



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a wonderful time of the church year! Having celebrated Reformation Day by hearing how Christ has set us free (Jn 8:36), we move to All Saints' Day and remember those who Christ has set free, and then we launch into Advent and Christ's birth. But I don't want to move on too quickly from Reformation Day; or at least, I don't want to move on too quickly from our Reformation Day celebration here at Ascension. Sunday, October 29, began in the most marvelous way possible: hearing Christ's word of absolution and receiving His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Thereafter, we came together with fellow believers to sing praise to God and confess our faith through exquisite word and melody in the beauty of Minae's musicianship. Over 130 people from churches across Nashville (and beyond) descended upon Ascension to sing side-by-side, and I thank God for such a great attendance. It is truly His wonderful work that unites us through His Son unto eternal life!

As you may know, the organ currently in use is on loan from a dealer as we campaign to raise the funds needed to purchase this organ. All three of our organists have given their stamp of approval on the instrument, which has the potential of sounding far better with a professionally calibrated sound system. The organist and organ are not peripheral in our worship tradition; in fact, it is correctly said that the pastor *and* organist lead the congregation in worship. To this point, I recount my recent conversation with a very accomplished organist who played primarily in Baptist churches. He noted, "I've substituted in Lutheran churches, and it's not easy... you people sing and demand organ accompaniment every chance you can get!" Many churches use an organ (or other instrumentation) only for hymnody, but we incorporate it in all parts of the liturgy with good reason: so that God's word might be etched upon our hearts. I can't tell you how many visitations I've made where the person I was visiting seamlessly sang with me the Sanctus, the Agnus Dei, and the Nunc Dimittis!

God's word is put to music in our liturgy because music has that unique ability to stir our hearts to recollection. Martin Luther writes, "next to the Word of God, music deserves the

highest praise. ...Therefore, we have so many hymns and Psalms where message and music join to move the listener's soul, while in other living beings and bodies music remains a language without words. After all, the gift of language combined with the gift of song was only given to man to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music, namely, by proclaiming through music and by providing sweet melodies with words" (AE 53:323-24). In other words, birds were given the gift of music but not language, whereas God gave man the greater blessing of both music *and* language in order to sing His saving word. In clear allusions to 1 Sam 16:23 and Col 3:16, Luther goes on to write, "the devil, the creator of saddening cares and disquieting worries, takes flight at the sound of music almost as he takes flight at the word of theology. This is the reason why the prophets did not make use of any art except music; when setting forth their theology they did it not as geometry, not as arithmetic, not as astronomy, but as music, so that they held theology and music most tightly connected, and proclaimed the truth through Psalms and songs" (AE 49:427). I take great comfort knowing that the old evil foe flees when we break into song at Ascension; we should belt out every hymn with such confidence in the power of God's word!

All of this is to say that our organ is dear to us in worshiping Christ. I think this truth came across mightily at the Reformation Hymn Sing, and I pray it is known every week. I also think it is why you authorized me to proceed with a campaign to raise the additional funds needed to purchase the organ—you already know the importance of our organists and organ! And so, I urge you to look at our organ fund campaign poster outside the sanctuary and consider making a contribution to our music here at Ascension. My family has taken one of the 88 keys from the poster because we believe music has a special and even necessary place in worship, not just for ourselves, but for all who pass through our doors. When we exalt music, we simply follow in the footsteps of our Lord and His apostles, for "when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives" (Mt 26:30).

In His holy name,
Pastor Greg



"God gave me this tooth, and you'll have to get His permission to take it out."

FIFTH ANNUAL NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Every Thanksgiving the Christian Cooperative Ministry (CCM) gives—in addition to a regular food box—a box with food for a Thanksgiving dinner. For the fifth year in a row, as a Fellowship and Outreach opportunity, Ascension will collect, box, and deliver Thanksgiving boxes to CCM. We are collecting Thanksgiving non-perishable food items.

Starting immediately, we are collecting Thanksgiving non-perishable food items.

(see the below as some of the items have changed)

On **Friday, November 10, 2017** at 6:00 p.m. we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for dinner. After our meal we will box the food so they are ready to distribute while watching a Miracle on 34th Street.

LET'S BE A MIRACLE!

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOX NEEDS (PLEASE NOTE THE ITEM CHANGES)

Boxes to hold the food (no liquor store boxes): Cans of Pineapple, Cans of Green Beans, Cans of Corn, Cans of Sweet Potatoes, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese, Cake mix & Icing, Cornmeal/Cornbread Mix (like Jiffy), Box Stuffing, Small bottle of Oil, Cans of Chicken Broth, Instant pudding & Jello, Small canned ham, Small bag of Flour, and Small bag of Sugar.

Any questions please contact Susan Hanley at susan@walwynlaw.com or 500-3259.



Operation Christmas Child

Come join us on **November 10, 2017** at **6:00 PM** to pack shoeboxes as Christmas gifts for children around the world.

Please bring in items to fill the boxes with to church over the next month or on the day of the event. Items that you can include are one “wow” item, personal care items, school supplies, clothing and accessories, crafts and activities, and toys. We want to fill the shoeboxes up! Visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child> for information on Operation Christmas Child and for ideas on what to put in the boxes. Boxes have already been provided.

Please note, boxes will be packed for a boy or girl, and split into age groups of 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14.

Contact Pam Oehlkers at jeffoehlkers@att.net with any questions.

Serving Ascension in November

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Lector	Jennifer Meyers	Linda Fritz	Liz Brown	Joan Johnson
Greeters	Cecil & Carolyne Willis	Cherri Walker	Dave & Liz Brown	Fred & Grace Lehmann
Acolyte	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Elder	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz
Ushers	Phil Weinert & Robert Conner			
Cantor	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa
Altar Guild	Susan Hanley & Trisha LaLumondier			

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



November 5: Ora Mae Golter
 November 12: Amy Conner
 November 19: Susan Hanley
 November 26: Thanksgiving

The Organist

November 5: Minae Hayashi
 November 12: Cindy Dougherty
 November 19: Minae Hayashi
 November 26: Cindy Dougherty



Birthdays

November 1: Al Montes
November 4: Paul Ohme
November 9: Lily Graham
November 21: Kate Conner
November 21: Nell Jensen
November 23: Gideon Bauch
November 30: Kiari Houston



ANNIVERSARIES

None



Baptismal Birthdays

November 2: Gordon Bradley
November 6: Derek Wiebbecke
November 10: Wendy Golter
November 18: Toby Conner
November 19: Dan Newton
November 26: Katelyn Gupton
November 26: Nathan Gupton
November 29: Elise McMahan
November 30: Deliah Gerson



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!



All ladies of Ascension are invited to attend the July LWML Meeting: Saturday, November 11, 10am-2pm



My family and I wish to thank the members of Ascension for the outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. The cards, hugs, calls, and wonderful luncheon leave us feeling VERY blessed!

Thank you again. Jennifer Meyers and family.

Reflections on the Hymn Sing

by Amanda Bauch

“A new song now shall be begun, God help us tell the story...”

—Martin Luther, 1523

On Sunday, October 29, 2017, our congregation was blessed to host a hymn sing and dinner to commemorate the Reformation’s 500th anniversary. We were joined by our brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches, especially our LCMS brethren. It was an extraordinary opportunity to fellowship together, and to learn more about the historical context of some of the church’s most beloved hymns.

As many of you know, I wasn’t raised in the church, and I’ve only been a confirmed LCMS member for a little over a decade. In worship settings, most of my exposure was to contemporary Christian music. And I’ll be the first to admit that I was more partial to such music until recent years, feeling that the older hymns were too stuffy, plodding—and often difficult to sing. However, much as the liturgy has grown on me and become ingrained in my memory and heart, so too has the treasury of songs we have in our hymnal.

At such a celebratory event, I expected it to be, well, celebratory. But as Minae began her beautifully improvised prelude to the opening hymn, “A New Song Now Shall Be Begun,” I found myself tearing up. This hymn, believed to be the first one Luther wrote, relates the story of the Reformation’s first martyrs. My heart overflowed with gratitude for those who gave their lives, over the course of half a millennium, so I could sit there in a pew and worship and make a joyful noise to the Lord.

We can’t underestimate the importance of music, particularly singing, as part of worship. In the Bible’s first recorded hymn, the Song of Moses, the Israelites sing about the Lord’s victory over the Egyptians, and of His greatness. Miriam and the other women took up timbrels, dancing and singing the song anew, echoing the words of the Lord’s triumph (Ex 15:1-21). Not coincidentally, John witnesses the heavenly host singing a similar song of the Lord’s victory in Revelation 15:2-4. From beginning to end, song has and will continue to give God’s people an opportunity to honor and glorify Him.

The service continued, and we were taken on a journey, learning about the reformers’ efforts to empower the people to engage in worship, to give them back what was rightfully theirs—the story of their salvation, so mercifully granted through Christ’s blood, and no merit of their own.

Indeed, a new song did begin five hundred years ago. And as the reformers began composing hymnody, they helped to tell the story of the Reformation—of what the Lord was doing to restore the gospel of grace to His people. May we never take this heritage for granted!

Pastor Bauch and members of Ascension,
Thank you so much for the beautiful Hymn Sing event. It was a delightful privilege to sing the eternal Gospel and the true faith with fellow saints who stand on 500 years of Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, and Solus Christus.

Soli Deo Gloria.
Pastor Philip Young, Redeemer Lutheran Church

Many thanks to Ascension for hosting the Reformation Day hymn-sing! It was great to observe the occasion with so many like-minded Christians in the same place, and to be introduced to some of the lost treasures of our hymnody. Maybe we can do something like this again, before the 600th anniversary.

Pastor Eric Phillips, Concordia Lutheran Church

Church Calendar

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	3	4
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ Lord's Supper	6	7	8	9 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	10 6:00 CCM and Operation Xmas Child dinner and boxing	11 10:00 LWML
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship (Commitment Sunday)	13	14	15	16 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 12:00 Voter's Meeting (budget)	20	21	22	23 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	27	28	29	30 8:30 Retired Romeo Breakfast 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous		



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
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Pastor's email: pastorgregbauch@gmail.com
website: 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 one week before the 1st of the month.

Please email all weekly bulletin announcements for the upcoming Sunday to office@ascensionmadison.com by Wednesday.