



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach Good Friday and the festival of Easter, I'm compelled to write of what Christ has done for us in His death and resurrection. Death cannot be avoided. It is unavoidable. Humanists will continue to search for a way to delay or end the inevitable, but it will remain inevitable. All are subject to death yet all will be raised, "a resurrection of both the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15), many going "away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Mt 25:46; cf. Dan 12:2). The righteous attain eternal life not of themselves, but of Christ, who has died and risen to give this eternal life. Those consigned to everlasting punishment deny righteousness from Christ, contending they have done enough good to earn reward. If only they would heed the truth that "there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins" (Ecc 7:20), they might be open to receiving the gospel. Works fail, Christ does not.

Which brings me to an interview with the late Reverend Billy Graham, perhaps the most well-known Christian of the 20th century. This interview took place in 1992, over 25 years ago, and touched on the subject of death and eternal life. Graham remarks, "We're all facing death, and we all better get worried about it, and be sure we're right with God so we're ready for that day of judgment that's going to come. ...I want to hear one person say something nice about me and that's the Lord. When I face him, I want him to say to me, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant'; but I'm not sure I'm going to hear it, but that's what I would like to hear" (<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/billy-graham-words-facing-death-lord-53260604>). It's an amazing interview, tragic due to those last few words, where the great American evangelist doubts the Lord's welcoming grace and fears rebuke for failing. It's a statement informed by works, not faith. Martin Luther says, "The righteous, however, because it is certain that we are baptized in the blood of Christ and have been received by the Father in grace because of Christ in whom we believe, are here utterly saints and righteous... faith can be infirm, but not uncertain or doubtful, which is totally different" (*Antinomian Disputations* V.29). Faith does

not doubt, even though in faith one knows oneself to be an abject sinner. If you wonder whether you will be received into eternal life, then you are considering whether you have done enough good, which is to step away from Christ and what He has done for you. As the Lord's brother writes, "let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind" (Jas 1:6).

This is not to judge the final destiny of Billy Graham. It's not my place to do so. It's simply to give an example of words that show doubt (at a time) in God's grace. There certainly is a judgment to come, and "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Cor 5:10). But the judgment on the Last Day is not a reckoning of every good and evil act done in the body—it is a judgment in light of faith in what Christ has done. The parable Graham cites (Mt 25:14-30) is followed by Jesus' picture of final judgment: the sheep and the goats (Mt 25:31-46). In it, the evil acts of the sheep are overlooked and their good works are publicized, while the evil acts of the goats are publicized and their good works are overlooked. In faith, the evil acts of the sheep are covered on account of Christ (1 Pet 2:24) and their good works found acceptable on account of Christ (1 Pet 2:5). In lack of faith, the evil acts of the goats are uncovered and their good works found unacceptable. We of faith have no fear of judgment day, for we are judged by the gospel that says Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Rom 4:25). The Lord will not greet you with condemnation through works, but with salvation through faith. Of this you can be certain!

In His name,
Pastor Greg



"We were wondering how grownups prayed? Could we listen?"



All ladies of Ascension are invited to attend the March LWML Meeting: Saturday, March 10, 10:00am-noon (lunch to follow). The Bible study this month is titled, "Paradoxical Promises."

FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY MOVIE NIGHT



Sunday, March 4, 2018

Movie starting at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

SNACKS PROVIDED: SKITTLES and CHEX MIX.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY



As you know we were able to help Christian Cooperative Ministry (CCM) with boxes of food for Thanksgiving. For Easter, CCM gives Easter baskets to any child when their family comes to pick up their food box. Last year we were able to assemble 40+ Easter baskets!

As a Fellowship and Outreach Opportunity, Ascension is going to collect, assemble, and deliver Easter baskets to CCM children.

Starting immediately, we are collecting Easter basket materials.

On **Sunday, March 18, 2018** at 2:00 p.m. we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to put the baskets together with light snacks to keep us hopping with energy! Easter basket needs:

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- Sealed eggs with candy in them
 - Individually wrapped candies
 - Chocolate Bunny/Cross
 - Easter toys
 - Easter Booklets
 - Easter stampers
 - Easter Basket plastic wrapper

Examples of what is going into the baskets are in the Narthex. Please place any donations at this table as well.

Missions & Ministry

Organizations and people we support:

 <p>http://rescue1global.org/</p>
 <p>https://www.trinityhope.org/</p>
 <p>http://helpmadison.org/</p>
 <p>https://nashvillerescuemission.org/</p>
 <p>https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/</p>
 <p>International Health Partners http://ihptz.org/</p>
 <p>Seminarian Corey Shaffer and family https://www.csl.edu/</p>
 <p>Missionary photographer: Johanna Heidorn https://www.lcms.org/heidorn</p>
 <p>Missionaries in Germany: Carl and Karen Cecil https://www.lcms.org/cecil</p>



LIBRARY NEWS

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” –2 Tim 3:16-17.

There is no substitute for the Bible. It is alive and active. God speaks to us through its pages with eternal truths. God wants us to grow spiritually, our pastor hopes to see us growing spiritually. The Bible tells us to make disciples and teach others. Communicate our faith and explain why we follow Jesus and the example He gives us. Share in each other’s joys and sorrows. Reach out to strangers. The Ascension Library is an arm of ministry that can also help you in your spiritual growth with the resources offered there. The library contains materials that can help us grow. Reference books that bring clarity to some historical fact or theological topic we have wondered about. Books that explain what we believe from Scripture, and also books holding the opposing views, to help us understand what the “other side” thinks, and how to give a good response (evolution, for example). Books that may help you through a difficulty like grief, divorce, or family conflict. Books that enrich family life about raising godly children, managing money, and family devotionals. Christian fiction that immerses us in a good story, and gives examples of how the character got through something that might hold an answer for ourselves. The season of Lent is now here. Many Christians ‘give up’ something to help them focus on Jesus and his suffering. Perhaps this Lenten season you might consider giving up some of the time you spend on an electronic device or watching television, and select a book from our library that will further your spiritual growth.

Serving Ascension in March

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Lector	Trisha LaLumondier	Cherri Walker	Dennis Anderson	Pastor Greg
Acolyte	Ben Conner	TBD	Ben Conner	Ben Conner
Elder	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa
Ushers	Nathaniel Oehlkers & Phil Weinert	Nathaniel Oehlkers & Phil Weinert	Nathaniel Oehlkers & Phil Weinert	Nathaniel Oehlkers & Phil Weinert
Cantor	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A
Altar Guild	Joan Johnson & Grace Lehmann & Kate Conner	Joan Johnson & Grace Lehmann	Joan Johnson & Grace Lehmann & Kaytlyn Deland	Joan Johnson & Grace Lehmann

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



Coffee Half-hour

March 4: Ora Mae Golter

March 11: Sandy Bradley

March 18: Susan Hanley

March 25: Trisha LaLumondier

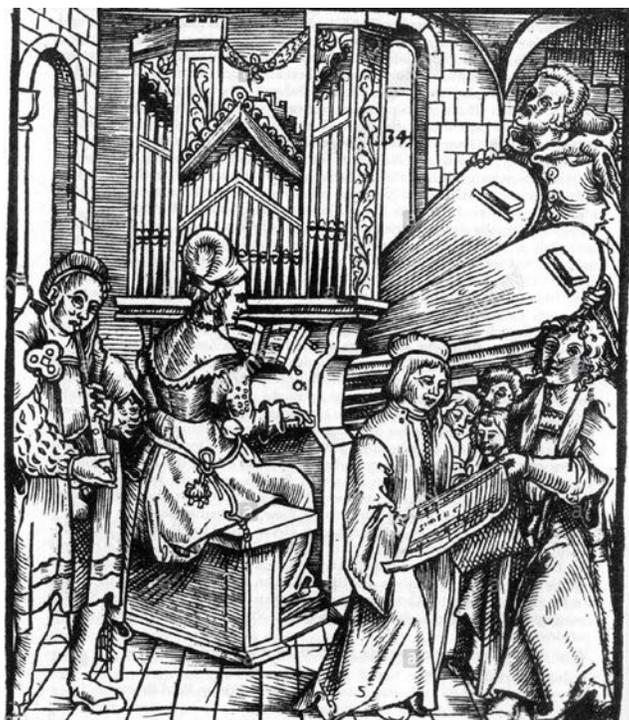
The Organist

March 4: Minae Hayashi

March 11: Cindy Dougherty

March 18: Minae Hayashi

March 25: Cindy Dougherty



Birthdays

March 3: Hekmat Elradi
March 4: Tiffany Dougherty
March 5: Fred Lehmann
March 6: Bill Speitel
March 7: Susan Hanley
March 8: Cindy Dougherty
March 10: Trisha LaLumondier
March 10: Dana Summers
March 14: Grace Lehmann
March 17: Jeff Oehlkers
March 25: Sara Blittle
March 28: Gesma Murrn
March 30: Nathaniel Oehlkers



ANNIVERSARIES

March 6: Pat & Deb Hackett



Baptismal Birthdays

March 10: Diane Gupton
March 10: Fred Lehmann
March 19: Alice Blittle
March 19: Henry Blittle
March 19: John Boggs
March 27: Grace Lehmann



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!



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Attention Thrivent members: For those of you with Choice Dollars, the deadline for using your 2017 Choice Dollars is March 31. Please go to the Thrivent website (www.thrivent.com) or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "choice" to specify your Choice Dollars.

Church Calendar

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	2	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 2:30 Fellowship monthly movie	5	6	7 10:30 Bible study 6:00 Lent Dinner 7:30 Lent worship	8 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	9	10 10:00 LWML
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12	13	14 6:00 Lent Dinner 7:30 Lent worship	15 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	16	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ Lord's Supper 2:00 Fellowship CCM Easter baskets	19	20	21 6:00 Lent dinner 7:30 Lent worship	22 8:30 Retired ROMEO Breakfast 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Palm Sunday w/ Lord's Supper	26	27	28	29 7:30 Maundy Thursday w/ Lord's Supper	30 2:00 Good Friday service 7:30 Good Friday service	31



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

Church Office: (615) 868-2346
Office email: office@ascensionmadison.com
Pastor Greg: (904) 553-7066
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.