



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear saints of Ascension,

David writes, “The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. You, O Lord, will keep them; you will guard us from this generation forever. On every side the wicked prowls, as vile is exalted among the children of man” (Ps 12:6-8). It’s not in our power to preserve God’s word. God keeps His word among us so that His will might be done, yet we are given the freedom to forsake it.

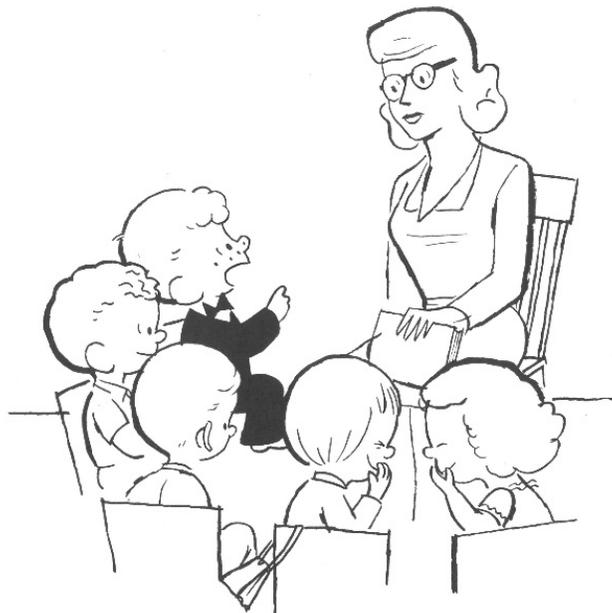
Such was the case this past summer when well-known Christians renounced their faith. Pastor and best-selling author Joshua Harris announced, “I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. The popular phrase for this is ‘deconstruction,’ the biblical phrase is ‘falling away.’ By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian. ...To my Christian friends, I am grateful for your prayers. Don’t take it personally if I don’t immediately return calls. I can’t join in your mourning. I don’t view this moment negatively” (<https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/courtship-author-joshua-harris-falls-from-the-faith-i-am-not-a-christian.html>). A few weeks later, a centerpiece for the Hillsong music group wrote, “This is a soapbox moment so here I go... how many preachers fall? Many. No one talks about it. How many miracles happen. Not many. No one talks about it. Why is the Bible full of contradictions? No one talks about it. How can God be love yet send four billion people to a place, all coz they don’t believe? No one talks about it. Christians can be the most judgmental people on the planet – they can also be some of the most beautiful and loving people... but it’s not for me” (<https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/hillsong-smarty-sampson-i-m-genuinely-losing-my-faith.html>).

One can attribute different causes for each man’s renunciation; in fact, both men elaborate on these causes in their full statements. But as you read their statements, the root cause is clearly evident: they refuse to submit to the word of God. If God’s word says something they don’t like, they know better and declare God mistaken—if they don’t agree with God’s ethic, they simply dismiss it; if they don’t believe in God’s judgment, they simply deny it. One can feel compassion for these men who have undergone crises of faith. At the same time, what they’ve announced to

their massive audiences is the peak of pride and arrogance that Scripture consistently decries (e.g., Prov 8:13; 16:18; 1 Jn 2:16). Yet they appeal to grace, love, and forgiveness, defining a new “truth” through Biblical language and dragging others down with them. They are, in David’s words, the prowling wicked who exalt vileness among the children of man.

So how does God “guard us from this generation forever”? Through the truth of His word that He keeps, “pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.” To depart from these words puts faith at risk, which is why we cherish the opportunity to hear His word, to read His word, to recall His word, to turn to His word in the time of trouble, and know that each word came through the One who gave up everything in blood so that by grace through faith we might have every good thing! Do our lives perfectly reflect God’s word? No. Do we find Scriptures that condemn our personal views? Yes. Are there things in the Bible that don’t make sense to us? Certainly. But these are not reasons to seek a new way, because, as both Scripture and experience reveals, we are indeed sinners with wrong ideas and limited understanding. To believe in God is to acknowledge there is someone who transcends us and knows what is eternally good because He is inseparable from goodness. And we know His goodness, for in Jesus “all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross” (Col 1:19-20). In this truth you submit to His pure words, being guarded from wickedness, and receiving life from Him.

In Christ,
Pastor Greg



“Moses didn’t get the Ten Commandments that way.
I know! I saw the movie!”

Announcements



LWML meeting
Saturday, November 9, 2019
from 10am – 12pm.

All women are invited to come
and bring a friend!

*Samaritan's Purse and
CCM Thanksgiving boxing day!*



Come join us as we box gifts and
meals for needy children and families
after worship on November 10, 2019

A LITTLE LUTHER

“I hear man’s voice. I see human gestures. The bread and the wine in the Supper are physical things. At ordination the hands of carnal men are imposed. In Baptism water is water. For the flesh judges in no other way concerning all these matters. But if you look at that addition with spiritual eyes, namely, at whose Word it is that is spoken and heard there... For the flesh fixes its eyes only on the water, on the bread, on the wine, and on the ground where Jacob slept; but the spirit must see the water, the hand, the Word of God, and God in the water. The flesh sees so keenly that it judges that the water is water and excludes God, as the Sacramentarians and the Anabaptists do. Therefore one must learn contrary to the view of the flesh that it is not a simple word and only an empty sound, but that it is the Word and the Creator of heaven and earth. Thus the laying on of hands is not a human tradition, but God makes and ordains ministers. Nor is it the pastor who absolves you, but the mouth and hand of the minister is the mouth and hand of God.”

(Lectures on Genesis, 1535-45; AE 5:248-49)



Missions & Ministry

Organizations and people we support:

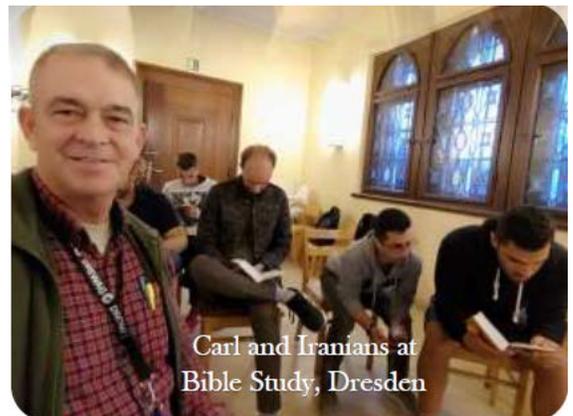
 <p>http://rescue1global.org/</p>
 <p>https://www.trinityhope.org/</p>
 <p>http://helpmadison.org/</p>
 <p>https://nashvillerescuemission.org/</p>
 <p>https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/</p>
 <p>Formerly Lutheran Services of Tennessee Caring Closet and other programs http://www.lstn.org/</p>
 <p>International 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>



Here we are at Thanksgiving time (Erntedankfest) in Germany which overlaps this year with the 29th anniversary of Reunification Day celebrating the end of the division between West and East Germany (the Berlin Wall came down November 9, 1989). The experience of religious and political persecution under communism in former East Germany has made many German Christians openminded and welcoming to refugees from Iran and Afghanistan who have experienced similar persecution. It is a wide-open mission field—although one with many false religious views competing to be heard. This is the field our Savior has placed us in, equipping us with His unfailing Word that continues to win souls for life with Him now and in heaven.



Carl & Karen with Iranians at Lunch after Taufunterricht (Baptism Instruction), Dresden



Carl and Iranians at Bible Study, Dresden

In Christ Our Eternal King,
Carl & Karen Cecil

Serving Ascension in November

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Lector	Pastor Greg	Dennis Fritz	Judie Mader	Linda Fritz
Acolyte	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson
Elder	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz
Ushers	Rick Speitel & Cecil Willis			
Cantor	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A
Altar Guild	Trisha LaLumondier & Cindy Dougherty			

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



Coffee Half-hour

November 3: Carolyne Willis
 November 10: Cherri Walker
 November 17: Cindy Dougherty
 November 24: *Thanksgiving weekend*

The Organist

November 3: Minae Hayashi
 November 10: Cindy Dougherty
 November 17: Minae Hayashi
 November 24: Cindy Dougherty



Celebrations

Birthdays

November 1: Al Montes
November 4: Paul Ohme
November 9: Lily Graham
November 14: James Whitbey
November 21: Kate Conner
November 23: Gideon Bauch
November 30: Kiari Houston



ANNIVERSARIES

November 5: John & Linda Kubitz



Baptismal Birthdays

November 2: Gordon Bradley
November 6: Derek Wiebbecke
November 9: Terri Langston
November 10: Wendy Golter
November 18: Toby Conner
November 19: Dan Newton
November 23: Rachel Blittle
November 26: Katelyn Gupton
November 26: Nathan Gupton
November 29: Elise McMahan



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

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	4	5	6 6:30 Confirmation	7 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	8	9 10:00 LWML
10 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship 12:00 Samaritan's Purse & CCM Thanksgiving boxing	11	12	13 6:30 Confirmation	14 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	15	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper 12:00 Voters' Assembly	18	19	20 6:30 Confirmation	21 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	22	23
24 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	25	26	27 7:30 Thanksgiving Eve worship	28	29	30



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.