

January
2025

ASCENSION NEWSLETTER

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

8888 County Rd 64
Daphne AL 36526
Church: 251-626-7500
School: 251-348-7510

"Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Matt. 3: 15

"It is proper," Jesus says, ***"to fulfill all righteousness."*** The 2024 Christmas season was a wonderful wrap up of last year's outpouring of God's blessings. I give much thanks for how our Lord carried Ascension through some changes in our school, brought a few new folks in to be a part of our ministry, and now... A New Year and new opportunities await! Maybe it is an opportunity to take some time to take stock of where we are and what we would like to do. What things might we continue... which might we not? These are all wonderful things to consider together as blood bought Baptized members of God's household. We get the joy of serving in the inspiration God gives us from His Word.

"It is," indeed, "proper," Jesus says for the time is right for fulfilling His righteousness in the age in which we live. Without getting too much into next Sunday's message, every age has given Christians various opportunities for the things we do to fulfill God's plans for disciple being and disciple making. The Great Commission ("Go, make disciples...") continues to mark the time of the church age before Jesus returns. We are the torch bearers of our Savior as we each carry the banner of His mercy and grace so that in our relationships with others the light of Christ shines through. There is another term for Christians and that is as "image bearers" of our Lord, who gave His life into serving by suffering, dying and rising from the dead to give us new life that seeks to honor Jesus in all we do and in every relationship we have.

This begins with the relationship we have with our Lord Jesus who has claimed you as His own, and for purposes beyond what many in the church imagine. There is never a time (or age) when your usefulness has been worn out or unwelcome. There is always a place for God's goodness to come forth as we live in obedience to His loving kindness. One of the ways this happens in a church is when a person is trained to what you have been doing in the church. I call it, "working your way out of a job." When you observe the Gospel movement in the book of Acts, we find churches springing up everywhere as the missionary bands move through one nation after another. In due season, elders and other servants of God have been raised up to carry on the work the apostles had begun. Paul was the best at teaching/training the man (or woman) of God for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) He trained and moved on often using letters written in jail to deal with certain issues that cropped up in the various churches.

I believe this is the 'righteousness that continues to be fulfilled' by God's Gospel inspired people. The fact is followers of Jesus make followers of Jesus like sheep beget sheep. It is called disciple making. Hebrews 5 and 6 speak much about the response (or not) of God's people to the Word as it is taught, believed and put into practice. After all, much of Scripture is only a reminder of what God expects you and me to carry out! And we do so in the righteousness that is ours in Jesus by faith. We didn't earn it nor do we deserve it, but it has been granted us from God's over-flowing love fountain from above! (James 1: 17-18)

May the Lord's Word of mercy, grace and assurance of His forgiveness strengthen your life as a witness to all the goodness God pours forth! The new year will bring many new things, but it is the blessings of our Lord that will endure! In Christ service to you and for the advancement of His Kingdom always,

Pastor Ralph



MINISTRY
PARTNERS

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Ascension Christian School Note:

With the Lord's love and guidance, we joyfully welcome 2025 at Ascension Christian! This new year brings renewed energy, hope, and dedication to cultivating the hearts and minds of our students.



We are excited to walk this journey together, leaning on His wisdom as we grow in faith, knowledge, and community. Each day is an opportunity to embrace His blessings and to inspire the young lives entrusted to us.

May this year be filled with joy, purpose, and abundant grace. Here's to a strong and blessed start to the new year!

McKenzie Sullivan



Linda Hall	January 4
Darlene Kieninger	January 9
Cindy Grob	January 10
Mary Falkenberg	January 10
Reese Norton	January 14
Carol Cannon	January 17
John Peterson	January 19
Dirk Navarro	January 24
Jan Timmons	January 24
Jim Dube	January 25
Jeff Schneider	January 26
Bill Kieninger	January 29

Bob & Pat Zortman	January 15
Tom & Joyce Hanley	January 24

Thank you Ascension,
your giving to the school
in December was \$1,030.

We also received the
\$15,000 matching funds
from last years challenge.



January Worship Themes

January 5 – Wisdom
January 12 – Fulfilling All Righteousness
January 19 – “Now Draw Some Out”

Officers

John Peterson, President

Richard Tellman, Vice-President

Alex Norton, Treasurer

Recording Secretary , Open

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

Jordon Kotowske , Parochial School Board Chair

Youth, Open

Elders

Tom Hanley

Peter Bencke

Jim Partridge

Michael Schulz

More Than Just Sunday !

1. **Sunday Adult Bible** will focus on the sermon message as we utilize a 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 Hebrews. 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 – January 11.** We meet at 7:30 for breakfast, Bible and prayer. Since the Christmas tree is up and the outdoor Night in Bethlehem scenery needs to be taken down, we will do both at 9 am. Thanks in advance for helping out!



Always
give
yourselves
fully to
the work
of the
Lord ...



1 Corinthians 15:58

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

We are in a new year and as I have recently heard, whether 2024 was good or bad, the new year provides opportunities for our Lord to ‘new things’ in the life of His people! Isaiah (43) writes about this when he says of God’s new thing He is working, **“I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”** One of the things I have grown to appreciate in the last year and a half about an inheritance is that I get to oversee and manage the responsibilities that come with it. One of the sad things about an inheritance is that it took someone’s death for me to benefit. Another thing that would be sad would be to lose an inheritance by squandering it away, much like the prodigal son in Luke 15. But there is a joy, mixed with a healthy dose of trepidation in now it being my responsibility to manage it according to the will and testament of the one who died. It is the same with the inheritance you and I have gained through our

Lord’s suffering and dying. We all enjoy the forgiveness that He has won for us as The Steward of every good gift from above! And having been forgiven, we in turn forgive as Christ forgave, completely and removed from His sight! The other gifts that are fit for living in the abundance of His grace are ours also! What ‘new thing’ has God called you in support of His ministry here at Ascension? May the blessing of His good gifts inspire **“streams in the wasteland”** in your life today!

5. **The Word and the World** --In the concordance of the English Standard Lutheran Study Bible the heart is referred to one hundred and twenty-five times from Genesis through Revelation. In Matthew, 15:7-8, Jesus spoke to the scribes and Pharisees: “You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;....’ In John 4:13-14, Jesus is speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well: “Jesus said to her; Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” Again, on the last day of the Passover Feast, Jesus stood up and told his disciples; “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘ Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” (Probably Isaiah 58:11} Are you thirsty? How many people do you know that are thirsty? The Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ is the living water God had provided us to share with the thirsty of this world. Don’t be like “The Grinch” whose heart was three sizes too small. Gary Kinne

Thank You!

It is not too late for me to wish all the members of Ascension Lutheran Church a Happy New Year and to express my appreciation for the generous monetary Christmas gift I received. Also I would like to thank the choir members for the musical efforts during the past three months and especially Gary Kinne who travels a great distance to offer his vocal and conducting skills. We will resume rehearsals at a later date to prepare for the Easter celebration. New members are always welcome! Vincentine

Dear Ascension congregation, thank you so much for the generous Christmas gifts. Our Lord Jesus has indeed blessed us and our efforts with you as ministry partners. May the New Year's challenges and opportunities confirm our united strength together as we continue making disciples who believe in Jesus by following Him in all of life's endeavors!

Pastor Ralph and Sarah

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.