



## Ascension Lutheran Church

# ANNOUNCER

Dear beloved,

As I write this, we have moved from a society of lockdowns to a society of curfews. I don't recall this level of national disarray in my lifetime. The government—as instituted by God (Rom 13:1)—has one primary function: to prevent and punish violations of rights to life and liberty (Rom 13:4). Where this fails, society will fail, because society in a sinful world demands order. Oppressive governments maintain societal order, but they do so at the expense of life and liberty; thus, they forsake their reason for existence. Where government fails, society will fail, because—as our nation's founders rightly declared—society requires defense of the self-evident truths “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Where the Creator's word is believed, these rights can be upheld; where the Creator's word is not believed, these rights will vanish.

With this in mind, we pray for our leaders: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” (1 Ti 2:1-2). We pray that violations of rights to life and liberty would be prevented and punished, and that society would have order. People who sow disorder—whether leaders or civilians—actively rebel against God (Ps 2:1-3; Rom 13:2). With this in mind, we pray “for all people,” while drawing special attention to our leaders for the sake of society. God's purpose for life, liberty, and order is for “all people to be saved and to come to the

knowledge of the truth” (1 Ti 2:4). We peaceably fight for life, liberty, and order, so that the saving gospel of Jesus Christ might have free rein. In this sense, our confessions enjoin leaders “to preserve sound doctrine, to propagate it for posterity, and to defend those who teach it rightly. For God demands this when he honors kings with his own name and calls them gods [Ps. 82:6], ‘I say, “You are gods,”’ so that they may take care in preserving and propagating on earth ‘divine matters,’ that is, Christ’s gospel, and as vicars of God that they defend the life and welfare of the innocent” (Ap XXI.44).

We pray for our leaders and keep in mind that original sin does not discriminate. Leaders go wrong, which is why we continue to contend for life, liberty, and order. In a time when many are placing ultimate trust in human institutions, we remember that “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes” (Ps 118:9). At tragic wrongdoing we call for justice, knowing the hard truth that justice might not be rendered until the Last Day. This is not fatalistic, because we know God “is faithful and just” (1 Jn 1:9)—“faithful” in sending His Son to die for our sins, “just” in forgiving our sins because His Son bore the punishment. If God is faithful and just in the eternal things, He will certainly be faithful and just in the temporal things, and in this truth we have comfort and hope in the most trying times.

In His holy name,  
*Pastor Greg*



“I liked the story of Joseph, Miss White. It’s good enough for television.”

# Announcements



The Lutheran Women's group will not meet during the summer months. We will have the Mite Box in the Narthex on the second Sunday of each month: June 14,

July 12, and August 9. Our district LWML mission projects are funded through these donations and change every two (2) years. Since our convention was cancelled, we will vote electronically on new mission projects June 8-15. I will inform you as to what the new projects are.

One quarter of the money goes to national projects and three-fourths stays in our Mid-South District.

—Ora Mae Golter, LWML Treasurer

## Stewardship

Stewardship is not a subcategory of the Christian life; it is the Christian life! We can summarize what God's Word says about stewardship in four points. Giving must be voluntary and cheerful, and should be from the first fruits of our labor. It should be in proportion to our income and done faithfully, as God has prospered us.

As such, faith and finances are inseparable. True joy is found not in storing up the things of this world, for the things of this world won't last. True joy is found in His Life through His Word, Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. —Ora Mae Golter

“The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”  
(Psalm 24:1)

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 2:4-5)

If you're unable to attend Sunday worship services, please mail your financial offerings to:

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



## Calling All Ladies for LWML

It has been an eventful last two months dealing with the COVID 19 Pandemic, but we have good news! Jesus loves you and your support of our mission outreach to the local community and the world thru Lutheran World Relief is a blessing to those in need. LWML, Lutheran Women in Mission, invite you to prayerfully consider joining us in preparing various projects such as personal care kits, school kits, quilts, etc.

LWML meets on the second Saturday of each month September thru May to study the Bible, conduct business, and work on projects. A light lunch is served afterwards for a time of sharing. We take a break in the summer June – August. Your help and expertise are greatly needed and appreciated. We will be practicing social distancing and safe practices at our meetings.

Beginning in June we will start collecting supplies for the Personal Care kits. Any donations to this project are greatly appreciated and are a blessing to those in need. There will be a box located under the LWML bulletin board to place donated items. The following items are needed to prepare the Personal Care kits:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (20" x 40" to 27" x 52"), dark color recommended
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz.; any brand in original wrapping; no mini or hotel-size bars
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One metal nail clipper (attached file optional), remove packaging
- One sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs); remove packaging

All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all the items in the towel and secure with ribbon, yarn or rubber bands. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags. Thank you for all your support of LWML projects in the past and those yet to come! —Cherri Walker

“Serve the LORD with gladness” (Psalm 100:2)!

# Bible study returns!

Upon ending our safer-at-home-order hiatus,  
we will convene one (1) online study and two (2) in-person studies:

*Sundays from 9:00-9:30am  
via online Zoom meetings*



Pastor Greg will survey Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and New Age, with a look at their history, sacred texts, beliefs, and modern schools/denominations, with the goal of understanding each religion from the adherent's point of view and dissecting each religion's view of Jesus.

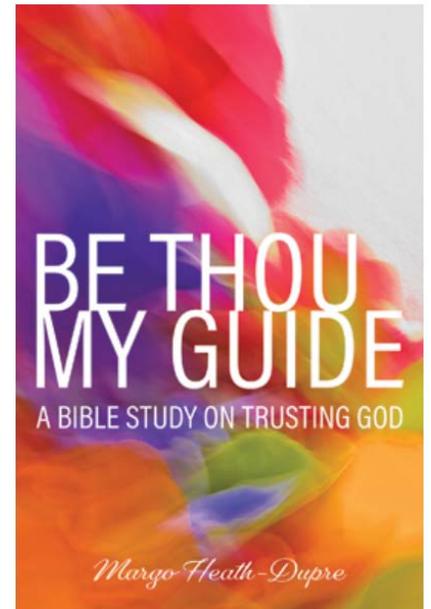
Please email Pastor Greg ([pastorgregbauch@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgregbauch@gmail.com)) to confirm attendance and follow the instructions for installing the Zoom client on your computer below.

*Thursday @ 10:30am  
at the church in a space  
approved for safe distancing*



Pastor Greg will continue the word religions study with future topics TBD.

*Beginning Tuesday,  
June 9 @ 6:30pm, in a space  
approved for safe distancing*



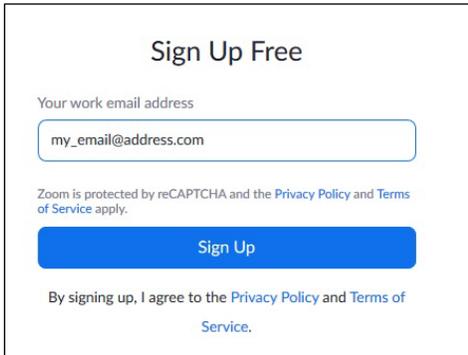
A women's study through the book *Be Thou My Guide: A Bible Study on Trusting God* by Margo Heath-Dupre. Books are provided free of charge.

Please email Amanda Bauch ([amandadye@gmail.com](mailto:amandadye@gmail.com)) to register or for more details.

*We hope you can join us!*

## To install Zoom client for online Bible study

1. Navigate to <http://zoom.us> and click on "SIGN UP, IT'S FREE"
2. Enter your email address and click "Sign Up"



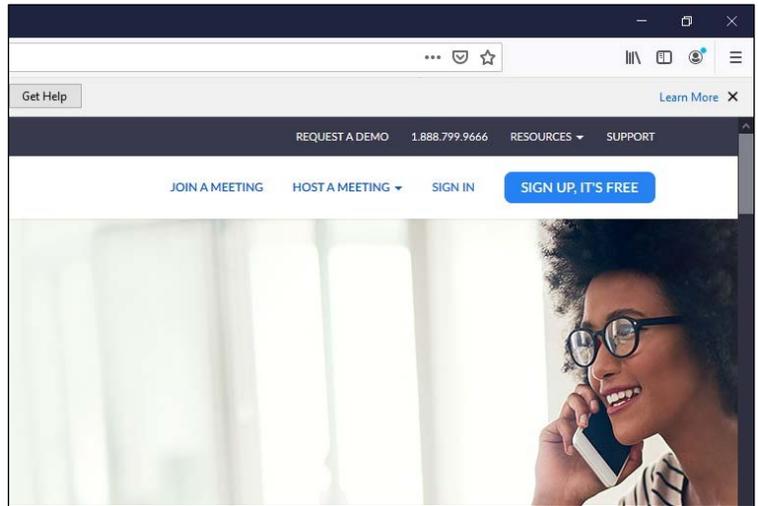
Sign Up Free

Your work email address

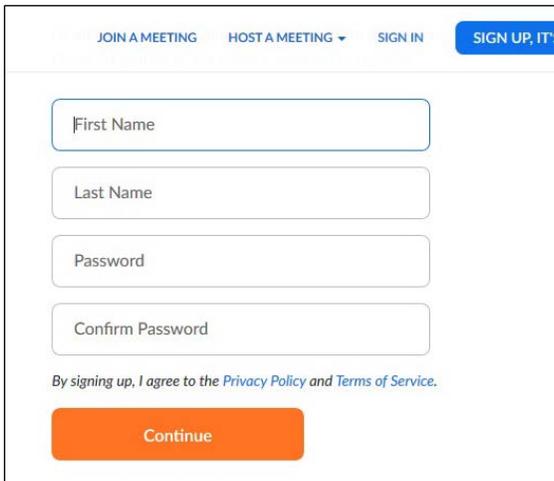
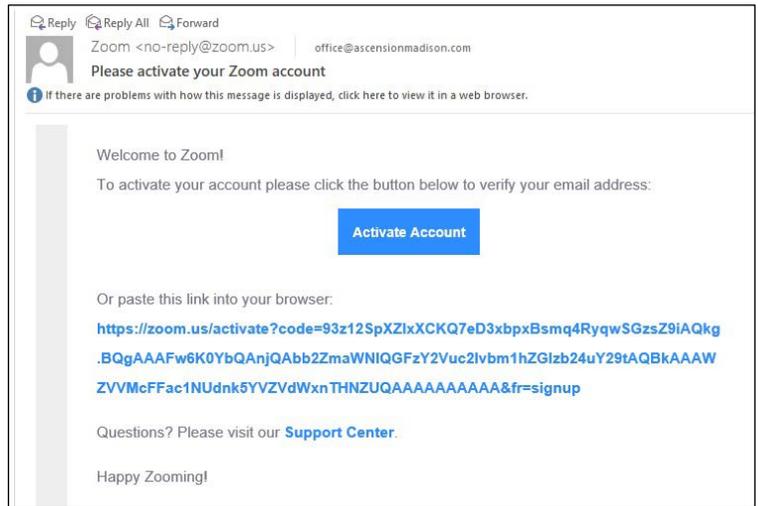
Zoom is protected by reCAPTCHA and the [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) apply.

**Sign Up**

By signing up, I agree to the [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).



3. Respond to the verification email by clicking "Activate Account"
4. Enter the additional information and click "Continue"



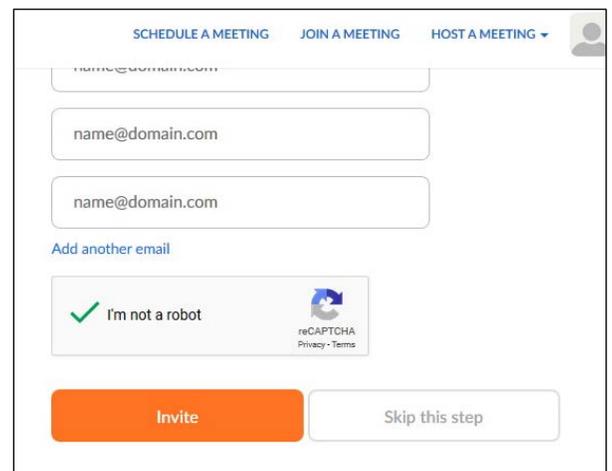
JOIN A MEETING | HOST A MEETING | SIGN IN | **SIGN UP, IT'S FREE**

By signing up, I agree to the [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

**Continue**

5. Select "I'm not a robot" and then click "Skip this step" (grayed out)
6. Save and/or Run the Zoom download to install the client



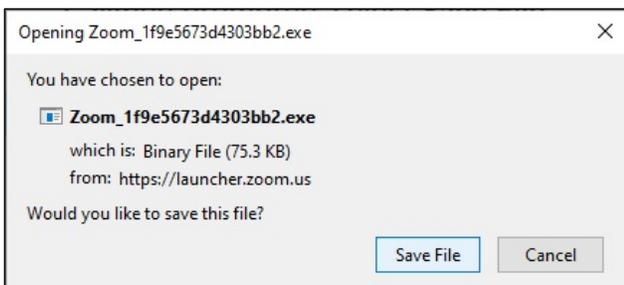
SCHEDULE A MEETING | JOIN A MEETING | HOST A MEETING

Add another email

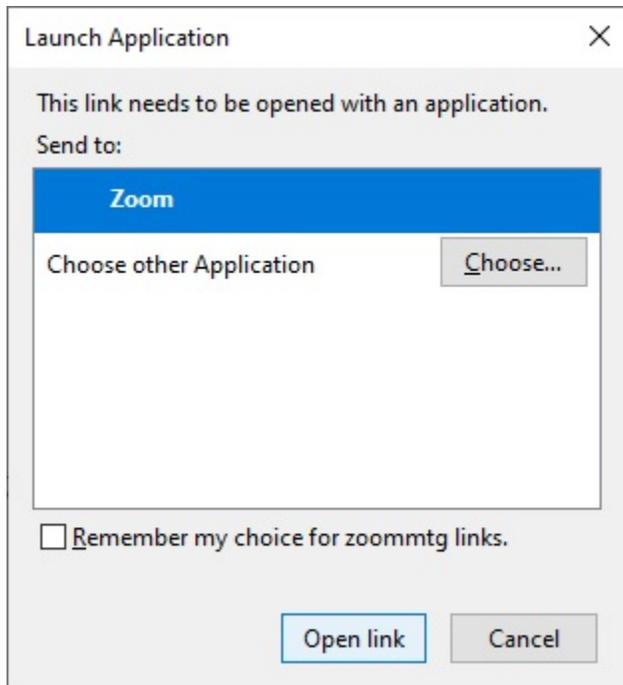
I'm not a robot 

**Invite** | Skip this step



## To run Zoom for online Bible study

Prior to the study, Pastor Greg will email those who have confirmed their attendance a link with a password. At the time of the study, click on the link and select "Open Link" with "Zoom" selected; the client will launch at which time you can join with video, audio, or both. After entering the password, Pastor Greg will grant you access to the online meeting.



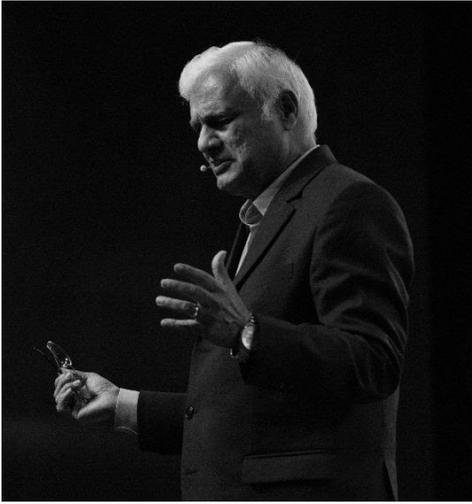
---

## A LITTLE LUTHER

“Beware, therefore, that the external pomp of works and the deceits of man-made ordinances do not deceive you, lest you wrong the divine truth and your faith. If you would be saved, you must begin with the faith of the sacraments, without any works whatever. The works will follow faith, but do not think too lightly of faith, for it is the most excellent and difficult of all works. Through it alone you will be saved, even if you should be compelled to do without any other works. For faith is a work of God, not of man, as Paul teaches [Eph. 2:8]. The other works he works through us and with our help, but this one alone he works in us and without our help.



...Here again you see that the sacrament of baptism, even with respect to its sign, is not a matter of the moment, but something permanent. Although the ceremony itself is soon over the thing it signifies continues until we die, yes, even until we rise on the last day. For as long as we live we are continually doing that which baptism signifies, that is, we die and rise again. We die, not only mentally and spiritually by renouncing the sins and vanities of this world, but in very truth we begin to leave this bodily life and to lay hold on the life to come, so that there is, as they say, a ‘real’ and bodily passing out of this world unto the Father.” (The Babylonian Captivity, 1520; AE 36:62 69)



## Obituary: Ravi Zacharias (1946 – 2020)

When Ravi Zacharias was a cricket-loving boy on the streets of India, his mother called him in to meet the local sari-seller-turned-palm reader. “Looking at your future, Ravi Baba, you will not travel far or very much in your life,” he declared. “That’s what the lines on your hand tell me. There is no future for you abroad.”

By the time a 37-year-old Zacharias preached, at the invitation of Billy Graham, to the inaugural International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam in 1983, he was on his way to becoming one of the foremost defenders of Christianity’s intellectual credibility. A year later, he founded Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM), with the mission of “helping the thinker believe and the believer think.”

In the time between the sari seller’s prediction and the founding of RZIM, Zacharias had immigrated to Canada, taken the gospel across North America, prayed with military prisoners in Vietnam and ministered to students in a Cambodia on the brink of collapse. He had also undertaken a global preaching trip as a newly licensed minister with The Christian and Missionary Alliance, along with his wife, Margie, and eldest daughter, Sarah. This trip started in England, worked eastwards through Europe and the Middle East and finished on the Pacific Rim; all-in-all that year, Zacharias preached nearly 600 times in over a dozen countries.

It was the culmination of a remarkable transformation set in motion when Zacharias, recovering in a Delhi hospital from a suicide attempt at age 17, was read the words of Jesus recorded in the Bible by the apostle John: “Because I live, you will also live.” In response, Zacharias surrendered his life to Christ and offered up a prayer that if he emerged from the hospital, he would leave no stone unturned in his pursuit of truth. Once Zacharias found the truth of the gospel, his passion for sharing it burned bright until the very end. Even as he returned home from the hospital in Texas, where he had been undergoing chemotherapy, Zacharias was sharing the hope of Jesus to the three nurses who tucked him into his transport.

Frederick Antony Ravi Kumar Zacharias was born in Madras, now Chennai, in 1946, in the shadow of the resting place of the apostle Thomas, known to the world as the “Doubter” but to Zacharias as the “Great Questioner.” Zacharias’s affinity with Thomas meant he was always more interested in the questioner than the question itself. His mother, Isabella, was a teacher. His father, Oscar, who was studying labor relations at the University of Nottingham in England when Zacharias was born, rose through the ranks of the Indian civil service throughout Zacharias’s adolescence.

An unremarkable student, Zacharias was more interested in cricket than books, until his encounter with the gospel in that hospital bed. Nevertheless, a bold, radical faith ran in his genes. In the

Indian state of Kerala, his paternal great-grandfather and grandfather produced the 20th century's first Malayalam-English dictionary. This dictionary served as the cornerstone of the first Malayalam translation of the Bible. Further back, Zacharias's great-great-great-grandmother shocked her Nambudiri family, the highest caste of the Hindu priesthood, by converting to Christianity. With conversion came a new surname, Zacharias, and a new path that started her descendants on a road to the Christian faith.

Zacharias saw the Lord's hand at work in his family's tapestry and he infused RZIM with the same transgenerational and transcultural heart for the gospel. He created a ministry that transcended his personality, where every speaker, whatever their background, presented the truth in the context of the contemporary. Zacharias believed if you achieved that, your message would always be necessary. Thirty-six years since its establishment, the ministry still bears the name chosen for Zacharias's ancestor. However, where once there was a single speaker, now there are nearly 100 gifted speakers who on any given night can be found sharing the gospel at events across the globe; where once it was run from Zacharias's home, now the ministry has a presence in 17 countries on five continents.

Zacharias's passion and urgency to take the gospel to all nations was forged in Vietnam, throughout the summer of '71. Zacharias had immigrated to Canada in 1966, a year after winning a preaching award at a Youth for Christ congress in Hyderabad. It was there, in Toronto, that Ruth Jeffrey, the veteran missionary to Vietnam, heard him preach. She invited him to her adopted land. That summer, Zacharias—only just 25—found himself flown across the country by helicopter gunship to preach at military bases, in hospitals and in prisons to the Vietcong. Most nights Zacharias and his translator Hien Pham would fall asleep to the sound of gunfire.

On one trip across remote land, Zacharias and his travel companions' car broke down. The lone jeep that passed ignored their roadside waves. They finally cranked the engine to life and set off, only to come across the same jeep a few miles on, overturned and riddled with bullets, all four passengers dead. He later said of this moment, "God will stop our steps when it is not our time, and He will lead us when it is." Days later, Zacharias and his translator stood at the graves of six missionaries, killed unarmed when the Vietcong stormed their compound. Zacharias knew some of their children. It was that level of trust in God, and the desire to stand beside those who minister in areas of great risk, that is a hallmark of RZIM. Its support for Christian evangelists in places where many ministries fear to tread, including northern Nigeria, Pakistan, South African townships, the Middle East and North Africa, can be traced back to that formative graveside moment.

After this formative trip, Zacharias and his new bride, Margie, moved to Deerfield, Illinois, to study for a Master of Divinity at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Here the young couple lived two doors down from Zacharias's classmate and friend William Lane Craig. After graduating, Zacharias taught at the Alliance Theological Seminary in New York and continued to travel the country preaching on weekends. Full-time teaching combined with his extensive travel and itinerant preaching led Zacharias to describe these three years as the toughest in his 48-year marriage to

Margie. He felt his job at the seminary was changing him and his preaching far more than he was changing lives with the hope of the gospel.

It was at that point that Graham invited Zacharias to speak at his inaugural International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam in 1983. Zacharias didn't realize Graham even knew who he was, let alone knew about his preaching. In front of 3,800 evangelists from 133 countries, Zacharias opened with the line, "My message is a very difficult one...." He went on to tell them that religions, 20th-century cultures and philosophies had formed "vast chasms between the message of Christ and the mind of man." Even more difficult was his message, which received a mid-talk ovation, about his fear that, "in certain strands of evangelicalism, we sometimes think it is necessary to so humiliate someone of a different worldview that we think unless we destroy everything he holds valuable, we cannot preach to him the gospel of Christ...what I am saying is this, when you are trying to reach someone, please be sensitive to what he holds valuable."

That talk changed Zacharias's future and arguably the future of apologetics, dealing with the hard questions of origin, meaning, morality and destiny that every worldview must answer. Flying back to the U.S., Zacharias shared his thoughts with Margie. As one colleague has expressed, "He saw the objections and questions of others not as something to be rebuffed, but as a cry of the heart that had to be answered. People weren't logical problems waiting to be solved; they were people who needed the person of Christ." No one was reaching out to the thinker, to the questioner. It was on that flight that Zacharias and Margie planted the seed of a ministry intended to meet the thinker where they were, to train cultural evangelist-apologists to reach those opinion makers of society. The seed was watered and nurtured through its early years by the businessman DD Davis, a man who became a father figure to Zacharias. With the establishment of the ministry, the Zacharias family moved south to Atlanta. By now, the family had grown with the addition of a second daughter, Naomi, and a son, Nathan. Atlanta was the city Zacharias would call home for the last 36 years of his life.

Meeting the thinker face-to-face was an intrinsic part of Zacharias's ministry, with post-event Q&A sessions often lasting long into the night. Not to be quelled in the sharing of the gospel, Zacharias also took to the airwaves in the 1980s. Many people, not just in the U.S. but across the world, came to hear the message of Christ for the first time through Zacharias's radio program, Let My People Think. In weekly half-hour slots, Zacharias explored issues such as the credibility of the Christian message and the Bible, the weakness of modern intellectual movements, and the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Today, Let My People Think is syndicated to over 2,000 stations in 32 countries and has also been downloaded 15.6 million times as a podcast over the last year.

As the ministry grew so did the demands on Zacharias. In 1990, he followed in his father's footsteps to England. He took a sabbatical at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. It was a time surrounded by family, and where he wrote the first of his 28 books, A Shattered Visage: The Real Face of Atheism. It was no coincidence that throughout the rhythm of his itinerant life, it was among his family and Margie, in particular, that his writing was at its most productive. Margie inspired each of Zacharias's books. With her eagle eye and keen mind, she read the first draft of every

manuscript, from *The Logic of God*, which was this year awarded the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) Christian Book Award in the category of Bible study, and his latest work, *Seeing Jesus from the East*, co-authored with colleague Abdu Murray. Others among that list include the ECPA Gold Medallion Book Award winner, *Can Man Live Without God?*, and Christian bestsellers, *Jesus Among Other Gods* and *The Grand Weaver*. Zacharias's books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over a dozen languages.

Zacharias's desire to train evangelists undergirded with apologetics, in order to engage with culture shapers, had been happening informally over the years but finally became formal in 2004. It was a momentous year for Zacharias and the ministry with the establishment of OCCA, the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics; the launch of Wellspring International; and Zacharias's appearance at the United Nations Annual International Prayer Breakfast. OCCA was founded with the help of Professor Alister McGrath, the RZIM team and the staff at Wycliffe Hall, a Permanent Private Hall of Oxford University, where Zacharias was an honorary Senior Research Fellow between 2007 and 2015. Over his lifetime Zacharias would receive 10 honorary doctorates in recognition of his public commitment to Christian thought, including one from the National University of San Marcos, the oldest established university in the Americas.

Over the years, OCCA has trained over 400 students from 50 countries who have gone on to carry the gospel in many arenas across the world. Some have continued to follow an explicit calling as evangelists and apologists in Christian settings, and many others have gone on to take up roles in each of the spheres of influence Zacharias always dreamed of reaching: the arts, academia, business, media and politics. In 2017, another apologetics training facility, the Zacharias Institute, was established at the ministry's headquarters in Atlanta, to continue the work of equipping all who desire to effectively share the gospel and answer the common objections to Christianity with gentleness and respect. In 2014, the same heart lay behind the creation of the RZIM Academy, an online apologetics training curriculum. Across 140 countries, the Academy's courses have been accessed by thousands in multiple languages.

In the same year OCCA was founded, Zacharias launched Wellspring International, the humanitarian division of the ministry. Wellspring International was shaped by the memory of his mother's heart to work with the destitute and is led by his daughter Naomi. Founded on the principle that love is the most powerful apologetic, it exists to come alongside local partners that meet critical needs of vulnerable women and children around the world.

Zacharias's appearance at the U.N. in 2004 was the second of four that he made in the 21st century and represented his increasing impact in the arena of global leadership. He had first made his mark as the Cold War was coming to an end. His internationalist outlook and ease among his fellow man, whether Soviet military leader or precocious Ivy League undergraduate, opened doors that had been closed for many years. One such military leader was General Yuri Kirshin, who in 1992 paved the way for Zacharias to speak at the Lenin Military Academy in Moscow. Zacharias saw the cost of enforced atheism in the Soviet Union; the abandonment of religion had created the illusion of power and the reality of self-destruction.

A year later, Zacharias traveled to Colombia, where he spoke to members of the judiciary on the necessity of a moral framework to make sense of the incoherent worldview that had taken hold in the South American nation. Zacharias's standing on the world stage spanned the continents and the decades. In January 2020, as part of his final foreign trip, he was invited by eight division world champion boxer and Philippines Senator Manny Pacquiao to speak at the National Bible Day Prayer Breakfast in Manila. It was an invitation that followed Zacharias's November 2019 appearance at The National Theatre in Abu Dhabi as part of the United Arab Emirates' Year of Tolerance.

In 1992, Zacharias's apologetics ministry expanded from the political arena to academia with the launching of the first ever Veritas Forum, hosted on the campus of Harvard University. Zacharias was asked to be the keynote speaker at the inaugural event. The lectures Zacharias delivered that weekend would form the basis of the best-selling book, *Can Man Live Without God?*, and would open up opportunities to speak at university campuses across the world. The invitations that followed exposed Zacharias to the intense longing of young people for meaning and identity. Twenty-eight years after that first Veritas Forum event, in what would prove to be his last speaking engagement, Zacharias spoke to a crowd of over 7,000 at the University of Miami's Watsco Center on the subject of "Does God Exist?"

It is a question also asked behind the walls of Louisiana State Penitentiary, also known as Angola Prison, the largest maximum-security prison in the United States. Zacharias had prayed with prisoners of war all those years ago in Vietnam but walking through Death Row left an even deeper impression. Zacharias believed the gospel shined with grace and power, especially in the darkest places, and praying with those on Death Row "makes it impossible to block the tears." It was his third visit to Angola and, such is his deep connection, the inmates have made Zacharias the coffin in which he will be buried. As he writes in *Seeing Jesus from the East*, "These prisoners know that this world is not their home and that no coffin could ever be their final destination. Jesus assured us of that."

In November last year, a few months after his last visit to Angola, Zacharias stepped down as President of RZIM to focus on his worldwide speaking commitments and writing projects. He passed the leadership to his daughter Sarah Davis as Global CEO and long-time colleague Michael Ramsden as President. Davis had served as the ministry's Global Executive Director since 2011, while Ramsden had established the European wing of the ministry in Oxford in 1997. It was there in 2018, Zacharias told the story of standing with his successor in front of Lazarus's grave in Cyprus. The stone simply reads, "Lazarus, four days dead, friend of Christ." Zacharias turned to Ramsden and said if he was remembered as "a friend of Christ, that would be all I want."

*Ravi Zacharias, who died of cancer on May 19, 2020, at age 74, is survived by Margie, his wife of 48-years; his three children: Sarah, the Global CEO of RZIM, Naomi, Director of Wellspring International, and Nathan, RZIM's Creative Director for Media; and five grandchildren.*

*By Matthew Fearon, RZIM UK content manager and former journalist with The Sunday Times of London*

# Missions & Ministry

## Organizations and people we support:

 <p><b>TRINITY HOPE</b> HAITIAN FEEDING PROGRAM</p> <p><a href="https://www.trinityhope.org/">https://www.trinityhope.org/</a></p>
 <p><b>CCM</b> Christian Cooperative MINISTRY</p> <p><a href="http://helpmadison.org/">http://helpmadison.org/</a></p>
 <p><b>HOPE</b> CLINIC <i>for women</i></p> <p><a href="https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/">https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/</a></p>
 <p><b>Inspiritus</b> <small>Formerly Lutheran Services of Tennessee</small></p> <p>Caring Closet and other programs <a href="http://www.lstn.org/">http://www.lstn.org/</a></p>
 <p><b>International Health Partners</b> <a href="http://ihptz.org/">http://ihptz.org/</a></p>
 <p><b>Concordia Seminary</b> ST. LOUIS</p> <p>Seminarian Corey Shaffer and family <a href="https://www.csl.edu/">https://www.csl.edu/</a></p>
 <p>Missionary photographer: Johanna Heidorn <a href="https://www.lcms.org/heidorn">https://www.lcms.org/heidorn</a></p>

*Storms don't always come to disrupt your life. Some storms come to clear your path.*



One of our largest and most comprehensive partners is HCA. We are grateful for the many ways they help us and so many nonprofits in the community. They recently had a large online meeting for all their nonprofit partners. Joanne Pulles, head of the Foundation shared this quote (I don't think she remembered where she heard it). It stuck out with me because I think it is a great lens to view where we are. I don't know about you, but I am paying attention to how people are responding to this season. What I have found most comforting and inspiring is hearing and watching those who HAVE been impacted in a significant way (either financially or medically) still model this perspective. Today it's a virus. Before that each of us have faced horrible storms. Maybe not at the same time like this one but most of us don't go through life unscathed. And most of us have not seen our last storm. But our response to the storm really is a direct result of our viewpoint.

This reminds me of the clients we are still serving every single day. Those that successfully come out of their unplanned pregnancy do so because they shift their attention away from the 'crisis' and see a chance for a hopeful future. It may not be one they ever imagined for themselves, but they learn there is more to their story than their pregnancy. They learn there is more help than they ever realized. And they learn this story can have a happy ending even if the journey is difficult.

May that encourage you today. I do not mean to minimize what you may be going through but I know and believe more than ever God is bigger than our storm. We just need to look up for a fresh perspective. We need to possibly put our big pants on and deal with the mess in front of us, but we CAN and we WILL rise above this. If you don't believe it yet today, let my hope for your story be enough for now! Let others hope for you.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support in this season now more than ever. May God protect you and your family and bring you great blessing even in the midst.

Shalom,  
Renée Rizzo  
President/CEO

# Serving Ascension in June

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
<b>Lector</b>	Pastor Greg	Liz Brown	Mark LaLumondier	Rick Speitel
<b>Acolyte</b>	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson
<b>Elder</b>	Dennis Fritz	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa	Tim Hanusa
<b>Ushers</b>	John Boggs & John Kubitz	John Boggs & John Kubitz	John Boggs & John Kubitz	John Boggs & John Kubitz
<b>Cantor</b>	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pam Oehlkers & Trisha LaLumondier & Lily Graham	Pam Oehlkers & Trisha LaLumondier	Pam Oehlkers & Trisha LaLumondier & Isabella Gerson	Pam Oehlkers & Trisha LaLumondier

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

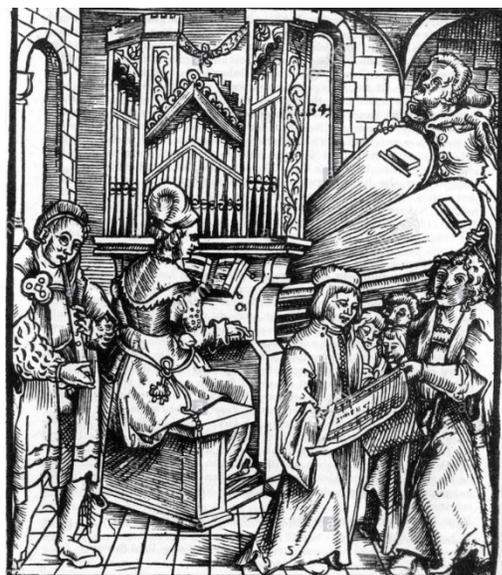


## *Coffee Half-hour*

June 7: n/a  
 June 14: n/a  
 June 21: n/a  
 June 28: n/a

## The Organist

June 7: Minae Hayashi  
 June 14: Cindy Dougherty  
 June 21: Cindy Dougherty  
 June 28: Cindy Dougherty



June 7: n/a  
 June 14: n/a  
 June 21: n/a  
 June 28: n/a

# Celebrations

## Birthdays

June 2: Alicia Houston  
June 4: Dave Brown  
June 6: Derek Wiebbecke  
June 9: Debbie Kendall  
June 13: Jocelyn Sutton  
June 16: Ashley Smith  
June 22: Lily Bergeron  
June 22: Cherri Walker  
June 23: Dawn Craik  
June 24: Athena Graham  
June 26: Erin Fritz  
June 26: Reid Grobengieser  
June 28: Brad Langston  
June 28: Hattie Pickel  
June 29: Emery Fritz  
June 29: Joan Johnson

## ANNIVERSARIES

June 14: John & Frances Boggs  
June 15: Paul & Sandra Ohme  
June 16: Yuji & Minae Hayashi  
June 22: Steve & Laurie Boggs  
June 25: Mark & Trisha LaLumondier



## Baptismal Birthdays

June 3: Silas Johnson  
June 4: Adalyn Spann  
June 5: Brittaney Summers  
June 5: Randy Summers  
June 10: Angel Foster  
June 10: Jane Gullett  
June 13: Diane Kelly  
June 24: Dawn Craik  
June 28: Ann Fuller  
June 29: Ben Conner



*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

JUNE						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 Confirmation	<b>4</b> 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00 Online Bible study 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 Women's Bible study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 Online Bible study 10:30 Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30 Women's Bible study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 Online Bible study 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30 Women's Bible study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 Online Bible study 10:30 Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 Women's Bible study				



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](mailto:office@ascensionmadison.com)  
Pastor Greg: (904) 553-7066  
Pastor's email: [pastorgregbauch@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgregbauch@gmail.com)  
website: [www.ascensionmadison.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:office@ascensionmadison.com) by Wednesday.*