



## Ascension Lutheran Church

# ANNOUNCER

Dear saints,

When I visit those in affliction, I frequently read from Psalm 40[:1-5]:

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He drew me up from the pit of destruction,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.  
He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the Lord.  
Blessed is the man who makes  
the Lord his trust,  
who does not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray after a lie!  
You have multiplied, O Lord my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
none can compare with you!  
I will proclaim and tell of them,  
yet they are more than can be told.

There is so much to draw from these verses, so much hope and comfort to receive. God hears you. He is not ignoring your pleas for help. Whether it be social, occupational, financial, emotional, physical, or spiritual trials, He answers you. Perhaps it's not the answer you want;

in fact, it may be the exact opposite answer you want. But this is not indicative of His disposition toward you, for this is what He has done: He has drawn you up “from the pit of destruction”! It’s not a future drawing up, but one that has already happened by the salvific deeds and in the certain promises of the One who has all things in His hands.

For the psalmist David, this drawing up was founded on God’s promise to fulfill. For you, it is founded on God’s promise fulfilled in Christ, who rose from the pit of destruction so you might also rise—now in spiritual life with God, then in bodily resurrection to God. In the midst of trials, you might receive the exact opposite answer you want, yet your feet are on solid ground; you might receive the exact opposite answer you want, yet He gives you His Spirit unto a song of praise; you might receive the exact opposite answer you want, yet your faith inspires the person who longs to trust in the Lord; for Christ has fulfilled the greatest need of all people. And if you wonder whether God has time in His busy schedule to consider or even acknowledge your trials, know that His thoughts toward you “are more than can be told”! You are on His eternal mind, which is to say, you are on a mind that sees all time at once, such that He knows what is perfectly good for you now and forever.

Life is hard. Those who say otherwise are deceiving themselves. Sin is deadly; evil persists. Many hardships are due to your own sins; many hardships are due to the evils of others. Are you to pull yourself up by your own bootstraps? Are you to despair in the attacks of the evil one? Thankfully, neither, for the you have already been drawn up by the One who drew “all people to Himself” in sacrificial death (Jn 12:32). You are His. He hears you. He loves you more than His own life. He thinks of you constantly. And He has raised you from the pit of destruction, despite the many trials and afflictions of this life.

In His name,  
*Pastor Greg*



“If God wanted us to be clean, why did He make all that dirt?”

# Announcements



Our next MITE BOX OFFERING for LWML Projects will be *Sunday, August 9th*.

One of the new projects we will be supporting is the Radio Ministry “LAST CALL”—Proclaiming the Gospel. This is a daily devotion on radio through south Middle TN. Pastor Nutter, Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Tullahoma, TN has done a weekly devotional every Wednesday since 1999. This grant will increase to a daily devotion and extend the reach of the Gospel to a larger geographical area. It will extend to a population base of 250,000 across southern Middle Tennessee. We appreciate any mites (coins or dollars) to promote the projects of the Lutheran Women in Mission.



## A LITTLE LUTHER

“Therefore, [the Lord’s Supper] is appropriately called food of the soul, for it nourishes and strengthens the new creature. For in the

first instance, we are born anew through baptism. However, our human flesh and blood, as I have said, have not lost their old skin. There are so many hindrances and attacks of the devil and the world that we often grow weary and faint and at times even stumble. Therefore the Lord’s Supper is given as a daily food and sustenance so that our faith may be refreshed and strengthened and that it may not succumb in the struggle but become stronger and stronger.” (Large Catechism V.23-24, 1529)

## Stewardship

Living a “Rich” Life: What does it mean to you? We’ve all heard the cliché: Money doesn’t buy happiness. Or does it? What does it actually mean, not everyone has the same answer. One person may say I have my health and family, that’s enough. Norman Vincent Peale said you just need to have a positive attitude about yourself and your abilities. We could rightfully say that happiness comes from spiritual wealth, not material wealth. Being a servant helps us think more about others. It’s only when we forget ourselves that we do the things that deserve to be remembered. So forget yourself long enough to lend a helping hand. As Jesus once said, no servant can serve two masters. Servants think about their work, and not what others are doing or comparing, criticizing, or competing with other servants. They are too busy doing the work God has given them to do. Ministry is an opportunity, not an obligation.

II Corin. 8:14; 9:11 says: We assume God has multiplied our assets so that we can keep them, when in fact He has multiplied them so we can distribute them. We need to understand that all we have is God’s. We should use it for his purpose. “Happiness happens when we give it away” (Max Lucado). “What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me.” Ps. 116:12 Please remember to mail your offerings when unable to attend worship services:

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

—Ora Mae Golter

## *Meet our new Administrative Assistant*

### Introducing Jennifer Smithfield

In June, I began work as Ascension Lutheran's new administrative assistant. I had served as an interim and substitute administrative assistant at my former church home, Faith Presbyterian Church (Goodlettsville), so I knew the ropes of church administrative work. However, most of my professional career has been spent in scientific research, patent research, and technical writing. I also taught German and sciences for three years in the Upper School at Jonathan Edwards Classical Academy (JECA).

My husband Bill, daughter Abby, and I currently attend Redeemer Fellowship, a church plant of the PCA (Presbyterian Church in America). Bill and I have felt called to plant a church in Robertson County (our home), so we are using the time at Redeemer Fellowship to learn about and understand the unique challenges and considerations involved in church planting. I have also been actively involved in women's ministry within the PCA—both in local churches and at the presbytery level.

Despite being Presbyterian, I have a strong affection for Martin Luther as well as Lutheran teaching & tradition. In fact, I once convinced a PCA teaching elder that Luther was worth as much respect and study time as Calvin. My mother's side of the family is entirely composed of German Lutherans, including a Lutheran pastor, so perhaps genetics plays a part. Mostly, I think the Holy Spirit has guided me to what is true and right.

Besides theology, languages (especially English & German), and the sciences, I also love horses & equestrian sports, reading, music, various crafts (especially paper & needlecrafts), and Oxford commas. I pray that I can serve your church well by helping out wherever needed as you engage in the work the Lord has for your congregation.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jennifer Smithfield

# Missions & Ministry

## Organizations and people we support:

 <p><a href="http://www.theedisonschool.com/">http://www.theedisonschool.com/</a></p>
 <p><a href="https://www.trinityhope.org/">https://www.trinityhope.org/</a></p>
 <p><a href="http://helpmadison.org/">http://helpmadison.org/</a></p>
 <p><a href="https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/">https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/</a></p>
 <p>Caring Closet and other programs <a href="http://www.lstn.org/">http://www.lstn.org/</a></p>
 <p>International Health Partners <a href="http://ihptz.org/">http://ihptz.org/</a></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>

$\$1 = \frac{8}{1}$  meals!

Dear Caring Friend,

**BIG NEWS:** A group of generous donors is offering a \$500,000 matching gift challenge for Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee! Every \$1 you give now will **DOUBLE** to provide 8 balanced meals for kids like Angela...

The bright, energetic Kindergartener attends Glenview Elementary in Nashville, where classes ended in March. "I love school!" says little Angela, 5. "I miss my teacher and my friends."

And, like many fellow students, she misses school meals. A troubling 99% of children at Glenview qualify for free breakfast and lunch. The cost of an additional 10 meals per child per week is a real struggle for parents every summer. But with job loss and missed paychecks due to COVID-19 – and school letting out two months early – this summer is especially tough.

Caring Friend, we need your help now more than ever. You can make this a Hunger Free Summer by ensuring kids like Angela have enough healthy food to grow and thrive. Right now, your gift will **DOUBLE** to help make a \$1 MILLION total impact! Our community is facing unprecedented need: Second Harvest is providing 200,000 **ADDITIONAL** meals each week in our 46-county area. We couldn't do this without friends like you. Thank you!

<https://www.secondharvestmidtn.org/hfs1/>

Gratefully,  
Nancy Keil  
President and CEO

# What Our Response to a Pandemic Reveals about Our Beliefs

Article by biologist Xandra Carroll

“*You are precious in my eyes, and I love you.*” –Isaiah 43:4

A wise woman once told me, “You never know what’s in your teacup until the table gets bumped.” The introduction of a new coronavirus into our global population is jarring, and many of us are seeing our inner thoughts, desires, fears, and dreams come splashing out onto the table. Sometimes we are surprised by what we see. On a global level, our response to this pandemic reveals deep truths about how human beings value each other.

In his 1992 lecture at Cambridge University, Stephen Hawking stated that he had but one fear for humanity: that natural selection was truly the means by which we had arrived on this planet. Hawking was no fool to the logical consequences of his own philosophy. He reasoned that, if natural selection were the means by which species progress, our persistence on this planet would denote a deep level of natural aggression within the human race. Hawking often alluded to this when he spoke of our need to move to other planets in order to keep from destroying each other. He is far from alone in this view of human origins. Many people across the globe claim this philosophy, a viewpoint called “naturalism.”[1]

Naturalism is the theory that everything we see in reality is based on natural causes, and not on supernatural ones.[2] If we look through the lens of naturalism we see that human beings are highly-evolved animals; and metaphysical concepts like “love” and “justice” are, at bottom, our own inventions. This philosophy was a byproduct, in part, of the scientific concept known as “survival of the fittest.” “Survival of the fittest” refers to the survival of organisms that are best adapted to their environment. This phrase is often used to summarize the theory of natural selection.[3] Natural selection is commonly understood to be the process by which the best adapted, or “strong,” are naturally preserved in a population, while the “weak” die off.[4][5] This natural process serves to keep populations robust because the “strong” produce offspring for the next generation.[6]

As someone who has spent years conducting biological research and was also classically trained in philosophy, I understand the ins and outs of population dynamics, but I have a philosophical hang-up: If naturalism is true, why are we fighting tooth and claw against it? Naturalism tells us to let the weak be killed and let the strong survive. Yet, in this time of pandemic, cultures around the world are working hard to protect the vulnerable. Certainly there are some outliers who display a blatant disregard for human life. Thousands of “spring-breakers” flocked to Florida, making it a hotspot for the virus.[7] Some shoppers are buying up all the groceries, leaving none left for those with meager incomes. Others have been caught price-gouging hand sanitizer and face masks.[8][9] Yet the overall mantra of the world at large seems to be “protect the vulnerable.” COVID-19 provides a unique opportunity for any population progressing under natural selection because the virus targets elderly and immune-compromised individuals, leaving others largely unaffected.[10] Yet basically every country is moving directly against this so-called “natural process,” and thus it is clear that we as a society do not believe the claims naturalism offers us.

Why do so many believe in naturalism theoretically, but abandon it in practical life? Perhaps we reject it because our memories still bear the scars of history—when societies at large employed survival of the fittest on their own people. The black and white photographs of the Nazi eugenics program and the rows of skulls following Idi Amin’s reign of terror still play upon our minds. If we don’t believe naturalism, then what do we believe? A big part of the answer comes back to philosophy.

In philosophy, there are two main ways to value something. *Instrumental* value is assigned to something for what it does. *Inherent* value denotes that something is valuable in and of itself. To illustrate, I once had a car that I really loved. I loved it because it brought me quickly and safely from A to B. I loved that car for years, all the way until the timing belt snapped. After the car was no longer useful to me, I sold it for parts, saved up my pennies and bought a new car. There was no remorse at being departed from my de-parted vehicle. Once the object had no use, it was rendered valueless. This is an example of *instrumental* value. Conversely, consider a man with ALS who I cared for two years ago. As his caregiver, I journeyed with him and his wife as the disease slowly took over his body. When he had to quit work and could no longer provide income, his wife continued to love him. Even after his wife could no longer sleep in the same bed, or when he became incontinent, or when he could no longer speak, she continued loving him all the same. This is an example of *inherent* value. The term *inherent* sounds a bit like *inherit*, and they are from the same Latin root *inhereditare*,

a term that denotes receiving something unearned from an external source.[11] While instrumental value is conditional, inherent value can never be changed or negated because its value is contingent on something outside of itself. The question remains: If we as a human race value each other inherently, from whom have we inherited that value?

The Declaration of Independence states: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.” Naturalism cannot sit at a table discussing equality; it has uninvited itself. In a world where humanity progresses by rejecting the weak and selecting the strong, the equality stemming from inherent value does not exist.

Arguably, we as a global society currently operate as if human beings have been endowed with inherent value on some level. We want that philosophy to be true. But what is so appealing about inherent value, especially if it means the healthy have to stay indoors to protect the vulnerable? As I write these words, I cannot help but reflect on the person of Jesus who became weak so that we might become strong. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.” Hebrews 5 describes a savior who did not exalt himself, but humbled himself before God, “and, being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”[12] He did this on our behalf; it was our own weakness that weighed him down, and our own wounds that scarred Him.[13] Now he helps us in our own weakness, bearing with us and never giving up on us. The prophet Isaiah wrote of him: “A bruised reed He will not break, and a faintly burning wick He will not quench.”[14] Even at our weakest moment, when we feel the very life in us is about to go out, Jesus is gently blowing on the wick inside our hearts, bringing that fluttering flame back to life.

When we care for each other, we come alive because we are emulating Jesus, and he enters this world to show us what a human being was meant to look like. As Peter explains, Jesus left us an example, so that we might follow in his footsteps.[15] Thus, when we show humility and compassion as He did, we are becoming more what we are meant to be—more human. It is no wonder atrocities are often labeled “inhumane.”

It is illogical to say we can apply survival of the fittest to all animal populations, equate humans with animals, and then refrain from applying survival of the fittest to human populations. Certainly, taxonomically, humans reside in the kingdom *Animalia*, but our origins surpass flesh and bone, and in our hearts we know this to be true. In naturalism, the weak perish and the strong get stronger. In Christianity, the strongest became the weakest to save the perishing. Naturalism is the philosophy that convinces a bird to clip its own wings. Christianity teaches us the sort of love that lifts us up on the wings of an eagle, to follow the humble savior who, “though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant.”[16]

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[1] The National Center for Science Education found that in a 2011 poll of 24 countries, 41% identified as ‘evolutionists’.

[2] Oxford Dictionary

[3] Barnhart, H., & Barnhart, H. (1986). *Dictionary of Science / Hammond Barnhart*. New Jersey: Hammond. Page 643

[4] Ibid 427

[5] Darwin explained this in his work *Origin of Species* when he wrote, “This preservation of favorable variations and the rejection of injurious variations, I call Natural Selection.”

[6] Genovart, Meritxell, Negre, Nieves, Tavecchia, Giacomo, Bistuer, Ana, Parpal, Luís, & Oro, Daniel. (March 19, 2010). *The Young, the Weak and the Sick: Evidence of Natural Selection by Predation*. Public Library of Science.

[7] <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/florida-coronavirus-cases-surge-spring-breakers-express-regret-n1168686>

[8] <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/technology/matt-colvin-hand-sanitizer-donation.html>

[9] <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/price-gouging-allegation-leaves-750000-face-masks-in-limbo>

[10] Wang, D., Hu, B., Hu, C., Zhu, F., Liu, X., Zhang, J., Wang, B., ... Peng, Z. (March 17, 2020). Clinical Characteristics of 138 Hospitalized Patients With 2019 Novel Coronavirus–Infected Pneumonia in Wuhan, China. *Jama*, 323, 11, 1061.

[11] From which we also get our word ‘heredity’

[12] Verse 9

[13] Isaiah 53v4

[14] Isaiah 42v3

[15] 1 Peter 2v21

[16] Philippians 2v6&7



**“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”**  
**Erdmann Neumeister**  
**LSB 609 / TLH 324**

- 1 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin’s delusions live  
And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 2 We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
Here our ills have perfect healing.  
Firmly in these words believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray  
No true shepherd e’er forsaketh;  
Weary souls that lost their way  
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh  
In His arms that they may live:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 4 I, a sinner, come to Thee  
With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me;  
Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
For these words I now believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

- 6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release  
And my ev’ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Also I have been forgiven;  
And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.



Erdmann Neumeister first published this hymn in his *Evangelischer Nachklang*, 1718. It is based on the Gospel for the Third Sunday after Trinity, Luke 15:1-10. It is also a fine hymn for missionary services. The translation is composite.



NEUMEISTER, Erdmann (1671-1756), was born at Uchteritz on May 12, 1671. He received his education at the University of Leipzig (M. A. 1695). In 1698 he became pastor and assistant superintendent of the Eckartsberg District. He entered upon the office of senior court preacher, consistorialrath, and superintendent in 1706 at Sorau. In the year 1715 he accepted the appointment of pastor of St. James’s Church of Hamburg. He died in that city on August 18, 1756. Neumeister ranks high among the German hymn-writers of the eighteenth century, not only for the number of his hymns (650), but also for their abiding value. He uses excellent language. All of his poems reveal a humble trust and faith in God. Neumeister was bitterly opposed to Pietism, and he used the pulpit and the press to warn the people against it and to instruct them in true Lutheranism. It was his purpose to “preserve the simplicity of faith from the subjective novelties of this period.” Besides his accomplishments as hymnist, Neumeister was also known as an earnest and eloquent preacher. In his later life he composed tunes to the hymns he had written in his student days. He was a contemporary of J. S. Bach (*q. v.*), to some of whose Cantatas he wrote the texts.

# Serving Ascension in August

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
<b>Lector</b>	Dennis Fritz	Judie Mader	Linda Fritz	Liz Brown	Mark LaLumondier
<b>Acolyte</b>	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	Foster Gerson	Michael Patterson	TBD
<b>Elder</b>	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz	Dennis Fritz
<b>Ushers</b>	Cecil Willis & Dave Brown	Cecil Willis & Dave Brown	Cecil Willis & Dave Brown	Cecil Willis & Dave Brown	Cecil Willis & Dave Brown
<b>Cantor</b>	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A	Tim Hanusa
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joan Johnson & Linda Fritz & Lily Graham	Joan Johnson & Linda Fritz	Joan Johnson & Linda Fritz & Isabella Gerson	Joan Johnson & Linda Fritz	Joan Johnson & Linda Fritz

*If you're unable to serve, please find a replacement (due to the pandemic, we have volunteers ready to fill-in on Sundays without notice if you are sheltering in place).*

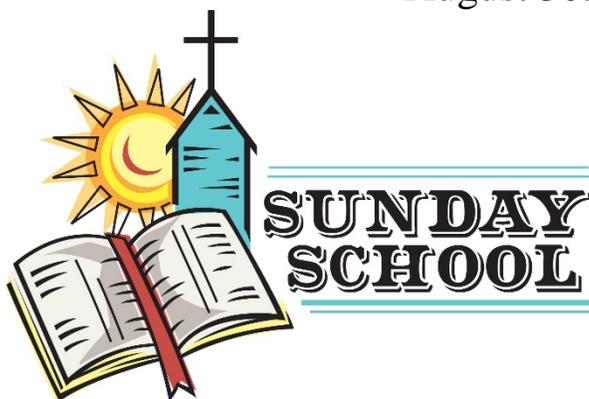
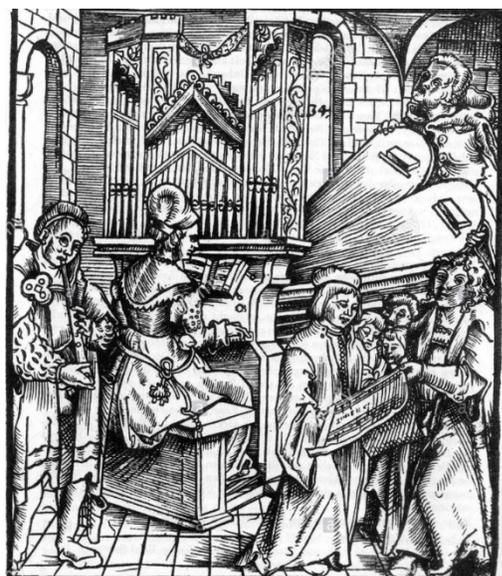


## Coffee Half-hour

August 2: n/a  
 August 9: n/a  
 August 16: n/a  
 August 23: n/a  
 August 30: n/a

## The Organist

August 2: Minae Hayashi  
 August 9: Minae Hayashi  
 August 16: Minae Hayashi  
 August 23: Cindy Dougherty  
 August 30: Cindy Dougherty

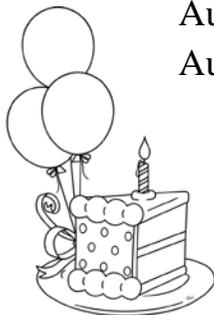


August 2: n/a  
 August 9: n/a  
 August 16: n/a  
 August 23: n/a  
 August 30: n/a

# Birthdays

August 5 Julie Fritz  
August 6 Taraji Elradi  
August 7 Toni Bristol  
August 7 Ayanna Wiebbecke  
August 9 Mike Bergeron  
August 9 Murran Elradi  
August 15 Justin Langston  
August 15 Rick Speitel

August 19 Tyler Fuller  
August 21 Dan Newton  
August 24 Kaytlyn Deland  
August 25 Angie Henderson  
August 27 Jordan Boggs  
August 27 John Kubitz  
August 30 Laurie Boggs



# ANNIVERSARIES

August 20 Greg & Amanda Bauch  
August 22 Mike & Diane Bergeron

August 31 Dennis & Linda Fritz  
August 31 Al & Linda Montes



# Baptismal Birthdays

August 4 Athena Graham  
August 4 Scott Shaffer  
August 5 Tim Hanusa  
August 10 Toni Bristol  
August 20 Steve Boggs  
August 30 Lily Graham



*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

August 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 9:00 Online Bible study  10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30 Women's Bible study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:30 Bible study  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 Online Bible study  10:30 Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Start to The Edison School academic year</i>	<b>13</b> 10:30 Bible study  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 Online Bible study  10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:30 Bible study  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 Online Bible study  10:30 Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:30 Bible study  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 Online Bible study  10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	<b>31</b>					



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.*