



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear saints of Ascension,

The season of penitential reflection is nearly here. Many will celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 14; for us Christians, we will recognize Ash Wednesday in worship as the beginning of Lent. Lent has traditionally been a time of repentance—the time of the church year when we take an honest look at ourselves and admit the deep sinfulness that sent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the cross. It's a difficult time because it requires us to be dissatisfied with ourselves, even to hate who we are. The ashes you wear on that first Wednesday in Lent serve as a reminder that “you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Ge 3:19), a reminder that sin still clings to your flesh till the very end of your temporal life. The words of Moses in relation to this are poignant: “For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh” (Ps 90:7-9). This is the tragic truth, and a truth that must be admitted if we are to receive the grace of God, confessing that we are sinners through and through, yet believing that God acquits us on account of the death of His beloved Son.

To guide you this Lenten season in addition to worship and Bible study, I offer two suggestions. The first is the traditional practice of fasting (Mt 6:16-18). Pick something that occupies a great deal of your time and send it into exile, filling the void with God's word and prayer. It will be hard. It will test you. You might break the fast in a display of overindulgence. But that would simply show that you desperately need Christ and His perfection to cover your imperfection. Until then, God's word and prayer will serve you in ways unimaginable. I vividly recall the first time I attempted a water fast (that is, drinking only water for sustenance), murmuring, “Help me Lord, help me Lord, please help me dear Lord,” over and over again as I contended with the extreme dietary change. I broke the fast badly after four days, but those four days heightened my awareness of dependence on God in every aspect of my life. It wasn't 40 days (and I hardly expected to make it 40 days), but it was a Lenten fast

that absolutely drew me closer to God. Fasting for the ancient and medieval church included the season of pre-Lent. Because we are now using the one-year lectionary, you will see the weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday named, “Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima,” which in Latin means, “70th, 60th, 50th.” These correspond to the days before Easter, for example, Septuagesima falling within 70 but more than 60 days before Easter. With the additional three-week pre-Lent season, the church would fast 40 days over pre-Lent and Lent by excluding observance of the fast on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. You may choose to make use of this fasting tradition beginning on Septuagesima Sunday, January 28.

The second suggestion is private confession (see LSB p292). This practice seems to have fallen out of favor in the modern church, but there is no good reason for this to have taken place. It is an eternally powerful rite by virtue of God’s word of forgiveness, which grants you forgiveness for any named sin that weighs heavy on your conscience. Of course, private confession is no more or less God’s forgiveness than the corporate confession spoken in the Divine Service, but if any certain sin deeply troubles you, private confession is the rite to hear that named sin absolved. I would be remiss in not mentioning the confessional seal, by which I have vowed not to disclose anything made known to me during confession. Since arriving at Ascension, I have heard private confession, and I urge you to speak with me about it if you feel the need to relieve lingering guilt. Lent is an appropriate time for such a rite, and as Martin Luther writes, “Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.”

I pray this Lenten season is one of humility, self-denial, and penitence for us all. Pre-Lent plus Lent is a long nine weeks... which means it can be a long nine weeks of immense divine blessing! May Christ be with you always, to the end of this age and into the age to come.

In His name,
Pastor Greg



“No, David, the lions did not come from a circus.”



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

FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY MOVIE NIGHT



Sunday, February 11, 2018

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

SNACKS PROVIDED: SKITTLES and CHEX MIX.

FELLOWSHIP GAME & STEWARDSHIP NIGHT

We're having a Fellowship Activity on February 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

PROGRESSIVE MONOPOLY (MUSICAL CHAIRS + MONOPOLY)!

Bring your favorite snack and drink!

In addition to having fun we want to help those in need during the cold winter months. Please bring one new pair of wool socks to be given to the Nashville Rescue Mission.

Any questions <mailto:susan@walwynlaw.com>

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>



Next time you're sitting in your pew, turn and look over your right shoulder. Many of you live that direction, and we do too—about 4 ½ hours Northwest of you though. Our transition to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, has been truly inspirational, but we often find ourselves missing Ascension. As our sending church (and Lord willing), Call Day will display on the screen that I hail from “Ascension Lutheran Church in Madison, TN.” You will have helped fill a vacancy at another church just like those in Jacksonville, FL, were able to see Pastor Greg through his placement at Ascension. I am incredibly honored to have your blessing, prayers, and support on this endeavor.

As for Seminary, Summer Greek was very hard but eye opening. Fall classes began along with my first year of Residency Field Experience (RFE) at a local congregation. I lead the liturgy for 3-4 services every other week. This Semester I will take a course that certifies me to begin preaching. Both Katie and I have developed many great friendships with other men and women in my class, and I am certain that these friends will be instrumental in our family’s transition into the life of a pastor (and beyond). Let me thank God to you for the help of Jeff and Kathy Meyers; we were finally able to sell our house in TN on November 30th, and that lifted a tremendous burden. Feel free to visit us in St. Louis.

In Christ,
Corey

Serving Ascension in February

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Lector	Judie Mader	Linda Fritz	Liz Brown	Rick Speitel
Acolyte	Ben Conner	TBD	Ben Conner	TBD
Elder	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz
Ushers	John Boggs & John Kubitz	John Boggs & John Kubitz	John Boggs & John Kubitz	John Boggs & John Kubitz
Cantor	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	N/A
Altar Guild	Pam Oehlkers & Linda Fritz & Kate Conner	Pam Oehlkers & Linda Fritz	Pam Oehlkers & Linda Fritz & Kaytlyn Deland	Pam Oehlkers & Linda Fritz

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



Coffee Half-hour

February 4: Jane Chitren

February 11: Kathy Meyers

February 18: Minae Hayashi

February 25: Linda Fritz

The Organist

February 4: Minae Hayashi

February 11: Cindy Dougherty

February 18: Minae Hayashi

February 25: Cindy Dougherty



Birthdays

February 1: Diane Gupton
February 6: LaVon Golter
February 7: Andrew Fuller
February 16: Maya Elradi
February 25: Frances Boggs
February 26: Dennis Anderson
February 27: Carolyne Willis



ANNIVERSARIES

February 10: Corey & Katie Shaffer
February 16: Russ & Jane Gullett
February 22: Danny & Joan Johnson



Baptismal Birthdays

February 1: Samantha Golter
February 7: John Hanley
February 7: Rachel Oehlkers
February 8: Jonathan Wright
February 10: Mark LaLumondier
February 11: Dennis Fritz
February 15: Isabella Gerson
February 17: Liz Brown
February 18: Sophia Gerson
February 19: Al Montes



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

February						
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	5	6	7	8 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	9	10 10:00 LWML
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:30 Fellowship monthly movie	12	13	14 2:00 Ash Wednesday worship 6:00 Lent dinner 7:30 Ash Wednesday worship	15 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	16 6:00 Fellowship progressive Monopoly night	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ Lord's Supper	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 Worship	26	27	28 6:00 Lent dinner 7:30 Lent worship			



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 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.