faith in faith. Christian hope is tied to the goal of history and the purpose of each person's existence. It is the unshakeable confidence of the sovereignty of God and God's eventual triumph over all the forces that stand against truth, righteousness, faithfulness, love and mercy.

And in the great contest between good and evil, Christian hope declares God as winner. Christ is the hope not only in the world to come; he is the hope of the world right now.

Oswald Bronson



Praise for God's Handiwork

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!
The heavens declare your glory,
the arch of sky displays your handiwork.
In your love you have given us the power
to behold the beauty of your world
robed in all its splendor.
The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills,
the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence.
The roaring breakers of the sea tell of your awesome
might;
the beasts of the field and the birds of the air
bespeak your wondrous will.
In your goodness you have made us able to hear
the music of the world. The voices of loved ones
reveal to us that you are in our midst.
A divine voice sings through all creation.



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.*