



# Ascension Lutheran Church

# ANNOUNCER

Dear saints of Ascension,

Christ Jesus is the object of faith. He is the hub of a wheel from whom all spokes proceed that are articles of faith. Everything we believe rightly about God is from Him (Jn 8:28; 12:49-50; 14:24; 15:15; Mt 24:35). If one of those spokes is broken, it naturally affects the hub. For example, during the Reformation, some taught that Jesus' body and blood is not in the Lord's Supper. This led to the conclusion that Jesus is limited to heaven, for "it is a perverse and impious superstition to inclose him [Christ] under the elements [e.g., bread and wine] of this world... the body of Christ, bearing the nature and mode of a human body, is finite and is contained in Heaven as its place" (*Consensus Tigurinus* XXI and XXV). But this statement implicitly denies Jesus' divinity, who can be where He wants when He pleases—even in more than one place at one time (see SD VIII.78-79). The Council of Chalcedon in the year 451 affirmed according to Scripture that Jesus "must be acknowledged in two natures without confusion, change, division, or separation"; hence, where the divinity of Jesus is, there also is the humanity, and vice-versa—the divine and human natures in Jesus cannot be divided or separated. The example of the Lord's Supper serves to show the significance of breaking a spoke: to break a spoke risks losing the hub, and to lose the hub loses the wheel altogether; to deny an article of faith risks losing Jesus, and to lose Jesus loses salvation altogether. This isn't to say that those who deny Jesus' body and blood in the Lord's Supper have lost salvation, but it certainly isn't helping faith, which is why God commands us to practice closed communion. What we believe about the person of Christ is paramount because from Him all other beliefs flow, such that Martin Luther writes, "faith is a constant gaze that looks at nothing except Christ, the Victor over sin and death and the Dispenser of righteousness, salvation, and eternal life" (AE 26:356).

How does one divert his gaze from Christ? By not believing His word, for by His word He tells us who He is. All councils and creeds—including the Council of Chalcedon—aim to refute a false teaching that has arisen in the church. And the most dire refutations concern the person of Christ, because one cannot be saved while denying who Christ is (Acts 4:12). These denials usually boil down to an error regarding His two natures. Without believing Jesus is both fully God

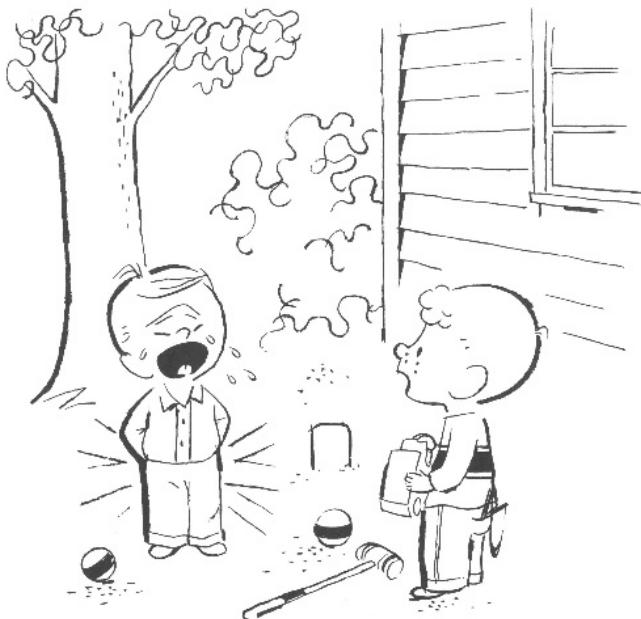
and fully man, one cannot be saved, for “Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice” (Ps 49:7), and, “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins” (Heb 9:22)—Christ Jesus had to be God else He couldn’t ransom our lives, but He also had to be man in order to achieve the ransom through blood. The attacks against Jesus being God were there from the beginning, for “the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God” (Jn 5:18); likewise, the attacks against Jesus being human were there from the beginning, for John warns that “many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist” (2 Jn 1:7).

The Apostles’ Creed was written in part to refute the Gnostics who denied Jesus’ humanity. They embraced Jesus’ divinity, but, as Paul writes, the crucifixion was “folly” to them because they refused to believe that God would suffer such an ignominious death (1 Cor 1:23). They asserted that Jesus was a bodiless spirit who merely appeared to hang from the cross. Yet “one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water” (Jn 19:34), and Jesus says after the resurrection, “See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Lk 24:39). In the second century, some suggested that Jesus did come “in the flesh,” but in “heavenly flesh” unlike ours—a deception that resurfaced during the Reformation. Others taught that Jesus had no soul, thereby taking on only a portion of our human nature. Scripture clearly quashes these Satanic teachings (e.g. Gal 4:4; Heb 2:14-17; Jn 12:27; Mt 26:38), while the ancient church father Gregory of Nazianzus (329-390) beautifully paraphrases the Scripture for our redemption: “that which [Christ] has not assumed He has not healed” (*Epistle* 101). In other words, Jesus had to be fully man else part of us remains lost. The Nicene Creed was written in the year 325 primarily to refute the Arians who denied Jesus’ divinity. They embraced Jesus’ humanity, but suggested He received miraculous powers after being adopted by God. A related form of this falsehood is called Modalism, which claims there is one God who appears in different “modes” (or “forms”) as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This rejection of three *persons* of the Trinity (e.g. Ge 1:26; Jn 1:1; 3:16) easily assimilates to eastern religions, which is why many who wear the badge of “spirituality” invoke Jesus but reject His death for sins.

The denial of Jesus’ divinity is more prevalent than the denial of His humanity—Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age, and even atheism would suggest Jesus was a real person—but Satan works through both false teachings to undermine the truth. Let us give thanks that we are preserved by the Holy Spirit in the truth of Him who we “acknowledge in two natures [both human and divine] without confusion, change, division, or separation”!

In His name,  
*Pastor Greg*

# Announcements



"I found out it was a bad word, too. But I got my mouth washed with soap."



LWML meeting  
Saturday, October 12, 2019  
from 10am – 12pm.

All women are invited to come  
and bring a friend!

## A LITTLE LUTHER

"We Christians should know that if God is not in the scale to give it weight, we, on our side, sink to the ground. I mean it this way: if it cannot be said that God died for us, but only a man, we are lost; but if God's death and a dead God lie in the balance, his side goes down and ours goes up like a light and empty scale. Yet he can also readily go up again, or leap out of the scale! But he could not sit on the scale unless he had become a man like us, so that it could be called God's dying, God's martyrdom, God's blood, and God's death. For God in his own nature cannot die; but now that God and man are united in one person, it is called God's death when the man dies who is one substance or one person with God." (*On the Councils and the Church*, 1539; AE 41:103-104; cf. SD VIII.44-45)



## Commitment Sunday

October 20, 2019

As in previous years, Pastor Greg will provide a Commitment Sunday Preparatory Reader to help you discern God's will for your 2020 commitment of time, talent, and treasure to Ascension Lutheran.

The financial pledges collected that day serve two important purposes: first, to keep us aware of our personal stewardship; and second, to help the congregation budget for the upcoming year.

In addition, Stewardship will introduce a drive to help pay down the mortgage. The present goal is to raise the funds for  $\frac{1}{2}$  year of mortgage payments, which equals \$7,800.

# Missions & Ministry

## Organizations and people we support:



<http://rescue1global.org/>



<https://www.trinityhope.org/>



<http://helpmadison.org/>



<https://nashvillerescuemission.org/>



<https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/>



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



International Health Partners  
<http://ihptz.org/>



Concordia Seminary  
ST. LOUIS

Seminarian Corey Shaffer and family  
<https://www.csl.edu/>



Missionary photographer: Johanna Heidorn  
<https://www.lcms.org/heidorn>



Missionaries in Germany: Carl and Karen Cecil  
<https://www.lcms.org/cecil>



I want to share a story with you rather than our traditional newsletter. It can be easy to get caught up in the busyness of an 75% increase in client numbers and brush over amazing stories of hope - like Jasmine's.

Jasmine found us when she was 7 weeks pregnant. Coming from a childhood of instability, parental drug addiction, sexual abuse, and self harm, she found herself pregnant with no support system. Until she found Hope Clinic. Through the compassionate coaxing of our pregnancy team, she enrolled in our parenting program. Despite unstable housing, inconsistent transportation, a broken ankle, and numerous family issues, she still made it to over 20 education classes and her weekly counseling appointment. She underwent an amazing transformation of understanding her journey and her hope. An important step in that process was giving birth through one of our partners, Baby+co, who specializes in natural birth.

On Thursday, September 5th, Penelope Grace, was welcomed into this world. The pain she felt during delivery was balanced with new coping skills she had learned and the love and support she felt. This was a rebirth for her in a lot ways and that moment, while still scary, brought amazing peace to her. And guess who was in the room for the arrival - Hope Clinic. And we will continue to be there for her as her journey to hope continues.

You help make amazing stories like this possible. Through your volunteer time, through your financial support, and through your referrals, we are able to be there. Just be there. Thank you for helping us be there for those who need someone to turn to.



# Serving Ascension in October

	<b>October 6</b>	<b>October 13</b>	<b>October 20</b>	<b>October 27</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Trisha LaLumondier	Cherri Walker	Dennis Anderson	Pastor Greg
<b>Acolyte</b>	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson
<b>Elder</b>	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert
<b>Ushers</b>	Nathaniel Oehlkers & Phil Weinert	Linda Fritz & Linda Kubitz	Nathaniel Oehlkers & Phil Weinert	Nathaniel Oehlkers & Phil Weinert
<b>Cantor</b>	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Cindy Dougherty & Grace Lehmann & Lily Graham	Cindy Dougherty & Grace Lehmann	C Cindy Dougherty & Grace Lehmann & Isabella Gerson	C Cindy Dougherty & Grace Lehmann

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



## Coffee Half-hour

October 6: Minae Hayashi  
 October 13: Ora Mae Golter  
 October 20: Sandy Bradley  
 October 27: Trisha LaLumondier

## The Organist

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



# Celebrations

## Birthdays

October 1: Jane Chitren  
October 3: Beth Newton  
October 5: Samuel Blittle  
October 6: Ben Houston  
October 7: Gordon Bradley  
October 7: Ann Stubblefield  
October 11: Cora Houston  
October 16: Maxwell Smith  
October 18: Beverly Scurlock  
October 19: Corey Shaffer  
October 21: Terri Langston  
October 24: Jeff Meyers  
October 25: Robert Conner  
October 25: Samantha Golter  
October 28: Alice Blittle  
October 28: Henry Blittle  
October 29: Gabriel Szustermann  
October 30: Elise McMahan  
October 30: Carol Wachter  
October 30: Carol Wright



## ANNIVERSARIES

October 8: Rob & Cindy Dougherty



## Baptismal Birthdays

October 2: Katie Shaffer  
October 4: Tyler Fuller  
October 4: Shan Rose  
October 4: Carolyn Spann  
October 16: Greg Bauch  
October 21: Nathaniel Hancock  
October 24: Judie Mader  
October 30: Jane Chitren  
October 30: Kaytyln Deland



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

# Church Calendar

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 Confirmation	<b>3</b> 10:30 Bible study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:00 Church yard sale... tell your friends!
<b>6</b>  9:00 Sunday school  10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 Confirmation	<b>10</b> <i>Pastor's vacation</i>  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>11</b> <i>Pastor's vacation</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Pastor's vacation</i>  10:00 LWML
<b>13</b> <i>Pastor's vacation</i>  9:00 Sunday school  10:30 Worship (LWML Sunday)	<b>14</b> <i>Pastor's vacation</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Pastor's vacation</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Pastor's vacation</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Pastor's vacation</i>  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  9:00 Sunday School  10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper (Commitment Sunday)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30 Confirmation	<b>24</b> 10:30 Bible study  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>  9:00 Sunday school  10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 Confirmation	<b>31</b> 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  
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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.*