



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

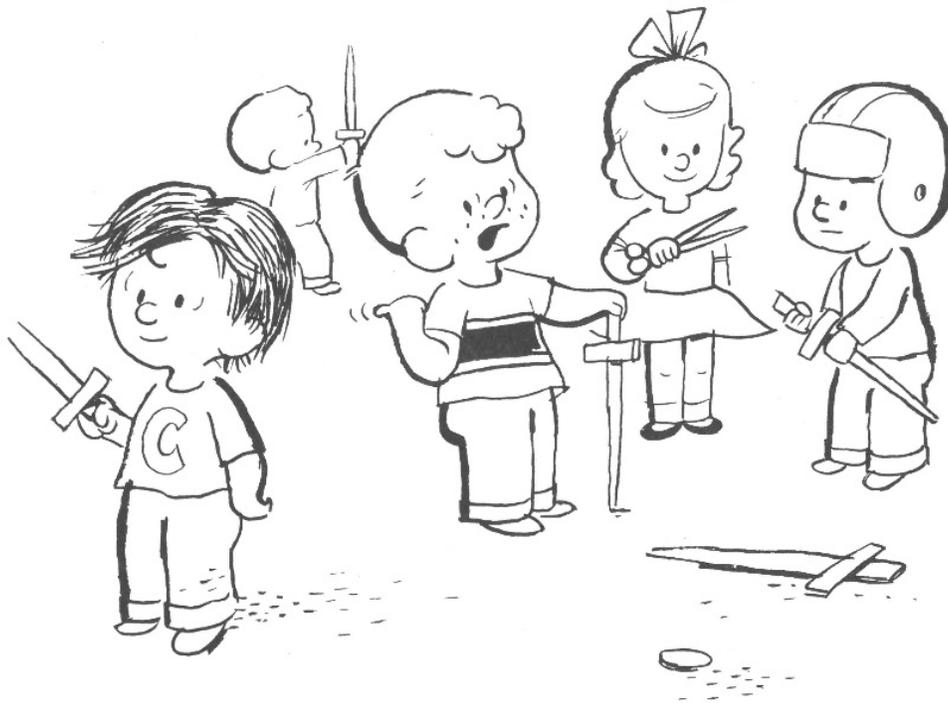
As I write this, it is officially 2020! Tradition begins the new year as a fresh start for a myriad of purposes with a myriad of related tasks. But our *Christian* new year began on the first Sunday in Advent, which was December 1, 2019. And the Christian new year always begins with the same purpose and related task: to prepare for the coming of the Christ child by worshiping that same Christ. We rejoice that our Christian new year hasn't been distorted like our Christmas... I suppose secular culture zoomed right by Advent at the onset of Black Friday. And we give thanks that the early church passed down a religious calendar for us to observe—a calendar by which we prepare for and receive the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As Martin Chemnitz writes, “From antiquity the church year, for very good reasons, has been divided into certain festivals, in order that the chief articles of the Christian doctrine can be taught to the people in a definite order and inculcated by annual repetition.”

You may have noticed that our color for Advent is no longer blue—when purchasing the new paraments, we chose the traditional color of purple. This was a conscious decision to reinstate the early church intention for Advent, which is a season of penitential reflection like Lent. The color blue arose from the Victorian-era Anglican church, but holds no traditional symbolism apart from being the color of Mary. In another change you may *not* have noticed, we began using the one-year lectionary in Advent of 2017. Almost 60 years ago, the Roman Catholic Church convened the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) to address contemporary issues. As a result, many liturgical revisions were enacted, including new readings that served as the basis for the Revised Common (or Three-year) Lectionary, which the LCMS and many other denominations adopted. But our decisions to return to Advent purple and the historic one-year lectionary weren't made to spite the Anglicans or Roman Catholics—they were made because their symbolism, content, and order are deemed better for preparing and teaching God's people; the fact that both originate in the church millennia before England's Victorian Era and

the Second Vatican Council is a bonus that binds us to all those early Christians in thought and practice. As our Lutheran confessions state, “in our churches we willingly observe the order of the Mass, the Lord’s day, and other more important festival days. With a very grateful spirit we cherish the useful and ancient ordinances, especially when they contain a discipline by which it is profitable to educate and teach... [and] we gladly keep the ancient traditions set up in the church because they are useful and promote tranquility, and we interpret them in the best possible way, by excluding the opinion that they justify” (Ap VII/VIII.33; XV.38-39). We cheerfully implement and practice that which is salutary, yet reserve the heavenly work for Christ alone.

It’s officially 2020, but our Christian 2020 began five weeks ago, as we prepared for the Christ child and now celebrate these 12 days of Christmas! I pray this year—especially the *Christian* year with its story of Jesus’ birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension—brings you the eternal joy of salvation in Him each and every day.

In Christ,
Pastor Greg



“Let Eddie be Samson. He needs a haircut.”

Announcements



“Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, **Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;**
Star of the East, the horizon adorning, **Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**” (LSB 400:1)

Thanks to everyone who supported Ascension LWML in 2019 with their prayers and mites. The total of our Mites contributions for the year end was \$2,617. Our “Mighty Mites,” along with mites collected in LWML Societies across the country, fund grants that enable many ministries to serve others. The programs we help fund brings the love of God to people who may not know Him, and so, dawning on their darkness and guiding them to Jesus and relationship with Him.

Let the LWML bring a bright spot of “Dawn” to **YOUR** day! Our next LWML meeting is on Saturday, January 11, 2020. We will gather together at 10:00 am for insightful Bible Study and a short business meeting, followed by a fellowship lunch at noon. We would love to have you join us!



From the library : We made it through the hustle and bustle of the Christmas holiday. The last minute search for a gift, finishing our baking, and sending out cards. For some of us, there were a few days after the 25th to sit and relax, because everything was finished. Except perhaps, to put that new vehicle tag on before the 1st of the month rolls around!

Regardless of the joys or difficulties of the past year, we now have a fresh New Year – the start of a new decade – to look forward to. A new chance to change, improve, grow. Hopefully, not just another year that brings resignation because things are not the way we thought they would be.

Many of you know that with a cup of fresh tea and a good book, I am content, sitting and reading, as I forget some of the more annoying things that might cast a shadow on my day. I might even neglect completely something that really needs to be done! As I sat on the sofa just a few days before the end of the year, I realized that I had time to meet the deadline for the Ascension Newsletter – it has been a while since our Library has gotten a mention. I had even talked with Pastor Greg about some of the new books that will soon be entered into the library, and we agreed there are many great books just waiting to be discovered on the shelves.

Some of you have shared with me that you enjoyed a book and chose it after it had been reviewed by one of the library workers. Sometimes, I read a book from our Spiritual Growth or Theology section that brings insights I did not expect. Many times, I read a Christian fiction book that illustrates principles of our faith and affirm what I also believe. A character in the story goes through difficult circumstances and I find myself turning the pages to find out what is going to happen next! The author writes in more details that reveal that just as in our own life, God had complete control of the situation all along!

Christian books reflect timeless biblical values and principles. Christian writers can open our eyes to a new way of looking at something we thought we knew all about. Why not browse through the books on our shelves and start the New Year off with a book you have not read? We hope to see you in the Library!

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>



Fröhliche Weihnachten,

Our Lord has come for our salvation! Christmas has been a great opportunity to share how Christ came to save us and leads us to serve in His name. Gott sei Dank! Thanks be to God! In our weekly Bible study, we finished our year-long study of the book of Matthew. Our trilingual (English, German and Farsi) Bible study was a great opportunity to read a chapter and then focus a specific lesson for the week. We found that navigating through three languages gave us some interesting challenges. Every week the refugees were led by the Holy Spirit to learn the faith that brings salvation in the next life and everlasting peace in this present age.

This past week we were able to share our faith more intimately as we had dinner at four different refugee wohnungs (apartment homes). We were able to find out more about the refugee lives and the oppression that drove them out. In Iran, the people live under a religious tyrannical regime and take risks that contribute to additional problems. In one instance, the man sent out a disparaging social media note to another man who had government influence. The other man identified our refugee as anti-Government and he had to flee quickly. Another refugee was discovered when he and several other men were writing anti-government graffiti supporting Kurdish rights. However, many of the people that we meet were secretly converted to Christianity and meeting in home churches. Many had to flee with no time for collecting their lives and setting everything in order. They fled and ultimately found a home in our church. Gott sei Dank!

We have some good news that after four long years, one of our refugee leaders featured in an earlier newsletter, Ashkan, has been granted a positive asylum request. Once the refugee has received a positive finding, they are eligible for better housing, better work opportunities, better travel authorization and just a better life here in Germany. We pray that all our St Petri refugees receive asylum and therefore have protection from deportation. Our Pastor and church play an integral part in many of these refugees receiving asylum. Current German government policy does not send Christians back to Iran to certain imprisonment, torture and possibly death. Our hope has been and is now, that the Holy Spirit would work on the heart of these refugees that are not yet true believers. And He does. Gott sei Dank!

Gott segne euch!! Carl & Karen Cecil

Serving Ascension in January

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Lector	Pastor Greg	Pastor Greg	Cherri Walker	Dennis Anderson
Acolyte	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson
Elder	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert
Ushers	Cecil Willis & Dave Brown	Cecil Willis & Dave Brown	Cecil Willis & Dave Brown	Cecil Willis & Dave Brown
Cantor	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A
Altar Guild	Joan Johnson & Grace Lehmann & Lily Graham	Joan Johnson & Grace Lehmann	Joan Johnson & Grace Lehmann & Isabella Gerson	Joan Johnson & Grace Lehmann

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

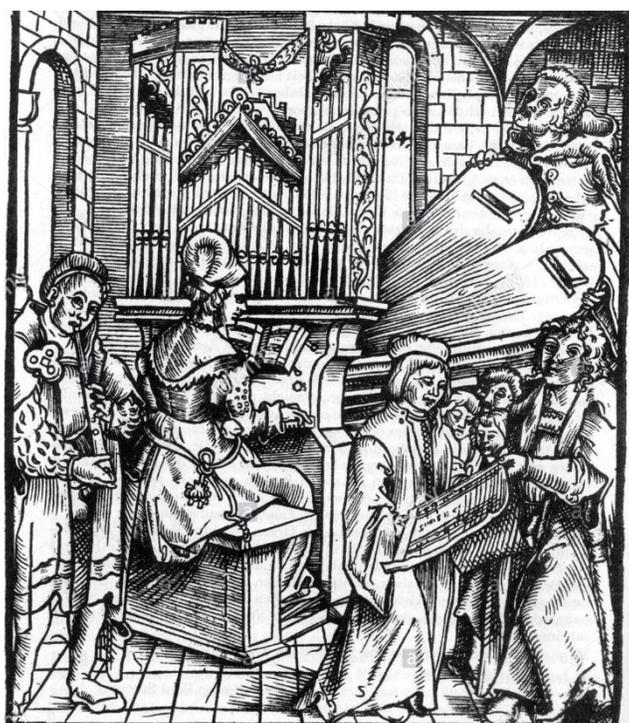


Coffee Half-hour

January 5:Carolyn Willis
 January 12: Cherri Walker
 January 19: Cindy Dougherty
 January 26: Jane Chitren

The Organist

January 5: Minae Hayashi
 January 12: Cindy Dougherty
 January 19: Minae Hayashi
 January 26: 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 24: Russ Gullett
January 24: Brittaney Summers
January 26: Isabella Gerson
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 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	3	4
5 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	6	7	8 6:30 Confirmation	9 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	10	11 10:00 LWML
12 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	13	14	15 6:30 Confirmation	16 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	20	21	22 6:30 Confirmation	23 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	27	28	29 6:30 Confirmation	30 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	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.