



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear saints of Ascension,

As we enter the Advent season, it is good to meditate on and stand in awe of God becoming man. That He would become man is suggested as far back as creation, when God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Ge 1:26)—God’s communion with man was to be so intimate that He Himself would become man! Greek mythology has its own stories of gods mating with humans to create a god-man hybrid, such as Perseus; the Romans believed, like many cultures before them, that man could become divine, as in the case of Julius Caesar (Ovid, *Metamorphoses* XV:745-842). But Jesus Christ far exceeds both of these man-made ideas, for He is not half-god and half-man, nor was he a mere man who became divine—but He was and remains the Son of God from eternity who assumed human nature, now both fully God and fully man. The divine arithmetic surpasses our understanding, such that $1 + 1 = 1$, like when God says, “a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Ge 1:24).

John writes, “the Word became flesh” (Jn 1:14), which is what we call “the incarnation.” In modern parlance, we might conceive that the Word converted or mutated into flesh, so that He changed His makeup into ours. But that would render Him no longer God. What John means by “became” is what Paul writes to the Hebrews: “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise partook of the same things” (Heb 2:14). Jesus shares our nature, “made like his brothers in every respect... yet without sin” (Heb 2:17; 4:15), both divine and human in all their fullness. The Word made flesh was and is the ultimate act of communion between God and man, and this communion will never end, for the Son of God remains man forever.

The ancient church described the incarnation through an analogy: as the soul permeates the body, so the divine permeates the human—we would do well in referring to this when contemplating the divine and human natures in the one person of Jesus Christ. There is no way to extract the soul from the body, as if by surgery. The soul exists in and through the body in a

way that makes them inseparable regarding the person. In the same way, you can't extract the divine from the human in Jesus, because then He would no longer be Jesus! A human is incomplete absent the soul or the body, and Jesus is incomplete absent the divine or the human. In Jesus, human flesh is so thoroughly permeated by the divine that He is both God and man at the same time, just as you are both body and soul at the same time.

Hence, Paul writes, "in [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" (Col 2:9). We should not picture the deity dwelling bodily as a divine liquid filling a human glass—that is an apt description for how God dwells in us (Jn 14:23), but not how the divine and human exist in Jesus. In Christ, the whole fullness of deity—that is, all divine power and wisdom—permeates His human flesh, like when fire makes iron glow and heat. Because the divine permeates the human in this way, Scripture says that Jesus' flesh is life-giving and His blood "cleanses us from all sin" (Jn 6:61; 1 Jn 1:7).

As we enter the Advent season, let us stand in awe that "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal 4:4-5), and that Jesus "himself likewise partook of [flesh and blood], that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery" (Heb 2:14-15). Surely we have a great and good God who has become like us so that we might have all things!

In Christ,
Pastor Greg



"I don't feel like doing anything. I wonder if that's a sin, too."

Announcements



LWML meeting
Saturday, December 14, 2019
from 10am – 12pm.

All women are invited to come
and bring a friend!

Samaritan's Purse and CCM Thanksgiving



The final counts for these two social ministries were 125 Operation Christmas Child boxes and 33 Thanksgiving meals!... thanks to everyone who helped make these endeavors a success.

A LITTLE LUTHER

“Grace and peace—
these two words
embrace the whole



of Christianity. Grace forgives sin, and peace stills the conscience. The two devils who plague us are sin and conscience, the power of the Law and the sting of sin (1 Cor. 15:56). But Christ has conquered these two monsters and trodden them underfoot, both in this age and in the age to come.” (*Lectures on Galatians*, 1535; AE 26:26)

Stewardship

As we reflect on the past year here at Ascension, I hope your heart swells with gratitude for all the Lord has done for us.

You all have made a great impact with you time, talent and monetary donations. Is there anything more you would like to do before the year 2019 ends? Are we helping to support the community around us with basic needs? Here is my hope that your faith has grown and been put into action. Remember that every little action matters!

—Ora Mae Golter

Missions & Ministry

Organizations and people we support:

 <p>TRINITY HOPE HAITIAN FEEDING PROGRAM</p> <p>https://www.trinityhope.org/</p>
 <p>CCM Christian Cooperative MINISTRY</p> <p>http://helpmadison.org/</p>
 <p>NASHVILLE RESCUE MISSION</p> <p>https://nashvillerescuemission.org/</p>
 <p>HOPE CLINIC <i>for women</i></p> <p>https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/</p>
 <p>Inspiritus <small>Formerly Lutheran Services of Tennessee</small></p> <p>Caring Closet and other programs http://www.lstn.org/</p>
 <p>International Health Partners http://ihptz.org/</p>
 <p>Concordia Seminary ST. LOUIS</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>



Haiti Update

Written by Keith Logan

As you may have heard, things in Haiti are tremendously difficult right now; maybe the worst they've been for several generations. It's sad and it's scary. The political unrest, with ongoing efforts to oust the current president, is causing widespread shutdowns of businesses, street markets, and even some hospitals and schools. The people of Haiti are demanding change, desiring a new government that cares about the people and will operate without corruption. Those changes do not happen overnight and rarely come without some civil unrest. But we trust and know that God is present throughout Haiti and pray He will lead the people to a place where they seek His wisdom and direction above all else.



Especially now, the food Trinity HOPE provides the children at school is such an important blessing. Although some urban schools are still unable to operate daily for the safety of the children, we know returning to school is a top priority for the parents and communities. As these children begin going back to school again, the parents receive a great sense of relief knowing their children will be fed a nutritious meal and realizing the limited food they have at home can now be stretched a little further. The food at school is also a reminder that Jesus loves them, and the body of Christ has not abandoned them. THANK YOU for your continued support!!

Serving Ascension in December

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Lector	Liz Brown	Pastor Greg	Rick Speitel	Trisha LaLumondier	Cherri Walker
Acolyte	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	TBD
Elder	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Phil Weinert
Ushers	Dennis Fritz & John Boggs	Dennis Fritz & John Boggs	Dennis Fritz & John Boggs	Dennis Fritz & John Boggs	Dennis Fritz & John Boggs
Cantor	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A	Pastor Greg
Altar Guild	Pam Oehlkers & Trisha LaLumondier & Lily Graham	Pam Oehlkers & Trisha LaLumondier	Pam Oehlkers & Trisha LaLumondier & Isabella Gerson	Pam Oehlkers & Trisha LaLumondier	Pam Oehlkers & Trisha LaLumondier

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



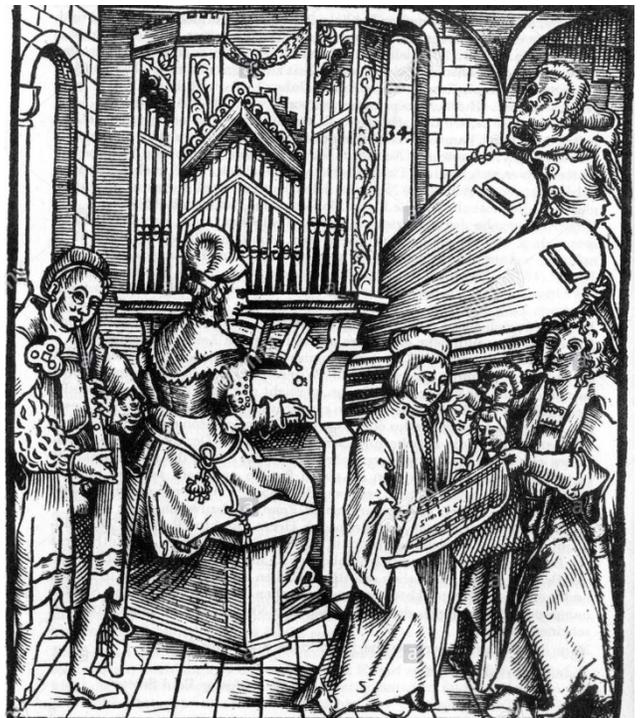
Coffee Half-hour

December 1: Jane Chitren
 December 8: Kathy Meyers
 December 15: Linda Fritz
 December 22: *Christmas weekend*
 December 29: Minae Hayashi

The Organist

December 1: Minae Hayashi
 December 8: Cindy Dougherty
 December 15: Minae Hayashi
 December 22: Cindy Dougherty
 December 29: Dennis Anderson

Mid-week services:
 December 4: Minae Hayashi
 December 11: Cindy Dougherty
 December 18: Minae Hayashi
 December 24: Minae Hayashi
 December 25: Cindy Dougherty



Celebrations

Birthdays

December 2: Mark LaLumondier
December 3: Kathy Meyers
December 7: Deborah Hann
December 7: Rachel Oehlkers
December 11: Sandra Ohme
December 12: Sandra Reinhardt
December 12: Phil Weinert
December 14: Eden Wiebbecke
December 19: Patrick Boggs
December 24: John Hanley
December 27: Paige Shaffer
December 28: Dennis Fritz



ANNIVERSARIES

December 7: John & Susan Hanley
December 31: John & Ashley Smith



Baptismal Birthdays

December 1: Barbara Wiebbecke
December 4: Pam Oehlkers
December 5: Korryn LaLumondier
December 7: Corey Shaffer
December 7: Maxwell Smith
December 10: Samuel Blittle
December 10: Greg Golter
December 12: Foster Gerson
December 19: Sandra Reinhardt
December 23: Carol Wright
December 26: Danny Johnson
December 27: Paige Shaffer
December 28: Gabriel Szusterman



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

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	2	3	4 6:30 Advent dinner 7:30 Advent worship 8:00 Sanctuary decorating	5 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	6	7
8 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Children's Xmas program 11:30 Luigi's dinner	9	10	11 6:30 Advent dinner 7:30 Advent worship	12 9:00 ROMEO holiday breakfast 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	13	14 10:00 LWML
15 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper 12:00 Pizza lunch and movie (<i>The Nativity Story</i>)	16	17	18 6:30 Advent dinner 7:30 Advent worship	19 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	20	21
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	23	24 7:30 Christmas Eve candlelight service	25 10:30 Christmas Day worship w/ the Lord's Supper	26	27	28
29 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	30	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.