

October  
2025

ASCENSION  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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

# ASCENSION NEWSLETTER

**“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1: 3**

We are moving through our Living Discipleship series where we are learning the truths from Scripture that is designed to set us free! The truth that in Baptism we have been washed of our sin, born again, regenerated by the Holy Spirit with faith to believe God's love and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Reading Scripture, listening to sermons as we move through the Divine (Bible infused) liturgy, singing the hymns and praise songs, reflecting on God's Words trains and strengthens our faith responses that are appropriate for children of God.

As we do in the baptismal liturgy, parents, along with the congregation, make promises to bring the baptized to the services of God's house, to teach the Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, on Baptism and Lord's Supper. In other words, we make provision, to teach and train our children in the ways of Christ. Christians do knowing it is God pleasing and for the child's future good as we rejoice in His grace. Yes, His grace because it is a free gift from Him to all, especially those who believe!

Peter emphasizes this in his letter to the **“elect, strangers in the world, scattered”** throughout the known world at that time. He writes that they (we) have been **“chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.”** It is a good reminder that even before we were born God thought of you as He has of every person who has been conceived! The Bible tells us in Acts 17:26ff that God has placed each person in the time of history that we occupy the earth. In speaking of this, Paul says, **“and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.”** Why would God do that? **“...so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him.”** Seek...reach... and find” Him. That is God's desire for all people that should receive the mercy He has for them. He wants all people to receive **the new birth that gives a living hope** because apart from that eternal condemnation awaits.

When we observe the people around us, are they exhibiting the desire to live and serve our Lord Jesus? Are they regular in worship, Bible study, serving their neighbors and beyond? Chances are they are like many of us, struggling to get along in life, busy with the activities of the day that demand our attention. Have you ever thought that those activities are running our lives more than we are running our activities? It is not any different for the people around us either. This ought to fuel our prayer life as we bring our request to the Lord with thanksgiving, praying that God would guide our steps as we make our plans. The Church is about strengthening the ranks within so as we go forth our sights are set on sharing Jesus in word and deed with the world around us.



MINISTRY  
PARTNERS

continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Many are the opportunities to share Jesus. In the Table of Duties in the Small Catechism we find many examples of living out the Christian life as we submit to governmental authority, pay taxes, work in our profession, manage other people, live as husbands and wives, parenting children and children obeying their parents. Maybe a way to look at this is as the apostle Paul put it so well, ***“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”*** (KJV) Paul likens this mind we are to develop and strengthen as the same as the attitude Jesus had, ***“who being in very nature God... made Himself nothing... found in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!”*** He did that to serve mankind and give Himself as a ransom for our sin. That is powerful. That is love!

Our vocation as Christian is to let our light in Christ shine so ***“others will see our good deeds and give praise to our Father in heaven.”*** (Matt 5: 16) As we do so with hearts full of gratitude, ***the peace of God that passes all human understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*** (Phil 4:7) Amen

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

Pastor Ralph

## October Worship Themes

October 5 – Jesus – the Son Who Rules and Reigns

October 12 – The Holy Spirit and Sanctified Living

October 19 – The Water of Life

October 26 – Food for Continual Spiritual Living

### Ascension Christian School Note:



I can hardly believe we are already in October! This school year has been such a wonderful blessing to both me and my staff. I want to take a moment to say thank you for allowing our children to participate in the church service a couple of weeks ago. It was such a meaningful experience for them and for us as a staff. My hope is that this will be the beginning of many opportunities to build a strong bridge between our school and the congregation!

I would also like to personally invite you to join us for our Harvest Party on October 24th at 10:00 AM. We have a fun-filled morning planned with a trunk-or-treat, a giant inflatable, delicious food, sweet treats, and so much more! We would love for you to come and spend time with our students and their families. More details will be shared soon!

A very special thank you goes to Debbie Ellis, Susan Dube, and Diane Havard for generously volunteering to watch our aftercare students during a recent staff meeting. Not only did they care for the children, but also prepared a beautiful lunch for our staff — we are so grateful for your kindness!

I would also like to recognize Mrs. Jean for her ongoing dedication to our students. She faithfully comes out twice a week to read to our children, creating such special moments of learning and connection.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support, and generosity. Your love and care mean so much to our school community, and we feel truly blessed to be part of this church!

McKenzie Sullivan- Director

### Officers

John Peterson, President

Richard Tellman, Vice-President

Alex Norton, Treasurer

Joyce Hanley, Recording Secretary

Kathy Schulz, Financial Secretary

### Directors

#### **Evangelism, Open**

Jean Canupp, Education ,

#### **Stewardship, Open**

Marian Bencke, Fellowship,

Greg Nichols, Grounds and Board of Properties,

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

Jordon Kotowske , Parochial School Board Chair

#### **Youth, Open**

### Elders

Tom Hanley

Peter Bencke

Michael Schulz

## A Tale of Two Schools: Lutheran Identity and Mission Go Hand in Hand

By Samuel Eatherton

There once was a Lutheran school in a town with a lot of Lutherans living in it. The school was part of the Lutheran church it was connected to and was started when the church was formed years ago. The church founders started the school to educate their children in matters both temporal and spiritual. This still seems to be a chief purpose of the school, for many church members continue to send their children. Others from outside the congregation attend the school as well — some from other Lutheran churches in the area, some from other denominations, and a handful of unchurched students. The school has a strong Lutheran culture due to its called teachers and pastors and the predominance of Lutheran families in the school. The students are catechized daily and participate in chapel worship that reflects and reinforces the worship they participate in on Sundays.

There once was another Lutheran school in a town with not so many Lutherans. It, too, was begun when the church was formed and was intended chiefly to instruct its children from the Lutheran perspective. But very few church members now send their children to the school. Perhaps the demographics around the church have changed, or church families are satisfied with the public or private education they can receive elsewhere. There are a handful of Lutheran students in the school, perhaps children of the called workers, but most students hail from outside the Lutheran faith: Many denominations and unchurched families are represented. What Lutheran culture exists in the school is maintained largely by the called teachers and pastors. The students are still taught the catechism, have the Lutheran faith integrated into all subjects, and experience Lutheran worship, but most students receive very little (if any) reinforcement in these areas from their parents at home or in Sunday worship.

I have served in schools much like the two described. Both of them have a certain level of Lutheran identity or culture, and both have an eye toward reaching those outside the faith. In the first, the Lutheran identity in the school is strong, with teachers and most families coming from the same perspective. Those students and families who are outside the Lutheran church are carried along with the church families, experiencing the Lutheran culture of the church and school. In the second, the burden of Lutheran identity is held by the church workers and is much more difficult to maintain, because the non-Lutheran parents are not naturally inclined toward Lutheran catechesis or worship. The school culture is Lutheran due to the teachers, but most of the families remain outside the Lutheran faith. This congregation may see its school as being more of an outreach to the community than a tool to catechize its own members. So, should our Lutheran schools exist primarily for the bringing up of our Lutheran children in the faith, as it has been historically? Yes. Unless parents are immersing their children in biblical teaching at home every day, then yes, they should take advantage of a Lutheran school. Should Lutheran schools also be mission-minded? Yes, of course. *Mission-minded* and *Lutheran identity*. These two attributes of Lutheran schools go hand in hand. ....

To finish reading the article, please go to: <https://witness.lcms.org/2025/a-tale-of-two-schools/>

"Truth is mightier than eloquence; the spirit stronger than genius;  
faith greater than learning."

—Martin Luther



Oscar and Jan Timmons	October 30
Gary and Jill Rapp	October 31
John Peterson	October 4
Monica Olivier	October 8
Lydia Peterson	October 9
Deanna Brown	October 14
Pat Zortman	October 14
Jennifer Tellman	October 16
Cheryl Pitts	October 17
Jill Rapp	October 19
Nathan Tews	October 27
Gary Rapp	October 29

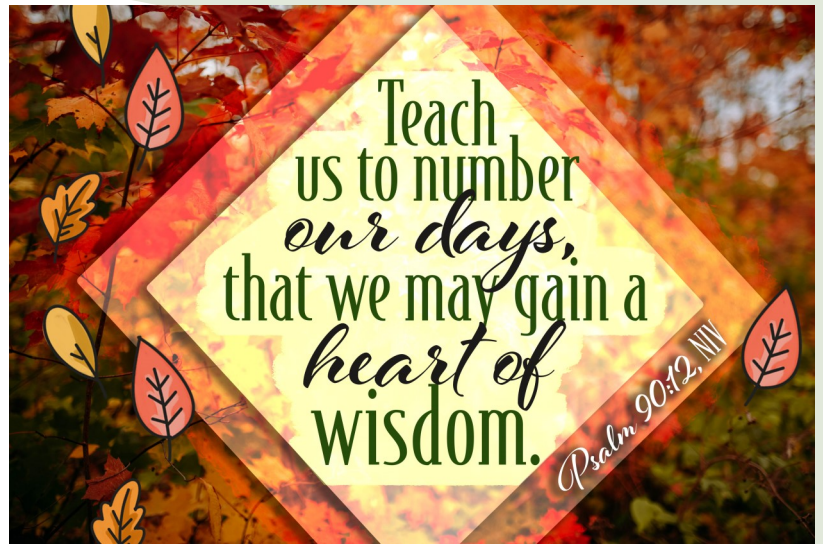
### The Sounds of Worship

Have you ever paused to listen — really listen — to the world around you? *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!”* (Psalm 98:4, ESV)

The hum of morning birdsong. The laughter of children. The comforting voice of a friend. Even the quiet moments of stillness. These aren’t just background noise — they’re invitations to worship.

God designed a world that sings. Worship isn’t limited to Sunday mornings or formal songs; it’s woven into the everyday moments that tune our hearts to Him. And when we pause to truly hear it, we are drawn into praise, right where we are.

What sound lifts your heart toward God today? Take a moment to listen. Let it remind you of His love and nearness.



## JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY	EPHRAIM	MOUNT OF OLIVES
BETHLEHEM	GALILEE	NAZARETH
BETHSAIDA	JERICHO	PEREA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI	JERUSALEM	SAMARIA
CANA	JORDAN RIVER	SIDON
CAPERNAUM	JUDEA	TYRE
DECAPOLIS	MAGDALA	WILDERNESS
EGYPT		

B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K



# More Than Just Sunday !

1. **Sunday Adult Bible** for the next 8-10 weeks will follow the Living Discipleship Worship themes for this time. We will continue to meet in the sanctuary, a study guide will be provided. Children Sunday School meets in their respective rooms in the south hallway! The Sunday School teachers stand at the ready to love, teach and instruct the

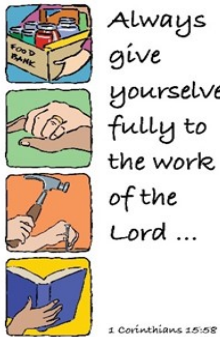


2. **The Wednesday Morning Bible Study-** We are studying 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Please come and be a part of the fellowship and learning. Invite a friend and fill your spirit! 9-10:30am .

3. **Men's Breakfast New Time!**– October 11 at 8am. We will continue in our Missionary Pathways Discovery Bible Studies. You can check out Missionary Pathways at <https://thekairosnetwork.thinkific.com>. This is a free disciple making training website that can be used in congregations and in our individual witness to others through Discovery Bible Study. If you would like to work on this together let Pastor Ralph know!



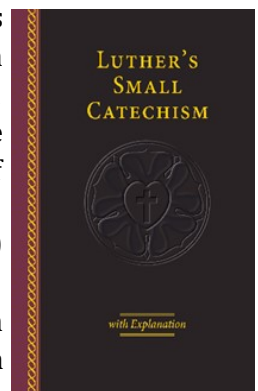
4. **August Stewardship Corner** – *“Stewardship is the joyous activity of the Christian in service to the Kingdom of God.”*



In Matthew 5, Jesus gives what we know as the Sermon on the Mount. As He speaks of the blessedness of those who believe and follow Him, He says this in verse 13, **“You are the salt of the earth... vs 14, You are the light of the world.”** Two really remarkable attributes Jesus says of us as His disciples. We bring weight to conversations after studying what God is like and what He desires for mankind. Our speech ought to be **“always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”** (Col. 4:6) There is a heavenly flavoring to our Christian words and conversations that ought lift up and affirm God’s goodness in our relationships. And Jesus in Matthew defines the **“light”** He says we are to shine before men when He says, **“so that they see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”** You might ask, “what does this have

to do with stewardship” Everything! All of life is a gift from God no matter the station or season of life we occupy, mankind has been given the gift of “dominion” over everything. We have been made **“partakers of the divine nature”** (2 Peter 11:4) as God does his work for, in and through us! This is stewarding at its finest! It is a gift that stewarded properly will provide constant supply for the needs at hand and beyond. Let us pray we use these gifts wisely!

5. **Catechism Corner:** As we open our Luther’s “Small Catechism”, we read these words, “as the head of the family should teach them in a simple way his household”. We have been through the 10 Commandments and now turn our attention to the articles of the Apostles Creed. The 3rd article simply says, “I believe in the “Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.” In this statement we understand that the Holy Spirit’s responsibility is to make Jesus known through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit uses the very Bible we have to do so. Afterall, He is the one who inspired all the writers that have contributed to this 1500-year endeavor! And with over 40 different authors, it is pretty amazing that the one sole purpose is to reveal to all mankind the saving knowledge of God’s love for all through His Son Jesus Christ! “I cannot by my own reason or strength” we confess of our inability to “believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him” as an understanding that we come into the world with a sin nature, blind to the ways of God. It is through the Gospel and the forgiveness of sins that the Holy Spirit removes the veil and we are regenerated (born again) to believe the Good News. The apostle Paul says in Romans 1: 16, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God for salvation”! As the Holy Spirit brings the Word of God through preaching, reading, hearing, etc., we are awakened to the truth of our need for a Savior. The weight of the Laws’ condemnation weighs heavy on those who heed the warning to repent and trust Jesus for the forgiveness He won for us! And so we praise the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity for this magnificent work of bringing redemption to us and to all within the sound of God’s Holy Word. Let us rejoice in this that we have been brought into the Family of our Lord Jesus just as it was intended by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel of Jesus Christ!





## Living Discipleship

"The Journey of Following Jesus!"

We have been in our Living Discipleship series for 4 weeks now in both worship and Sunday morning Adult Bible Study. We still have study guides if you like and would love to see you there. There are some new people you can meet along the way as well! It is still a perfect time for you to invite someone who may not know what Christians believe so they can 'sit and soak' in God's Word and find out how much God loves them, too! The class times will start at 9:15 and end at 10:15.



Or something like it! Greetings all! This year the Outreach will be doing something different for our harvest celebration, we will work with the school on their Friday, October 24th Harvest Party. Volunteers will be needed and more information will come soon. Put it on your calendar!

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.*