



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear blessed saints,

In 1527, a plague broke out in Wittenberg that compelled Martin Luther and his colleagues to move the student university to Jena, some 100 miles away. Such a move was not taken lightly, yet not everyone left: some were obliged to stay in love for neighbor, especially those in public offices of church and state. Luther himself recovered from illness by August and wrote to Philip Melanchthon, “We are persuaded that the plague is really here, but we hope that it will be mild and light.... Keep us in your prayers as dead men who live.” Did Luther request prayer as one who escaped the plague, or did he request prayer as one in the general state of mankind? Truly we are all “dead men who live”—sinners who will die, but who also have received this precious life fashioned by God: “Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them” (Ps 139:16).

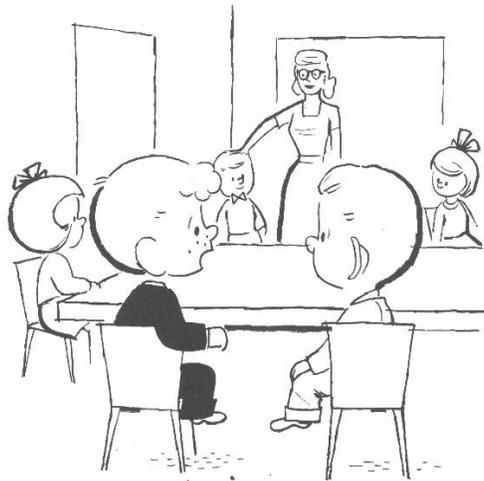
I just read a poll that reported 28% of American respondents believe they will die from contracting the coronavirus (<https://theharrispoll.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19-Axios-LiveStream.pdf>). These responses should not be trivialized, since the fear of death can consume one’s life. The eighth-century church father Maximus asserted that man “remains utterly dominated by the fear of death” (*Ad Thalassium* 21). Experience bears this out, for even if the teenager has little fear of death now, he inevitably approaches death, when people contemplate the weighty matters of life in earnest. For this reason, Luther wrote just a few weeks later, “I am staying here, and it is necessary that I do so because of the terrible fear among the common people.” To love life and fear death is good and natural, for God created us to live and hold fast to being. We rightfully draw back from things that lead to death, as did Jesus when He prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me” (Lk 22:42). At this moment in Gethsemane, Jesus expressed the good and natural fear that says, “Death is contrary to God-given life!” But there is also a bad and unnatural fear of death that dreads

losing the sinful pleasures of this world, or lacks the faith in God to say, “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” (1 Cor 15:55).

Particularly in times like these, the devil wants you to fear death unto despair; he wants you to tremble at the idea of leaving this world; he wants you to be such an anxious knot that you lose sight of Christ and everything He’s already done for you. But think of God’s boundless love! Think of His infinite forgiveness! Think of Christ bursting through the grave to say, “I’ve destroyed sin, death, and the devil, and raised your humanity to the highest heavens! Your courage in the face of death is My resurrection, which stands forever!” The devil wants you to be unprepared to die, when in fact, Jesus went through death to prepare a place for you: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (Jn 14:1-3). In his own rebuke of the devil, Luther writes, “If you can terrify, my Christ can strengthen. If you can slay, Christ can give life. If you have poison on your breath, Christ has more potent medicine. ...Get thee behind me, Satan!” The bad and unnatural fear of death belongs in hell with the devil.

And so, in his lone psalm, Moses writes, “teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom” (Ps 90:12). Our “heart of wisdom” is the truth about death: that it will happen to each one of us, yet is now a passage to life with God forever! As the great hymnist Paul Gerhardt writes, “Now in Christ, death cannot slay me, Though it might, Day and night, Trouble and dismay me. Christ has made my death a portal From the strife Of this life To His joy immortal!” (LSB 756:5). Be courageous in this pestilence and fear not death.

In His holy name,
Pastor Greg



“If God brings trouble to those He loves, I must be His favorite!”

Announcements



Ascension holds regular LWML meetings on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 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!

Stewardship

So where is God in all of this? We're hunkered down during the coronavirus pandemic taking inventory of what we have. We are asking ourselves, how can we help? This is certainly a time of testing at the church. God is here! This is bringing us together, caring for one another, helping others to cope with their fears. We all need to be praying for this world's coronavirus pandemic. If you are not attending regular worship services, remember to pray for the church, and please be sure to mail your financial offerings to:

Ascension Lutheran Church
610 W. Old Hickory Blvd., Madison TN 37115

Yes, also remember that we continue to need your donations toward debt retirement. Christian life consists of faith and charity. In our blest life we will all want to praise the Lord for all things we have and are able to do! In Psalm 107:6a, 13a, 19a, and 28a, it says, "they cried to the Lord in their trouble"—no visible storms are calmed, but the changes that came about were on the inside.

—Ora Mae Golter

A LITTLE LUTHER



"In like fashion those who are in the ministry, such as preachers and pastors, are also obliged to stay and

remain when there is peril of death, for there is a clear command of Christ, 'The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep, but he that is a hireling seeth the wolf coming and fleeth.' In time of death one is especially in need of the ministry which can strengthen and comfort one's conscience with God's Word and Sacrament in order to overcome death with faith.

...Where there are no parents, guardians and close relatives are obliged to take in those who are related to them, or at least be careful to see to it that others are provided in their places to care for their sick relatives. In fact, no one may flee from his neighbor unless there is somebody to take his place in waiting upon and nursing the sick. In all such cases these words of Christ are to be feared: 'I was sick and ye visited me not.' These words of Christ bind each of us to the other. No one may forsake his neighbor when he is in trouble. Everybody is under obligation to help and support his neighbor as he would himself like to be helped.

...The other point on which to attack the devil is the sure promise of God with which he comforts all those who consider the poor and needy. He says in Ps. 41: 'Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt transform his whole bed in his sickness.' Are not these great and glorious promises of God, showered in abundance on those who consider the poor and needy? ...Saint Paul does well to say to Timothy, 'Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.' Godliness is nothing but divine service, and divine service is service to one's neighbor. Experience teaches us that those who minister to the sick with love, devotion, and earnestness are generally preserved. Even if they too should be infected, it does not matter, for this psalm says, 'Thou wilt transform his whole bed in his sickness,' that is, God will turn his sickbed into a bed for the well." (*Letter to John Hess, November 1527*)

Missions & Ministry

Organizations and people we support:



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



<http://helpmadison.org/>



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



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



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



Concordia
Seminary
ST. LOUIS

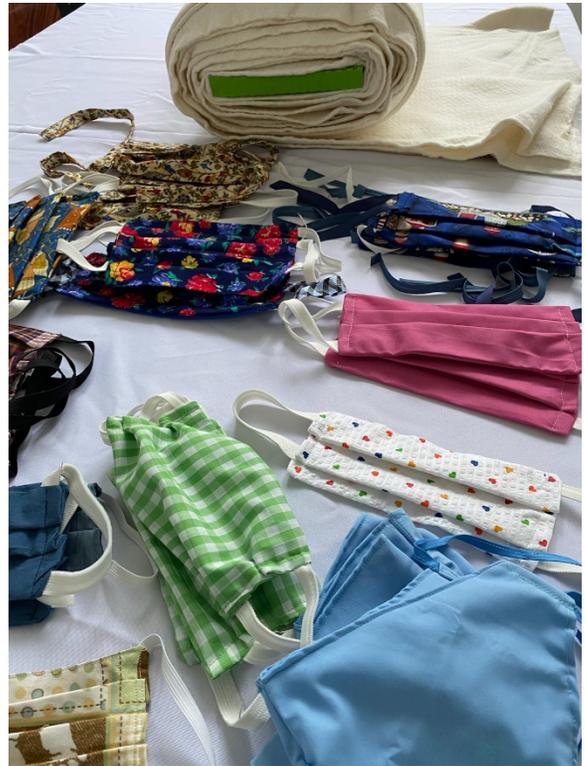
Seminarian Corey Shaffer and family
<https://www.csl.edu/>



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



During the current pandemic, POBLO International is assisting Refuge for Nations to help refugees find work while filling the urgent community need of protective masks:



Check out more at: <https://refugeforations.com/>

Serving Ascension in April

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Lector	Pastor Greg	Pastor Greg	Cherri Walker	Dennis Anderson
Acolyte	n/a	Michael Patterson	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson
Elder	n/a	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert
Ushers	n/a	Zach LaLumondier & Cecil Willis	Zach LaLumondier & Cecil Willis	Zach LaLumondier & Cecil Willis
Cantor	n/a	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A
Altar Guild	n/a	Cindy Dougherty & Grace Lehmann	Cindy Dougherty & Grace Lehmann & Isabella Gerson	Cindy Dougherty & Grace Lehmann

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

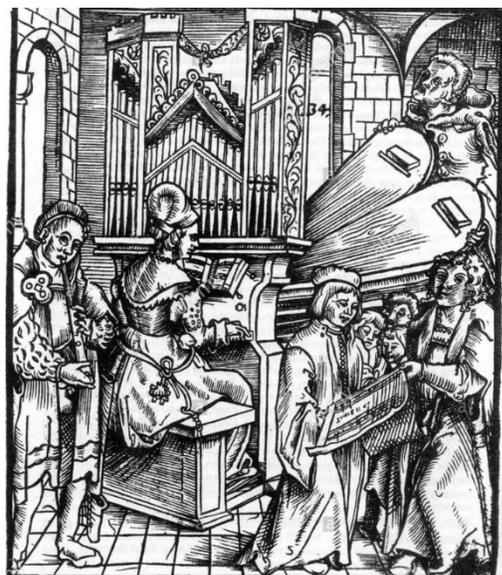


Coffee Half-hour

April 5: n/a
 April 12: n/a
 April 19: Kathy Meyers
 April 26: Linda Fritz

The Organist

April 5: Cindy Dougherty
 April 12: Minae Hayashi
 April 19: Cindy Dougherty
 April 26: Minae Hayashi



April 5: n/a
 April 12: n/a
 April 19: Carolyne Willis
 April 26: Sandy Bradley

Celebrations

Birthdays

April 2: Ora Mae Golter
April 2: Sara Hancock
April 3: Deliah Gerson
April 6: Caleb Oehlkers
April 9: Yuji Hayashi
April 10: Adalyn Spann
April 15: Jennifer Cole
April 18: Jane Gullett
April 19: Shan Rose
April 22: Ann Husband
April 26: Chris Fritz
April 28: Amy Conner
April 28: Ann Fuller

ANNIVERSARIES

April 6: Dennis & Connie Anderson
April 23: Dave & Liz Brown
April 24: Abdelseed & Alizabeth Murrans
April 28: Jeff & Pam Oehlkers



Baptismal Birthdays

April 2: Frances Boggs
April 10: Dave Brown
April 14: Yuji Hayashi
April 16: Minae Hayashi
April 22: Jeff Oehlkers
April 24: Bill Speitel



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

April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15 Lenten worship 7:00 Lenten worship	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper 9:45 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	6	7	8	9 7:00 Maundy Thursday service	10 2:00 Good Friday afternoon service 7:00 Good Friday evening service	11 10:00 LWML
12 7:00 Easter worship w/ the Lord's Supper 10:30 Easter worship w/ the Lord's Supper	13	14	15	16 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	20	21	22	23 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	27	28	29	30 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
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.