



## Ascension Lutheran Church

# ANNOUNCER

“...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:20). These words are regularly on my mind as one ordained by Jesus to teach. And these words are regularly on my mind not only regarding you, but also regarding those I meet outside of our congregation. There has been no shortage of Christian discussion since I arrived in Nashville. Whether it’s on the porch, at the playground, at a restaurant... people are willing to talk about Jesus. That’s just how it is at this time in the buckle of the Bible belt. This willingness isn’t foreign to me—it’s quite similar to the willingness I found while living in Jacksonville, FL, which also lies in the Bible belt. But I’m a little keener to the diversity of teachings and how it affects life than I was before arriving in Nashville. And when I hear a false belief, Jesus’ words from the Galilean mountain come to mind, for the opportunity has presented itself to teach the truth Jesus commanded. A false belief is to be corrected. Jesus’ words allow no other option. “All” He commanded is to be observed, which means everything is to be rightly believed in faith, for a wrong belief can have serious consequences. For example, if I hear Jesus’ words that “in the resurrection [we] neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven” (Mt 22:30), yet I’m adamant that Amanda and me will remain married in the age to come, what other words of Jesus am I blatantly willing to not observe? Disbelieving Jesus in one regard opens the door to disbelieve Him in every regard as it suits my own imagination. As Paul writes to the Galatians, “A little leaven leavens the whole lump” (Gal 5:9). When we hear Jesus’ words to observe “all” that He has commanded, we’re compelled to say with Martin Luther, “we will not permit His Word to suffer injury in any doctrine. In the doctrines of the faith nothing should seem small or insignificant to us, as though we should or could surrender it” (AE 27:108-9).

The nature of truth is to condemn its opposite. It must be this way, or else there is no such thing as truth. If I say, “A is true,” then “not A” is “not true.” Or, from my previous example, if the truth is we are not married in the age to come, then the idea that we are married

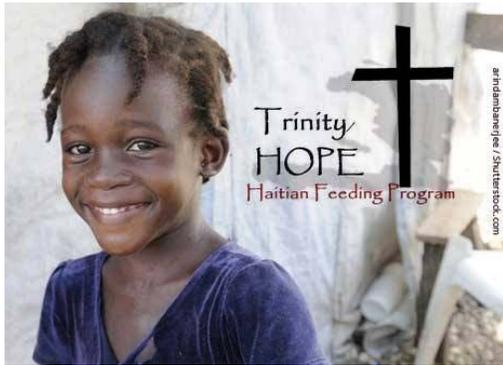
in the age to come is not true. Both ideas cannot stand. The truth must persist. And this is why we hold to a confession of faith (i.e., the ancient creeds and the rest of the Book of Concord) and practice closed communion. The truth of Jesus and His communion with us cannot be compromised. Now, this is not to say we don't cooperate with others who believe differently than us. There can and should be joint efforts to love our neighbors where common goals are found. But where the teaching of Jesus is at stake, a division must occur so that the truth persists. This is nowhere more necessary than in communal worship with Him and each other. I trivialize Jesus' words and show no concern for the spiritual wellbeing of others when I compromise closed communion, because I've established that what Jesus commanded and what is believed is of little or no consequence. And like our Christian discussions on the porch, at the playground, at a restaurant... closed communion is presented in love and care. But leaving the truth or even leaving the truth ambiguous "for the sake of love and unity" is a farce, because love "rejoices with the truth" (1 Cor 13:6), and truth cannot find unity with what is false. There is no such thing as "agreeing to disagree" when it comes to Jesus, for He Himself has said "to observe all that I have commanded you." There is no higher unity than to agree on the truth of Jesus' words, which is why we deem ourselves a "confessional" church as drawn from Scripture.

I love being part of the confessional church. I love knowing that there are heavenly truths we're not willing to compromise for the sake of worldly peace. I love knowing we can present the truth and not feel guilty for correcting a false belief, whether it's on the porch, at the playground, or at a restaurant. I love administering closed communion, because it means that what Jesus commanded and what each person believes matters. Jesus is truth (Jn 14:6). He has given us truth because He has given us Himself. We are blessed to not be adrift in a sea of falsehood. We are blessed to be united in the truth of Jesus.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Greg*



"Hey, Dad, was Jonah a midget?"



## Reflecting On My Daily Bread

What did I eat this morning? A bowl of graham crackers with milk, orange juice, a banana, and my vitamins. Oh, and coffee. What will I eat for lunch? Perhaps leftovers from last night warmed up in a microwave, together with some more milk. What will I eat for supper tonight? It's Friday - maybe we'll eat out at a restaurant or order carry-out. Maybe even go to a movie and snack on a big tub of popcorn. How blessed I am to have electricity and functioning appliances to take care of preparing the food and storing what I don't eat, to have running water in numerous places in my home to wash up dishes and my hands, as well as sanitarily take care of business after all the eating and drinking of that good food.

Hmm...if I were a child in Haiti waking up this morning going to school, I may or may not have running water in the house. My parents may or may not have a refrigerator, and if we did, the electricity may or may not be reliable. I may or may not have eaten breakfast - and if I didn't, it wouldn't be because I was in such a hurry to get out to the bus or walk a distance to school, but because we didn't have anything to eat in the house, or enough to go around to fill us all up. When I come home from school, I probably wouldn't be able to have a snack to tide me over until suppertime. And if I were a student at a Lutheran school with a Trinity/HOPE feeding program, I wouldn't be able to wait to get to school to have a full, hot meal of beans and rice with some sauce, maybe a little fish. And, I could wash my hands beforehand with some running water - either from a pump at the school or by water poured over my hands from a bucket filled from a pump or clean water source nearby that would be carried to the school by the cooks. And, what's best of all, I would be hearing about Jesus all day long at my Lutheran school and how much He loves me, my family, my country of Haiti, and the whole world! I would be able to go home and tell my family the Good News of Jesus, the Bread of Life, who fills all who hunger and thirst for righteousness with His love and life to the full, plus gave me a filling, nutritious lunch at school in the midst of my studies.

Hmm... how many times will I open the fridge and close it looking for something to eat - and close it without taking anything out and then rummage through the pantry of canned and dried goods - and not say thanks to Jesus for all my blessings each time I open the fridge or the pantry! What it costs in Haiti per school meal is about 25 cents. In my pocket, each quarter is a blessing - but I can also pass its blessings on exponentially through Trinity/HOPE to my fellow children of God in Haiti, and still not go hungry here while I help feed a body and a soul in Haiti!

by Rev. John Gierke  
Peace Lutheran, Conway, Arkansas



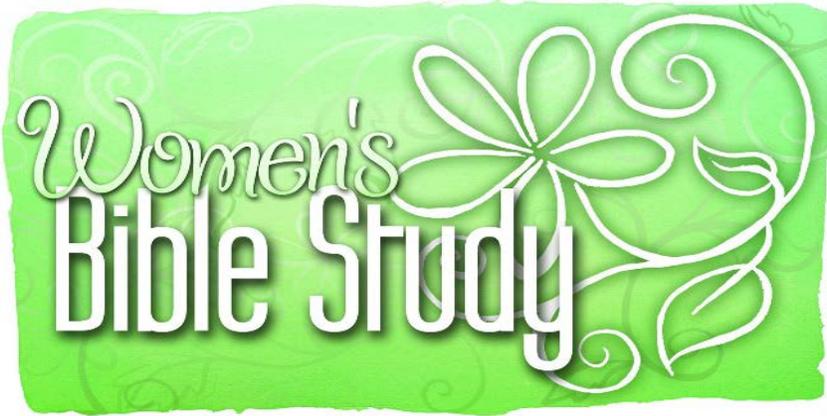
All ladies of Ascension are invited to  
attend the June LWML Meeting:

Date: Sat., June 10

Time: 10-2

Golfers – Save the Date! Plan to participate in the Lutheran Services in Tennessee Golf Fore Hope event on Monday, October 9 at Hiway at Arrington. For sponsorship and pre-registration info, contact Nick at [NDHAFNER@gmail.com](mailto:NDHAFNER@gmail.com).





**2017 Summer Study Schedule**

*Golden Fruit: Nine Lessons about the Fruit of the Spirit*

by Julie Hale Maschhoff

**TUESDAYS, 6:30pm – 8:00pm**

**9 Sessions**

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*Fellowship activity*

**A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES**

**June 23, 2017**

**Fellowship starting at 7:00 p.m. with**

**Family friendly movie to follow**

**in the Fellowship Hall.**

Bring a Snack. Drinks and popcorn will be provided.

# Serving Ascension in June

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
<b>Lector</b>	Tim Hanusa	Trisha Lalumondier	Judie Mader	Cherri Walker
<b>Greeters</b>	Cecil & Carolyne Willis	Cherri Walker	Dave & Liz Brown	Fred & Grace Lehmann
<b>Acolyte</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Elder</b>	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa
<b>Ushers</b>	Cecil Willis & Dennis Fritz			
<b>Cantor</b>	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Cindy Dougherty & Joan Johnson			

*If you're unable to serve, please find a replacement.*



June 4: Rachel Oehlkers  
 June 11: Kathy Meyers  
 June 18: Sandy Bradley  
 June 25: Cherri Walker

## The Organist

June 4: Minae Hayashi  
 June 11: Cindy Dougherty  
 June 18: Minae Hayashi  
 June 25: Cindy Dougherty



## Birthdays

June 4: Dave Brown  
June 6: Derek Wiebbecke  
June 6: Mary Wright  
June 9: Debbie Kendall  
June 13: Jocelyn Sutton  
June 16: Ashley Smith  
June 22: Lily Bergeron  
June 22: Cherri Walker  
June 23: Dawn Craik  
June 24: Athena Graham  
June 28: Hattie Pickel  
June 29: Joan Johnson



## ANNIVERSARIES

June 14: John & Frances Boggs  
June 15: Paul & Sandra Ohme  
June 16: Yuji & Minae Hayashi  
June 22: Steve & Laurie Boggs  
June 25: Mark & Trisha LaLumondier



## Baptismal Birthdays

June 4: Holly Etter  
June 4: Randy Summers  
June 5: Brittaney Summers  
June 10: Angel Foster  
June 10: Jane Gullett  
June 13: Diane Kelly  
June 18: Corryn Schreiber  
June 22: Sandra Riis  
June 24: Dawn Craik  
June 29: Ben Conner



*If a celebration is incorrect or missing, please call (615-868-2346) or email (office@ascensionmadison.com) the church office so our records can be updated. Thanks!*

# Church Calendar

June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ Lord's Supper	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30 Women's Bible study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 LWML
<b>11</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:30 Women's Bible study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>16</b> Church premises closed for parking lot sealing	<b>17</b> Church premises closed for parking lot sealing
<b>18</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ Lord's Supper	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30 Women's Bible study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>23</b> 7:00 Fellowship movie night	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30 Retired Romeo Breakfast 6:30 Women's Bible study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00 St. Paul Lutheran Church (Westlake, OH) youth group overnight	



The mission of Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church is to connect people to the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—so that they may come to know and believe they are saved for eternal life by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Rev. Greg Bauch, Pastor  
610 W Old Hickory Blvd, Madison TN 37115

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Office email: [office@ascensionmadison.com](mailto:office@ascensionmadison.com)  
Pastor Greg: (904) 553-7066  
Pastor's email: [pastorgregbauch@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgregbauch@gmail.com)  
website: [www.ascensionmadison.com](http://www.ascensionmadison.com)

**Sunday School & Bible Study at 9:00am**  
**Coffee Half-hour at 10:00am**  
**Worship at 10:30am**

*Please email newsletter submissions to [office@ascensionmadison.com](mailto:office@ascensionmadison.com) one week before the 1st of the month.*

*Please email all weekly bulletin announcements for the upcoming Sunday to [office@ascensionmadison.com](mailto:office@ascensionmadison.com) by Wednesday.*