



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear saints of Ascension,

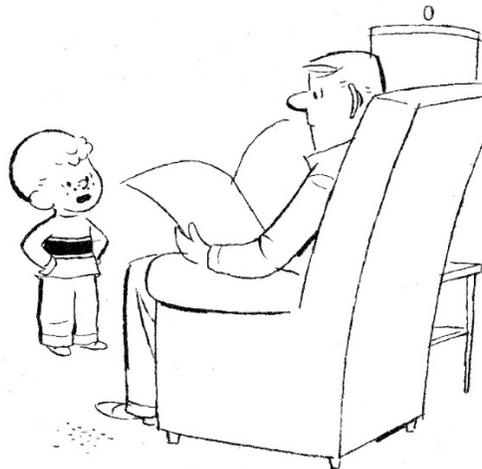
Nineteenth-century composer Gustav Mahler is typically credited with saying, “Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire.” It would be an odd insight from someone who was crucial to the evolution of orchestral music, if not for recognizing that his melodies commonly draw upon childhood folk songs. Last month I wrote about the tradition of Ash Wednesday; the month before that about traditional church readings, colors, and calendars. It’s a worthy endeavor to question tradition—after all, if the tradition’s meaning is unknown, what purpose does it serve? G. K. Chesterton famously wrote, “In the matter of reforming things, as distinct from deforming them, there is one plain and simple principle; a principle which will probably be called a paradox. There exists in such a case a certain institution or law; let us say, for the sake of simplicity, a fence or gate erected across a road. The more modern type of reformer goes gaily up to it and says, ‘I don’t see the use of this; let us clear it away.’ To which the more intelligent type of reformer will do well to answer: ‘If you don’t see the use of it, I certainly won’t let you clear it away. Go away and think. Then, when you can come back and tell me that you do see the use of it, I may allow you to destroy it’” (*The Thing*, 1929). Chesterton’s point is simply to be prudent before eliminating something as if every action is an action of progress. Martin Luther waged this war early in the Reformation as radicals such as Andreas Karlstadt and Thomas Münzter went about destroying anything “Roman Catholic,” which included altars, images, and stained-glass windows. Was it fair to ask what use these things served? Luther wanted to assess the purpose and make reforms where necessary according to God’s word (even rather slowly, so as not to cause offense), whereas others simply wanted to burn down the Roman Catholic church in the name of a new era. Some things just looked and sounded “too Catholic,” such as the sacraments, which led to new ideas like believer’s baptism and a memorial Lord’s Supper.

Paul writes, “I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me’” (1 Cor 11:23-24). The word “delivered” is the same word used when Judas negotiates to “deliver” Jesus (Mt 26:14-16), which

reveals a related meaning to the word: “to hand over.” What Paul “handed over” to the Corinthians is what he received from the Lord, which is a tradition; or, as he says earlier, “Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain *the traditions* even as I delivered them to you” (1 Cor 11:2; cf. 2 Thes 2:14-15; 3:6). So the question for the Corinthians becomes, “Do this tradition have a purpose we should keep?” Many had already taken down Chesterton’s fence, for “in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. ...[And] When you come together, it is not the Lord’s supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk” (1 Cor 11:18-21). The tradition Paul had received from the Lord and subsequently given to the Corinthians had turned into a means to indulge and promote social status—what a horrendous sin! Paul urges them to consider the purpose of the tradition, which is to commune with the body and blood of Christ while proclaiming His death until He comes (1 Cor 10:16; 11:26). He makes this exhortation not only to the Corinthians, but to everyone who hears the words first heard by the Corinthians.

Let us take stock of our traditions and realize their uses, especially the Lord’s Supper as we approach Holy Week—that the purpose of this tradition is voiced by Christ: “Take, eat... Drink of it... for the forgiveness of sins” (Mt 26:26-28). The radical reformers moved away from this tradition, teaching that nothing earthly (bread and wine) can communicate the heavenly (forgiveness); yet the word of Christ stands that in faith you receive forgiveness in the eating and drinking. And so “Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire”—the fire of the Spirit who came at Pentecost and now comes in the Lord’s Supper, for “here in the Sacrament you are to receive from Christ’s lips the forgiveness of sins, which contains and brings with it God’s grace and Spirit with all his gifts, protection, defense, and power against death, the devil, and every trouble” (LC V.70)!

In His holy name,
Pastor Greg



“Can I have an allowance so I can tithe?”

Announcements



Thank you for your support of LWML! Our February Soup Sale raised \$415.00. These funds will be used to support the work of Lutheran World Relief as they supply needed services to the unsaved here and around the world, while sharing the gospel message.

Ascension holds regular LWML meetings on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Our next meeting is on Saturday, March 14, 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!

Stewardship

What are your plans for the future? Probably the same as what Ascension is planning—BURN THE MORTGAGE! Some of us have already experienced this satisfying feeling. Optimism for our congregation is of utmost importance right now. We can do this! The first step of the plan for this year is to make a lump payment of \$7,800 by the end of May. On “Pledge Sunday” last Fall we were challenged with an extra donation, either \$650 or \$325 going toward the principal of the loan. If you did not pledge to give an extra gift at that time, you may still make a donation, marked to go toward the “principal of the loan.” I know we cannot always control everything in life (not even close) but we can approach our lives in a positive way. Let’s focus on the good things. We can spend time with positive people, our friends in the Lord. Luke 6:38 says, “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” Give of yourself, your prayers, your time, your money and your love. —Ora Mae Golter



From the Library

Our thanks to members who have decided to pass along some good books for others to read! We have been adding some new books to our collection. The Library Staff thinks every month is a good month to be reading, and a good book will help make these last cold days go by quickly! Here are a few of the new titles that you will find in the library and the categories they can be found in:

Here I Stand – A Life of Martin Luther / Biography
Sacred Marriage / Christian and Family Living
The Hammer of God – A classic novel about faith and the power of grace / Fiction “G”
Stewardship Under the Cross / Leadership/Church Growth
My Utmost for His Highest / Reflections and Devotions
Imitation of Christ – This book has provided inspiration and food for spiritual strength and consolation for men of every creed. / Personal Growth and Wellness
Celebration of Discipline / Personal Growth and Wellness
The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel / Personal Growth and Wellness

The Fabricated Luther – Refuting the Nazi connection and other myths about Luther. / Theology
Know Why You Believe – A Classic answer book on the Christian faith / Theology
Biblical Basis for Modern Science – This book presents clear evidence that the Bible gives us an astonishingly accurate record of the past, present, and future. / Theology
In the Fullness of Time – A skillful narrative and a host of magnificent photographs illustrate the book and help recreate the world, the mood, the people and events that sweeps readers into the exciting first years of Christianity. / Church History

The season of Lent is now here. Many Christians ‘give up’ something to help them focus on Jesus and his suffering. Perhaps this Lenten season you might consider giving up some of the time you spend on an electronic device or watching television, and select a book from our Library that will further your spiritual growth.

Missions & Ministry

Organizations and people we support:

 <p>https://www.trinityhope.org/</p>
 <p>http://helpmadison.org/</p>
 <p>https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/</p>
 <p>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>



For every believer change is possible, it is gradual, and it is promised

My church is studying the book of 2 Peter and this reminder has really stuck with me the last

couple of weeks. I love to learn, even after turning 50. I love learning more about myself and how I can continue to grow and change, so I get uncomfortable around people who say: I am who I am, and I am not going to change. And I think: well that is your choice... but it is a choice. As we are looking at the character of Peter (who I think is my brother from another mother) I realized he is the ultimate example of a changed man... over time. He didn't follow Christ one day and then stopped being impulsive the next day. No, the poor guy makes a number of blunders recorded for all to see. I think of his lowest low: the moment he denied Christ three times. After the resurrection; in a moment of redemption only Christ can offer, he was asked three times if he loved Jesus. Jesus accepted Peter's humble, honest assessment of his love for Christ. And He helped him build a ministry that would change the world. I take solace in that. If God can redeem Peter's lowest moment than he can redeem mine.

It's this promise we bring to our clients. We hope to offer her help, but we hope more for her to receive the unending power of the Holy Spirit to indwell in her. We know that WITH God all change, all redemption, all hope IS possible. She may have made a few bad choices, or she may have decades of unhealthy choices in her wake. And we are honest with her. Some of her consequences may take weeks, months or even years to work through but we believe over time, anything is possible. For the clients that only stay in our lives the first year we see glimpses of that change. But for other clients it takes them returning for a visit YEARS later for us to realize how much God has restored their life. What a blessing for us to get to celebrate that!

Thank you so much for your support and prayers. We are always grateful for the role you play in our work. We do not take it for granted. May God bless you!

Blessings,
Renée Rizzo, President/CEO

Serving Ascension in March

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Lector	Liz Brown	Mark LaLumondier	Rick Speitel	Tom Johnson	Trisha LaLumondier
Acolyte	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	TBD
Elder	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa
Ushers	John Kubitz & Phil Weinert	John Kubitz & Phil Weinert	John Kubitz & Phil Weinert	John Kubitz & Phil Weinert	John Kubitz & Phil Weinert
Cantor	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A	Tim Hanusa
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

March 1: Sandy Bradley

March 8: Trisha LaLumondier

March 15: Carolyne Willis

March 22: Cherri Walker

March 29: Cindy Dougherty

The Organist

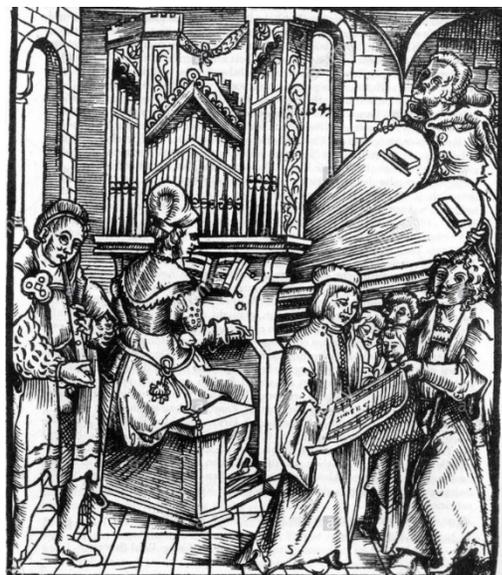
March 1: Minae Hayashi

March 8: Cindy Dougherty

March 15: Minae Hayashi

March 22: Cindy Dougherty

March 29: Dennis Anderson



March 1: Carolyne Willis

March 8: Sandy Bradley

March 15: Deborah Hann

March 22: Kathy Meyers

March 29: Cherri Walker

Celebrations

Birthdays

March 3: Hekmat Elradi
March 4: Tiffany Sutton
March 5: Fred Lehmann
March 6: Bill Speitel
March 7: Susan Hanley
March 8: Cindy Dougherty
March 10: Trisha LaLumondier
March 10: Dana Summers
March 14: Grace Lehmann
March 17: Jeff Oehlkers
March 17: Aaron Grobengieser
March 20: Nathaniel Hancock
March 25: Sara Blittle
March 28: Gesma Elradi

ANNIVERSARIES

March 13: Brad & Terri Langston



Baptismal Birthdays

March 10: Diane Gupton
March 10: Fred Lehmann
March 13: Sara Dillon
March 19: Alice Blittle
March 19: Henry Blittle
March 19: John Boggs
March 19: Daniel Szusterman
March 21: Joshua Hancock
March 27: Grace Lehmann
March 29: Patrick Boggs



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

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	2	3	4 6:00 Lenten dinner 7:00 Lenten worship	5 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	6	7
8 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	9	10	11 6:00 Lenten dinner 7:00 Lenten worship	12 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	16	17	18 6:00 Lenten dinner 7:00 Lenten worship	19 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	20 5:30 Event dinner 7:00 Lutheran Northwest High choir performance	21
22 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	23	24	25 6:00 Lenten dinner 7:00 Lenten worship	26 9:00 ROMEO breakfast 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	27	28
29 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper 12:00 Potluck	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.