



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's now 2019! A whole new year. But we're still in the twelve days of Christmas—that time of the church year between the Nativity of Our Lord and the Epiphany of Our Lord, from December 25 to January 6, from Jesus' birth to the visit of the Magi. It's also called "Christmastide," and includes a number of festivals (see page xi in the Lutheran Service Book). But when we hear "twelve days of Christmas," we probably think more of the old carol than a religious season. I'd guess most of us know at least the first verse of the song: "On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me, a partridge in a pear tree." What's next? Two turtle doves, three French hens, etc., etc., etc. No one really knows the origin of the carol or what purpose it served—one suggestion is that it's an eighteenth-century memorization game in which the loser forfeited a piece of chocolate. At any rate, I heard it on the radio when it dawned on me that it's simply a romanticized version of getting everything you want (plus more), because who needs "twelve lords a leaping" or "eleven ladies dancing" or "ten pipers piping" or "nine drummers drumming" or "eight maids a milking"? One of each might do just as well, and really, one of some of those things might be one too many! The words seem to encourage overindulgence while the bouncy tune conceals its vice.

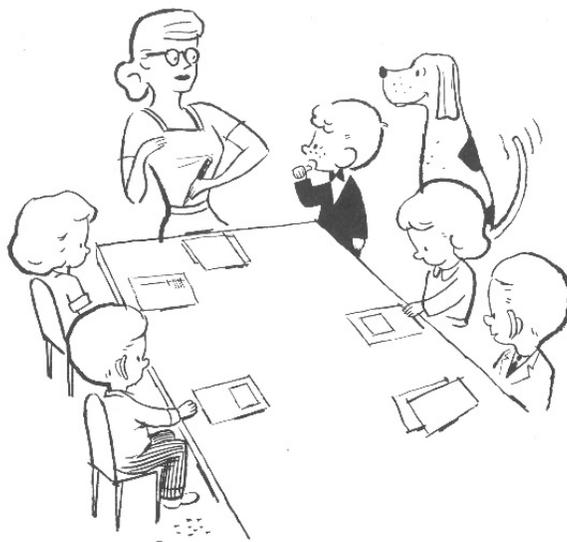
But maybe I'm bordering on ridiculous overreaction. Maybe it is just a game wrapped around a silly song. Maybe I'm a scrooge that can't enjoy the light-hearted ditties of the season. But the carol struck me as a perfect encapsulation of how a good foundation can be turned bad, as well as a reflection of what's happened to Christmas in our society. A New York University business professor recently said that 64% of Americans subscribe to Amazon Prime while only 51% go to church (<https://nypost.com/2018/10/09/break-up-amazon-before-it-does-any-more-damage-to-america/>)... and by "go to church," I have to assume that's not a very "regular" going to church. Materialism has taken over. It might even be an addiction. And within the definition of materialism is the very idea that the spiritual is nonexistent—that

nothing exists except matter. If people hold to naturalism and evolution, they're logically going to be materialists, because you might as well stock up and enjoy before you die.

But that doesn't mean we're not susceptible. The devil has devised a grand new package for one of the oldest sins, and he wants to distract God's people with such pursuits. I'll catch myself perusing online stores only to realize I spent an hour on my phone... sheesh! I'm not in want... but still I peruse. That's not to say that in perusing I committed a sin or that buying things beyond basic necessities is a sin. But it is to warn that the devil works in subtle ways to grow a distraction until he's displaced God from the top of your list, from the top of your list of "needs." Paul famously writes, "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light" (2 Cor 11:14), meaning that the evil Satan devises is going to look harmless and good and righteous—he's working hard to find ways for evil not to look evil. Is it sinful if I buy something from an online store? It is if that distraction has climbed its way to the top of my list and displaced God.

Thankfully the Holy Spirit is at work in us so that we abide with the exhortation to "not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom 12:2), knowing that "godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Ti 6:6). I pray your twelve days of Christmas are filled with every spiritual gift from heaven in the knowledge of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who became man to die for your salvation!

In His name,
Pastor Greg



"He wants to know if he can go to heaven, too."

Announcements



LWML Meeting Saturday, January 12, 2019
from 10am – 12pm. All women are invited to
come and bring a friend.

Church Paraments Fund Established



We have established a fund to reserve donations toward the purchase of new paraments. We currently employ two altar frontlets and two lectern markers in five church season colors: **blue** (Advent), **white** (Christmas, Easter, and various festival days), **green** (pre-Lent and post-Trinity), **purple** (Lent), and **red** (various festival days). If you would like to contribute, please include the note “FBO paraments” with your donation. The total cost will likely be around \$5,000.

The church organ fund balance is \$4,726, reserved for any future repairs. If you would like the prorated portion of your organ donation to be reclassified to the parament fund, please let Pastor Greg know.

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>Caring Closet and other programs http://www.lstn.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>



Introduction to Hope Clinic

Did you know Hope Clinic offers an Introduction to Hope Clinic for anyone interested in getting involved? These events give you the chance to meet the CEO, Renee Rizzo, and learn about our services, volunteer opportunities, partnership and more. Visit our website to see upcoming dates and sign up:

www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/introtohopeclinic/

Group Volunteer Opportunities

- Are your small groups or women's ministries looking for a way to serve your community together? [Sign up](#) for one of Hope Clinic for Women's 2018-2019 group volunteer opportunities today!
- Groups can [sign up here](#) to help with our upcoming mailing November 6th - 15th. Our seasonal mailings are great opportunities for small groups to chat and bond over service!
- Do you have a group that wants to serve in November? Have them [sign up](#) to volunteer for our Cider Carols event! Groups can participate in our evening group opportunity (need 7-10 people), or sign up for individual roles during set-up.

Serving Ascension in January

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Lector	Pastor Greg	Pastor Greg	Cherri Walker	Dennis Anderson
Acolyte	Michael Patterson	TBD	Michael Patterson	TBD
Elder	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert
Ushers	Cecil Willis & Dennis Fritz			
Cantor	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A
Altar Guild	Cindy Dougherty & Grace Lehmann			

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



Coffee Half-hour

January 6: Carolyne Willis
 January 13: Cherri Walker
 January 20: Cindy Dougherty
 January 27: Jane Chitren

The Organist

January 6: Minae Hayashi
 January 13: Cindy Dougherty
 January 20: Minae Hayashi
 January 27: Cindy Dougherty



Celebrations

Birthdays



January 2: Jeff Wright
January 7: Lance Foster
January 7: John Smith
January 8: Jonathan Wright
January 9: Linda Kubitz
January 9: Zach LaLumondier
January 10: Linda Montes
January 11: Linda Fritz
January 15: Jason Mia
January 15: Sophia Mia
January 24: Russ Gullet
January 24: Brittaney Summers
January 26: Isabella Capps
January 27: Liz Brown

ANNIVERSARIES



January 11: Cecil & Carolyne Willis
January 28: Lance & Angel Foster

Baptismal Birthdays

January 5: Gideon Bauch
January 8: Ian Conner
January 8: Kate Conner
January 10: Angie Henderson
January 10: Paul Ohme
January 10: Ann Stubblefield
January 10: Phil Weinert
January 10: Cecil Willis
January 23: Linda Montes
January 26: Jordan Boggs
January 30: Jeff Wright



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

January						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	4	5
6 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	7	8	9 6:00 Confirmation	10 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	11	12 10:00 LWML
13 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	14	15	16 6:00 Confirmation	17 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	18	19
20 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	21	22	23 6:00 Confirmation	24 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	25	26
27 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	28	29	30 6:00 Confirmation	31 9:00 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
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.