

ASCENSION NEWSLETTER

August
2026

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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"A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master." Matthew 10: 24-25a

Many of our Gospel lessons these past few weeks in Pentecost find the disciples being prepped to go out to the various cities of the 'lost sheep of Israel' proclaiming the Kingdom is near. Jesus gives them the power to heal, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy and drive out demons. ***'Freely you have received freely give,'*** (vs 8) Jesus says! Jesus had already been doing this as part of his ministry to show He was in fact the Christ of God, the Anointed One of God promised in Old Testament prophecies. Now He is training those who would remain after He ascends into heaven to continue the spread of the Good News of sins forgiven, and restoration and peace with God to all, especially to those who believe. Of course, they were with Jesus at least 3 years following Him and learning along the way the who, what when, and how of ministry to bring God's grace in its various forms to the nations of the world.

We see in the book of Acts the continuation of Jesus work in the apostles and disciples, men and women, who worked together towards the disciple making goals in the cities, towns and nations they lived in. This missional activity has resulted in many peoples of many nations coming to faith throughout the millennium and who continue to live faithfully as disciples of our Lord, even into the days we live. We are the believers who have benefitted from the Gospel work of those who have come before us. We in turn are here in this world as disciples of Christ, following Him in the same way and manner in which the previous generations have lived and responded to the saving message of Jesus and sins forgiven!

The Scriptures describe the disciples as those called by Jesus to follow Him, being fishers of men (e.g. calling others to repent, believe and follow Jesus), and other believers who by faith believed the message of those sent to preach the Good News. The close fellowship that is developed between the followers of Jesus propels the witness of God's merciful love to each other and to the community around them. It happens all in the same manner that has been a pattern of sound teaching/living throughout the Scriptures. We see even in the Old Testament how God's faithfulness to His people, when they believed rightly and strove to put into practice what they learned found the blessings of God bountiful in every way spiritually and physically. When the church in that day paid little or no attention to God's Word and promise, they strayed from the truth. He had delivered them from slavery, calling them His own people (Israel) and brought them to the land of promise. When they set aside those blessings, idolatry of every sort was their practice just as was practiced by the nations surrounding them.

Continued page 2 --->

Ascension Christian School Director -

Hello everyone!

What an exciting season this has been! Kenzie and I have finally finished cleaning and organizing the classrooms, and we're now adding the final little touches to make each space warm, welcoming, and ready for our students. We are so excited for the children to arrive and enjoy the classrooms we've lovingly prepared for them.

Some of you may not know that we've been blessed to rent one of our classrooms to the STEM program over the summer. This has been such a blessing for our school, and we are so thankful for God's provision.

We are also looking forward to our **Open House on Saturday, August 8th, at 10:00 a.m.** We can't wait to welcome our new and returning families and show them everything that's been happening.

More on page 2 --->



It's the same in the church of our day since Christ' resurrection, ascension and Pentecost. God poured out His spirit through the preached Word and sacraments so that those who belong to Him by faith in the message of Christ belong to His forever family. As His children then, we are called to follow him and given the desire and means to follow Him, our Master and Savior. Thus, the Scripture above that Jesus teaches them who follow Him: ***"A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master."***

The pattern Jesus lived and put forth remains as the pattern for every disciple of His. For the willing, the pattern is easy to see in Scripture, and most desirous as we remain in His Word. Jesus says, ***"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*** (Matthew 11: 28-30) In this way, Jesus shows us what it means to be a follower of His and the demeanor we are to display as His light bearers in the church and the community in which we live.

On our recent trip to see family in Oregon, my son-in-law and I went to the store to get some groceries. As we parked, I noticed a shopping cart in the middle of the lot (not in our way though). When I got out of the car, I retrieved it and put it in the cart rack. My son-in-law asked if that was my good deed for the day? I said no, it's something we do when we are in a parking lot and see something that may cause an accident and we want to remove that possibility for the good of others. It's not a big deal to do little things or big for the good of others, not just when they are inconvenient to us. Jesus didn't let the needs; even overwhelming needs of others stop Him from doing good to all He met. In fact, He ***"came to serve and not be served."*** He gave His life the scripture says. (Mark 10:45) It is from learning of Jesus, as His first disciples did, by which we grow into the saved servants He calls us to be. In gentle humility we find rest for our souls as the forgiven, serving children of God we are called and created in Christ to be. ***"It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his Master."*** Can we be anything else?

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

Pastor Ralph

ACS Director! (Continued from page 1)

It's hard to believe that summer is already coming to an end and that a new school year is just around the corner!

We are incredibly grateful for how God continues to provide. Enrollment is still growing—praise God!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated plants to help beautify our campus. Your generosity has made such a difference.

Please continue to keep our school, our staff, and our families in your prayers as we prepare for another wonderful year of sharing God's love through Christian education. We are looking forward to all that God has in store!

Kindest Regards,
Samantha Chauvet

Officers

John Peterson, President

Richard Tellman, Vice-President

Alex Norton, Treasurer

Recording Secretary , open

Open, 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

Tom Wilkens

August Worship Themes

August 2 – Bread For Everyone!

August 9 – A Christians Confession

August 16 – God's Desire is to Show Mercy

August 23 – The Church is Built and Filled

Thank you Ascension, your giving to the school in July was \$655.00!



Anniversaries	
Ralph and Sarah Hough	August 3
David AND Debbie Ellis	August 26
John and Lydia Peterson	August 31
Birthdays	
Tim Lutz	August 5
Joyce Gleaves	August 8
Sally Norton	August 11
Holy Timmons	August 12
Marian Bencke	August 13
Faith Aubrey	August 20
MerriAnne Magdech	August 25
Elexia Timmons	August 29
Alana Hill	August 31



Want to help with property improvements, yard care? Give Gary Rapp a call. He'll set you up! 661.202.2441

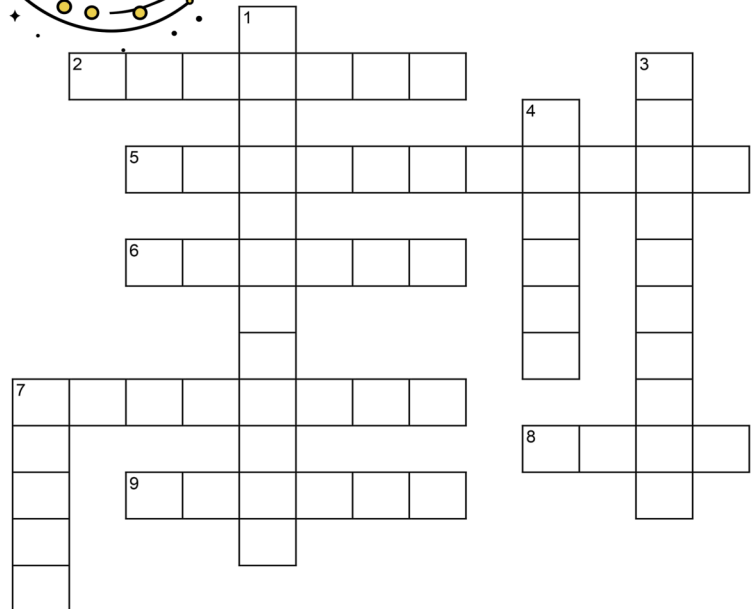


Puzzle!



BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who hunger and _____, for they will be filled.

DOWN

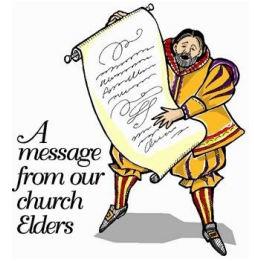
1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.

Answer key: 2 Across: Rejoice, 5 Across: pureinheart, 6 Across: hunger
7 Across: merciful, 8 Across: meek, 9 Across: thirst, 1 Down: poorin spirit
3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: reward, 7 Down: mourn

After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: "Do you love me?" The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple? See John 21:17

- James
- John
- Philip
- (Simon) Peter

Liturgy in the Life of Missouri Synod Lutherans



What do the parts of the liturgy mean? This is a frequently asked question; maybe you have asked that question yourself. The following descriptions of worship and the parts of liturgy were first published in an article by the former Commission on Worship for the Reporter Insert entitled "Taking a Tour of Heaven."

Worship is like no place else in this world. But there is one place that it does resemble, and that is heaven

The story is told of how Christianity was introduced to Russia. More than 1,000 years ago Grand Duke Vladimir of Kiev was interested in selecting an appropriate religion for his new nation. His emissaries investigated the main religions of the day, including Roman Catholicism and Islam. But it was only after visiting the chief site of the Orthodox Church in Constantinople that they found what they were looking for. In their report to their duke, the emissaries noted that in Orthodox worship there was such solemn splendor that they had a hard time knowing whether they were in heaven or on earth.

Worship is like that: one foot in heaven with the other here on earth. What brings heaven into our earthly worship is not dependent on the elaborateness of the service or the sincerity of our devotion. Rather, it is because of the One who is present in our worship that we experience heaven on earth.

If worship is "heaven on earth," then it stands to reason that what we do and say in worship should in some sense give us a foretaste of that great feast to come. In the following tour of the Divine Service we will see how the ancient texts of the liturgy give us that glimpse of heaven and, more importantly, how they deliver to us, here and now, the eternal benefits of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Did you Know? Service Opportunities in our LCMS Church Body

Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT)

LCMS Disaster Response offers training and opportunities for service, ranging from a **few hours to multiple days** at a time. This service is open to **LCMS members (14 and over)** who are interested in serving their neighbors in a variety of ways after and between disasters.

Mercy Medical Teams

Medical professionals, medical program students, pastors and laypeople can serve abroad in clinical and health-education settings by joining a Mercy Medical team. During the **1-2 week trip**, they work alongside LCMS missionaries, members of local Lutheran church and local medical professionals to address the needs of both body and soul.

Life Ministry

LCMS Life Ministry, in partnership with local congregations, offers pro-life events and service opportunities to **LCMS members** in different locations **around the U.S.**



Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.

Sunday and More !

1. **Sunday Adult Bible** focuses on the current worship lessons. 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 younger folks! Contact Jean Canupp for more info!
2. **The Wednesday Morning Bible Study**- We are starting a new study in **2 Corinthians**. Study Guides are available. Please join us. It is never too late to jump in! We meet at 9:00 am in the Narthex.
3. **Men's Breakfast New Time!** – August 8 at 8am. We will continue in our Missionary Pathways Discovery Bible Studies.
4. **June Stewardship Corner** –

*"Stewardship is the joyous activity of the Christian
in service to the Kingdom of God."*



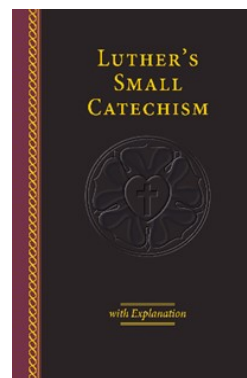
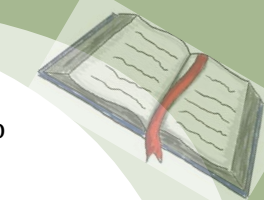
“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more we you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10: 25

The Bible reminds us that time is short. At any moment we could expect Jesus to return. And so, the writer of Hebrews prompts us to not ignore what's of first importance: our **meeting together**. You might be thinking, "this instruction is not about money, how does this relate to stewardship?" We can make a good case that the regular meeting or

gathering together is a means by which God grows our relationships in Chris: through the stewardship of our time. We can see as an example by where and who we allocate our time with we are saying this is important and valuable to me! Certainly, the time we spend in reading our Bibles and studying Scripture serves to produce in our lives what is pleasing to God. We can surmise from this that Christians spending time together is a priority that ought not be neglected so that personal and relational opportunities not decline in fruitful endeavors. Where and how we spend our time together does matter in Christian formation. We find example after example of how important to the Kingdom of God time together is... especially time outside of an hour or so on Sunday. In fact, an outgrowth of Sunday worship ought to produce in each of us the desire to spend more time with those whom we'll share life and service in this world as we look forward to eternity together! Meetings, work around the church or service projects for others are opportunities to grow in our love for one another and kingdom activity that shows forth God's activity in our lives. You can read of this in Acts 2: 42-47 as an example of God's Gospel work in the lives of His people. Let us look forward to 'stewarding' our time together, for indeed the Day is soon in coming!

5. 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, the articles of the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer and now Baptism! The command (Acts 2: 38) to repent and be Baptized is not lost on the Christian for it signifies our entrance by God's gracious hand to enter His kingdom through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. The nature of Baptism is not just water poured, splashed or by emersion, but the water connected with God's Word is what offers the forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit to the baptized! You can say that God pours out forgiveness and the Holy Spirit upon the person receiving this soul cleansing water. Each of us need forgiveness because we are born into this world separated by God from our sin, and being dead in trespasses and sin (Ephesians 2) we need to be 'made alive' to God... we need regeneration to be born again! God uses Baptism as a means by which His grace is imparted to us! As God works this act of salvation He imputes His righteousness to us so we stand by faith in the justification Jesus won for us on Calvary for our sin. That is why it is good to recall your Baptism, whether as an infant, child or adult, recognizing it is God who reaches down to save us for we could in no way, shape or form save ourselves. It is His gift of eternal life that has been given to us so that together we can rejoice in His undeserved favor and blessings in our time here on earth as we await His return. Take comfort knowing that God is always with you to lead and guide you in the way of His eternal Word!



Fellowship and Movie Night!

Thanks to all who came and shared fellowship time [^]while we watched The Shack. God's forgiving love is often difficult for man to receive, and yet as the movie showed, His grace wins out and brings restoration and peace to those who believe. And a big thanks to Marian Bencke who put this together for us!



House-Keeping Notes

As we give thanks to God for all His blessings, one of those blessings are the rooms/buildings we occupy! If you use any part of the facility, please leave it as clean or cleaner than you found it.. Turn off all lights. Lock all outside doors when done . Also, if you need to turn A/C down while you are here, please return A/C thermostat to 74 degrees. 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.*