

February/March 2024



Chi Rho ☩

Ascension Lutheran Church
1479 Morse Road
Columbus, OH 43229



FROM THE PASTOR “THE SEED OF JOY”

In the heart of fear and pain, God plants the seed of our joy.

Lent can be a somber season of the church year. It begins with an ashen sign of mortality and sin. Bright colors turn to deep purples, alleluias fall silent, and worshipers ponder what to give up this year. Though the word Lent derives from an Old English word for *springtime*, spring still seems far off in much of the Northern Hemisphere. Easter, on the other hand, is obviously joyful. Bells ring, alleluias echo, white and gold shine brightly, and every single candle is lit. Jesus is risen, and so are the daffodils, hyacinths, and lilies. Joy clearly belongs to Easter.

Why reflect on joy during the quiet introspection of Lent instead of waiting for Easter? That seems positively un-Lent. However! Move beyond surface assumptions and something beautiful emerges, richer and more nuanced than sheer happiness. A joyful Lent is not an oxymoron. As it turns out, joy is right at home during a minor-key season like Lent – and if joy is there, perhaps there are other seasons of life that joy calls home, too. Joy is a beacon that points us toward God’s unfailing presence, even in the heart of fear and pain.

What is joy, anyway? We probably know it when we find it, but maybe we’ve missed some of its subtleties. Sometimes it’s an emotion, sometimes a conviction, sometimes a practice; sometimes it seems far off, simply a promise. Joy can shout or it can hum quietly. It reveals itself in layers, adapting to different life circumstances. It even mixes with other experiences, like hope, sorrow, confusion, peace, or pain. The complexity of joy reflects the complexity and beauty of God.

One of the ways we will hear about joy is through the scripture readings on Sunday during worship. This year we will hear all about the covenants that God makes with God’s people throughout history, and those covenants are --- well, joyful. God promises Noah and all earthly creatures that God will never again send a flood! God promises Abram and Sarai a child! God shapes a way of life for the Israelites to replace the system of oppression that kept them captive! Over and over throughout this season, scripture points us toward the deep joy with which God responds to creation, and it invites us to respond to God in turn.

And something new this year, we are replacing our evening worship with a daytime opportunity to gather! Beginning on Thursday, February 22nd, Ascension hosts each week a Soup Luncheon and Worship, from 12-1:00 pm. in the Assembly Room. “Enduring Joy” offers the opportunity to explore varied prayer practices, (many of which are also recommended in Tending Joy devotional guide for individual use at home that we have available at the church). See the full schedule that follows this article.

Blessed Lent, dear church.

Pastor Karen

This month we spotlight Madge and Mike Fitak



Madge and Mike Fitak have been members of Ascension for many years. Both have served as Chair of the Worship and Music Committee. Madge sings alto in the Chancel Choir and is nicknamed “Ascension’s Choir Mom.” She makes sure the correct music is ready for practices and files the music when done. Mike is one of Ascension’s ushers and enjoys greeting visitors and members on Sunday mornings.

Madge and Mike have three adult children - Michelle, Melissa and Bob. They all were baptized and grew up at Ascension. They also have eight grandchildren.

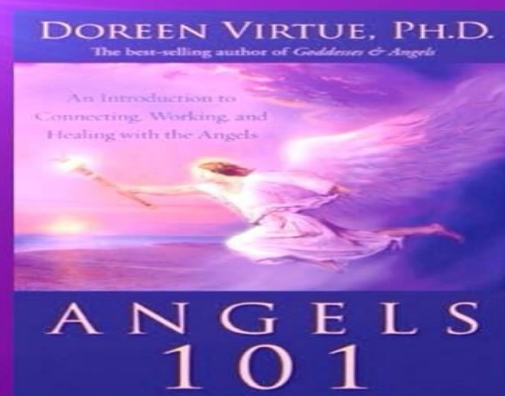
Madge is a public service geologist for the Ohio Geological Survey. She enjoys assisting Ohio citizens with their geological questions. She is also part of a team that is archiving the Survey’s maps, publications and other historical items that have been a part of the Survey since 1837.

Mike is a retired IT professional. He spent many years working at Ohio Health. He is now working on projects at home and for their children. There is always a list of things to work on.

In their free time they enjoy attending their grandchildren’s school and sporting events, traveling and attending “The Piano Guys” concerts. If you ever want to get Madge talking... just ask her about “The Piano Guys”!

A Prayer to Remove Blocks

"Please clear away any old
anger, pain, resentment,
judgements, bitterness,
or unforgiveness from my
mind, body, and emotions.
I now fully release to you
anything that may have been
blocking me, and thank you
for clearing me of all toxicity."



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE
SEED



OF JOY
LENT 2024

Lent and Easter

The Ascension community gathers for special worship services on Ash Wednesday, every Thursday noontime during Lent, and during Holy Week.

LENT

Lent is the 40-day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Easter service. Lent is a special time for confession and prayer, a time to renew and strengthen our faith as we reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross and victory over death.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lent season. We receive with ashes the sign of the cross on our foreheads and intentionally enter into Lent, the season of repentance and renewal.

Ashes-to-Go - "Ashes to Go" is about bringing spirit, belief, and belonging out from behind the church doors. It's a simple event with deep meaning, drawing on centuries of tradition and worship to provide a contemporary moment of grace. Ascension offers this as a drive-up opportunity on the service road, outside the front doors.

Ash Wednesday Worship - Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been made one with God through Christ. This reflective evening worship includes an extended time of confession, reading of scripture, holy communion, and receiving of ashes.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Ashes-to-go: 11:00 – 1:00

Drive-up ashes on the service road in front of the church.

Ash Wednesday Worship
February 14, 7:00 p.m.

Weekday Soup Luncheon and Devotions - "Enduring Joy"

Thursdays, February 22 – March 21

12-1:00 pm.

Assembly Room

Worship Sundays in Lent, February 18 – March 17

10:00 a.m.

1479 Morse Road

Columbus, Ohio 43229

(614) 262-7389



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the time we remember Jesus' last week on earth, beginning with Jesus' entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and ending with Jesus' resurrection on Easter. This is the heart of Lent, the time of Jesus' movement to the cross where he showed his love is stronger than death. And finally, after 40 days, we rejoice in the glorious new dawn of Easter. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Palm/Passion Sunday - On Palm/Passion Sunday we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the city where five days later he was crucified. People lined the way, waving palm branches and shouting, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!" Oftentimes, to grasp the fullness of something significant, we have to look at both sides. So it is that to approach the meaning of Christ, we have to say two things: Jesus and Christ; human and divine; dead and alive; bread and body. This Sunday celebrates these two sides: we begin by praising Christ with "Hosanna," and we go on to shout "Crucify him!" Come to join us as we fit both truths into one service. The service begins outside (weather permitting), followed by a palm processional into the sanctuary, and the reading of the Passion story.

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples. At this meal, Jesus washed the feet of his dearest friends to show them that the life of his followers was one of humble service. Then he shared bread and wine, telling them this was his body and blood, given for forgiveness of sins. Good Friday On Good Friday we remember the day that Jesus was arrested, condemned to death, and died on the cross. We gather at the foot of the cross to wonder at the depth of Jesus' love!

EASTER DAY

On Easter Day we celebrate the risen Jesus! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! The entire congregation comes together to celebrate all the glory of Easter with flowers, trumpets, choir music, and lots of "alleluias" to show the joy we feel in our hearts!

March 24: Palm/Passion Sunday

Blessing of the Palms and Palm Processional with the reading of the Passion Story.
10:00 a.m.

March 28: Maundy Thursday

We remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples.
7:00 p.m.

All worship services are offered:

In the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live
<https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranChurch>
(with the exception of Lent weekday services)

March 29: Good Friday

We gather at the foot of the cross to wonder at the depth of Jesus' love.
7:00 p.m.

March 31: Easter Day

We celebrate the risen Jesus! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
10:00 a.m.

A Daily Devotional Guide for the 40 days – "Tending Joy"

An e-copy will be sent to every home on our email list.
Please contact our office administrator for a copy:
bnoe@ascension-columbus.org to be included on our mailing list.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS from ANDRIS and MARY JANE in HAITI

Have a very special Christmas with your loved ones, family, and friends celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.



We are thankful for all of our Lord's blessings and protection over us, the children, our staff, and our neighbors in Haiti. We continue to trust and know that God is the only one capable of changing hearts and lives here in Haiti and abroad. We believe that God will one day in His divine timing intervene and bring change to this nation of Haiti. Therefore, we continue to pray, work, and minister as the Lord permits. When I (Mary Jane) first came to Haiti in 1986, the Lord impressed on me that my security is in Him and Him alone. True safety is in the presence of Christ and His will for our lives. One thing about Haiti – it often keeps you praying and trusting in Christ. We must always remember that nothing happens to us without God's approval.

The Church is going; we have seen a slight increase in the number of adults and young adults attending the services and Bible studies. Andris continues to teach about our personal relationship with Christ and then our families and others, and that we need to grow and mature spiritually. Baptism classes are going well; we have 7 people. We are hoping to have the baptisms in late Dec. or early Jan. The women's group learned basic first aid, and each received a basic homemade kit. We continue to study the women of the Bible.

The primary school and preschool are going well. We remain open, and the staff and students come. Christian education is essential to change the mindset and situation in Haiti. We continue to work toward preparing and enabling each new generation so that one day, Haiti will be as it should be. We are trying to instill an inner peace in our students and staff through God's word and truth.

Trade school, including music classes, is also open and progressing. We run shorter, intense classes with the students since many have to pass through local gang areas. We received the final results of the government trade school licensure exams from last year. 100 % of business, cooking, and men's sewing students passed. 80 % of the women's sewing students passed. THAT IS EXCELLENT, IN SPITE OF THE UNREST IN THE COUNTRY AND OUR LOCALITY.

Everyone is really tired of the unrest, gang activity, lockdowns, and violence here in Haiti. Those not involved with the political unrest or gangs want schools to be able to function well and the country to function with a measure of safety and security for all students and people.

It has been another intense and difficult year in Haiti, but God is sovereign in the midst of it all. God continues to watch over and keep the Haitian people in spite of these big obstacles. It has been over 2 years since we have been able to go to town or Port-au-Prince. I (Mary Jane) definitely miss doing the shopping for groceries and mission supplies. Thankfully, some of our staff is willing to do local purchasing for us when the streets are safe.

We continue to do maintenance, and have accomplished many tasks. We started the process of cleaning, painting, and re-organizing the guesthouse. However, paint supplies are now difficult to receive due to the DR (Dominican Republic) border closing. Every year, we work on revising and updating each of the curriculums for the trade school classes. The new textbooks for the cooking school are finished and in use. Our big problem now is getting ink, toner, and paper to do copies for the students. We have been cleaning up the school yard, putting some cement down for walkways (instead of using the muddy areas). We continue to train and enable the Haitian staff to do more and more of the mission work and business. We do a lot of small jobs that we never had time to do. We are patiently waiting for the local area to open and allow vehicles in and out to begin the 1st part of the bridging-the-community project.

Our 3 nursing students were able to come for a short stay this summer. Ludrenne is in her 3rd yr. now, while Loveline and Mayderlline are in their 4th and final year. They each have changed a lot and are happy to be advancing in their studies. Our other girls are all doing well: Joos is in the 10th grade, Neissa and Valerie are in the 11th grade, Darla is in the 4th grade. These girls spend lots of time with us and consider us Mom and Papa, they also love to talk to Mary Jane's Mom: they call her grandma.

It is our vision to challenge each and every person to grow in an active and deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and for there to be unity in the relationships one with another. Our goal is to give everyone the possibility to receive an excellent education – to advance and develop a hope and a vision for tomorrow.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! WE LOVE YOU ALL!

Mary Jane & Andris



Living Hope Ministries in Haiti
P.O. Box 3578
Dublin, Ohio 43016-0290

Merry Christmas!



Our Mission

To train a generation of young men and women to change their families, communities, and nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Action.



Donations

Please send **checks to this Ohio address:**

Living Hope Ministries in Haiti
P.O. Box 3578 Dublin,
OH 43016-0290

(**Do not** send cash or checks directly to Haiti.)

For **online electronic giving**, go to:

www.livinghopehaiti.org/donation

Sponsor Packages

Please **do not** send any boxes or letters at this time.

Traveling into Port-au-Prince to pick up packages/mail is still very dangerous. Therefore, Mary Jane and Andris are unable to receive things at this time.

Thank you for understanding.

Board Members

Rev. Mary Jane Jolibois – President & International Director

Rev. Jean Andris Jolibois – Haitian Director

Rev. Hope Boring – Vice President

Nancy Thorbahn – Treasurer

Karen Negley – Secretary

Tom Single – Executive Committee Member

Deanna Breeding – Newsletter Editor

Mark Gunderson – Student Sponsorship

Tamara Howes – Preschool & Trade School Partnerships

Doug Jones – Web Master & Media

Kelly Arehart – Public Relations

Craig Boggs

Stacy Lane

Ministry Partner

Penny Boggs – Administration Bookkeeper

Donations to the memorial fund at Ascension are given to honor the lives of our loved ones who have passed on to eternal life. Donations can be designated for a particular ministry or can be undesignated. The donations can be of any size and given at any time. Your Church Council conscientiously supervises the expenditure of the of the undesignated funds as special needs arise.

Below is a list of the gifts for the months of December 2023 and January 2024.

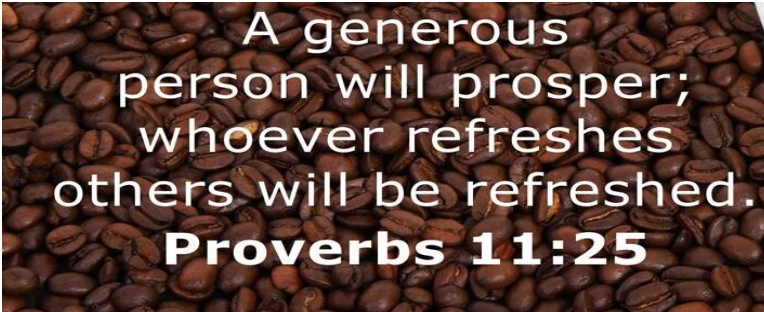
Bob Hendrickson

Allan & Cindy Hiscox

Alan & Jan Dahlstrom

Bob Keck

Alan & Jan Dahlstrom



Praying for Healing:

- Pastor Ron Huff
- Judy Stark
- Jim Kelley
- Kathy McDaniel
- Connie Scalfaro (family of Jim Mead)
- Marilyn Sullivan
- Sandy Baker
- Tom & Sandy Huss
- Kathy & Howie Kerchner
- Family of Carol Schmidt, who passed to Glory
- Rick Swartz & Family
- Greg Nutter (friend of Joe Riggs)
- Wayne Miller
- Terry Stohr
- Myron Miller
- Lisa Billing
- Linda Roy
- Mary, Jim Mead’s mother-in-law, and Jeffrey, Jim Mead’s son
- Teresa Rodich (friend of Steve/Joyce Heft)
- Joe Riggs
- Sharla White

Prayer Chain:


For confidential prayer requests, submit your requests to the prayer chain; Jim Kelley (614) 893-2047. If you wish to have your prayers included in Sunday’s intercessory prayer, please email the church office.

PRAYER
REQUESTS

A person is shown in silhouette from the chest up, facing right with their hands clasped in a prayer position. The background is a bright sunset or sunrise sky with a large, glowing sun partially obscured by clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Sometimes, the best thing
you can do for someone is
pray for them and let
God do for them
what you can't.

CROSSMAP **PRAYERS**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA 7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA 8:30pm - 9:30pm Ascending Tones Rehearsal in Choir Room	2 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA/SLA 8:00pm - 9:30pm AC- Couples Grp (Assembly Rm)	3 9:30am - 11:30am MCO Rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA/SLA
4 10:00am - 11:00am Worship: In- person & Streamed 11:00am - 11:30am Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - 12:15pm Confirma- tion Class (Conference Room) 11:15am - 12:15pm Sunday School (Cloud Room) 5:30pm - 6:30pm Sunday SA - Choir Room 5:30pm - 9:00pm Chamber Singers Rehearsal	5 6:30pm - 7:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 613 Assembly Room 7:00pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 613 - Acton Hall 7:00pm - 8:30pm SA-Choir Rm 7:00pm - 8:30pm SLA (Adult Lounge)	6 10:00am - 11:00am Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00am - 11:00am Wom- en's AA Group (Assembly) 1:00pm - 3:00pm Property Meeting - Adult Lounge 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA Group (Acton Hall) 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA 7:00pm Worship & Music Committee	7 11:00am - 12:00pm Prayer Meeting - East Foyer 7:00pm - 9:00pm MCO Rehearsal in Sanctuary 8:30pm - 9:30pm Finance Committee - Zoom 8:30pm - 9:30pm Finance Meeting (Zoom)	8 10:00am - 11:00am Crafty Hands-AL 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA 7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA 8:30pm - 9:30pm Ascending Tones Rehearsal in Choir Room	9 Scout Weekend	10 Scout Weekend 5:00pm - 7:30pm Kwahu- man (Ghana Group) 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA 7:00pm - 8:30pm AC Cou- ples Group-Assembly Rm.
11 Scout Weekend 10:00am - 11:00am Worship: In- person & Streamed 11:00am - 11:30am Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - 12:15pm Confirma- tion Class (Conference Room) 11:15am - 12:15pm Sunday School (Cloud Room) 5:30pm - 6:30pm Sunday SA - Choir Room 5:30pm - 9:00pm Chamber Singers Rehearsal	12 6:30pm - 7:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 613 Assembly Room 7:00pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 613 - Acton Hall 7:00pm - 8:30pm SA-Choir Rm 7:00pm - 8:30pm SLA (Adult Lounge)	13 10:00am - 11:00am Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00am - 11:00am Wom- en's AA Group (Assembly) 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA Group (Acton Hall) 7:00pm - 9:00pm Compas- sionate Friends (Zoom) 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA 7:30pm - 9:00pm Church Council - Zoom	14 11:00am - 12:00pm Prayer Meeting - East Foyer	15 10:30am Ascension Book Club - Adult Lounge 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA 7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA 8:30pm - 9:30pm Ascending Tones Rehearsal in Choir Room	16	17 9:30am - 11:30am MCO Rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA
18 10:00am - 11:00am Worship: In- person & Streamed 11:00am - 11:30am Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - 12:15pm Confirma- tion Class (Conference Room) 11:15am - 12:15pm Sunday School (Cloud Room) 5:30pm - 6:30pm Sunday SA - Choir Room 5:30pm - 9:00pm Chamber Singers Rehearsal	19 6:30pm - 7:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 613 Assembly Room 7:00pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 613 - Acton Hall 7:00pm - 8:30pm SA-Choir Rm 7:00pm - 8:30pm SLA (Adult Lounge)	20 10:00am - 11:00am Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00am - 11:00am Wom- en's AA Group (Assembly) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Columbus Quilters-Assembly Rm. 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA Group (Acton Hall) 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA 7:00pm - 8:00pm Saints and Shepherds (zoom)	21 11:00am - 12:00pm Prayer Meeting - East Foyer	22 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA 7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA 8:30pm - 9:30pm Ascending Tones Rehearsal in Choir Room	23	24 9:30am - 11:30am MCO Rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA
25 10:00am - 11:00am Worship: In- person & Streamed 11:00am - 11:30am Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - 12:15pm Confirma- tion Class (Conference Room) 11:15am - 12:15pm Sunday School (Cloud Room) 2:00pm - 4:00pm Compassion- ate Friends (Assembly) 5:30pm - 6:30pm Sunday SA - Choir Room 5:30pm - 9:00pm Chamber Singers Rehearsal	26 6:30pm - 7:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 613 Assembly Room 7:00pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 613 - Acton Hall 7:00pm - 8:30pm SA-Choir Rm 7:00pm - 8:30pm SLA (Adult Lounge)	27 10:00am - 11:00am Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00am - 11:00am Wom- en's AA Group (Assembly) 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA Group (Acton Hall) 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA	28 11:00am - 12:00pm Prayer Meeting - East Foyer	29 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA 7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:00pm - 8:00pm SA 8:30pm - 9:30pm Ascending Tones Rehearsal in Choir Room		

Sunday**Monday****Tuesday****Wednesday****Thursday****Friday****Saturday**

MARCH

**1**

7:00pm - 8:00pm SA/SLA
8:00pm - 9:30pm AC-
Couples Grp (Assembly
Rm)

2

2:00pm - 4:00pm MCO
Rehearsal in Sanctuary
5:00pm - 7:30pm Kwahu-
man (Ghana Group)
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA

3

10:00am - 11:00am Worship:
In-person & Streamed
11:00am - 11:30am Coffee
Fellowship
11:15am - 12:15pm Confirma-
tion Class (Conference Room)
11:15am - 12:15pm Sunday
School (Cloud Room)
5:30pm - 6:30pm Sunday SA -
Choir Room
6:30pm - 9:00pm Chamber
Singers Rehearsal
7:00pm - 8:00pm SA/SLA

4

6:30pm - 7:30pm Cub
Scouts Pack 613 Assembly
Room
7:00pm - 8:00pm Boy
Scouts Troop 613 - Acton
Hall
7:00pm - 8:30pm SA-Choir
Rm
7:00pm - 8:30pm SLA
(Adult Lounge)

5

10:00am - 11:00am Bible
Study (Lounge)
10:00am - 11:00am Wom-
en's AA Group (Assembly)
1:00pm - 3:00pm Property
Meeting - Adult Lounge
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA Group
(Acton Hall)
7:00pm - 8:00pm SA
7:00pm Worship & Music
Committee

6

11:00am - 12:00pm Prayer
Meeting - East Foyer
8:30pm - 9:30pm Finance
Meeting (Zoom)

7

7:00pm - 9:00pm AA
7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir
Rehearsal in Sanctuary
7:00pm - 8:00pm SA
8:30pm - 9:30pm Ascend-
ing Tones Rehearsal in
Choir Room
8:30pm - 9:30pm Finance
Committee - Zoom

8**9**

9:30am - 11:30am MCO
Rehearsal in Sanctuary
6:00pm - 9:00pm GMB:
Dinner/Fellowship
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA

10

10:00am - 11:00am Worship:
In-person & Streamed
11:00am - 11:30am Coffee
Fellowship
11:15am - 12:15pm Confirma-
tion Class (Conference Room)
11:15am - 12:15pm Sunday
School (Cloud Room)
5:00pm - 6:30pm MCO Concert
Warmup in Sanctuary
5:30pm - 6:30pm Sunday SA -
Choir Room
5:30pm - 7:30pm Youth
Gathering in Assembly Room
6:30pm - 9:00pm Chamber
Singers Rehearsal
7:00pm - 8:30pm AC Couples
Group-Assembly Rm.
7:00pm - 8:00pm MCO Concert
in Sanctuary

11

6:30pm - 7:30pm Cub
Scouts Pack 613 Assembly
Room
7:00pm - 8:00pm Boy
Scouts Troop 613 - Acton
Hall
7:00pm - 8:30pm SA-Choir
Rm
7:00pm - 8:30pm SLA
(Adult Lounge)

12

10:00am - 11:00am Bible
Study (Lounge)
10:00am - 11:00am Wom-
en's AA Group (Assembly)
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA Group
(Acton Hall)
7:00pm - 9:00pm Compas-
sionate Friends (Zoom)
7:00pm - 8:00pm SA
7:30pm - 9:00pm Church
Council - Zoom

13

11:00am - 12:00pm Prayer
Meeting - East Foyer

14

10:00am - 11:00am Crafty
Hands-AL
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA
7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir
Rehearsal in Sanctuary
7:00pm - 8:00pm SA
8:30pm - 9:30pm Ascend-
ing Tones Rehearsal in
Choir Room

15**16**

9:30am - 11:30am MCO
Rehearsal in Sanctuary
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA

17

10:00am - 11:00am Worship:
In-person & Streamed
11:00am - 11:30am Coffee
Fellowship
11:15am - 12:15pm Confirma-
tion Class (Conference Room)
11:15am - 12:15pm Sunday
School (Cloud Room)
5:30pm - 6:30pm Sunday SA -
Adult Lounge
6:30pm - 9:00pm Chamber
Singers Rehearsal

18

6:30pm - 7:30pm Cub
Scouts Pack 613 Assembly
Room
7:00pm - 8:00pm Boy
Scouts Troop 613 - Acton
Hall
7:00pm - 8:30pm SA-Choir
Rm
7:00pm - 8:30pm SLA
(Adult Lounge)

19

5:00am - 9:00pm Election
10:00am - 11:00am Bible
Study (Lounge)
10:00am - 11:00am Wom-
en's AA Group (Assembly)
6:00pm - 9:00pm Columbus
Quilters-Assembly Rm.
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA Group
(Acton Hall)
7:00pm - 8:00pm SA
7:00pm - 8:00pm Saints
and Shepherds (zoom)

20

11:00am - 12:00pm Prayer
Meeting - East Foyer

21

10:30am Ascension Book
Club - Adult Lounge
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA
7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir
Rehearsal in Sanctuary
7:00pm - 8:00pm SA
8:30pm - 9:30pm Ascend-
ing Tones Rehearsal in
Choir Room

22**23**

9:30am - 11:30am MCO
Rehearsal in Sanctuary
11:00am - 1:00pm Easter
Egg Hunt
5:00pm - 7:30pm Kwahu-
man (Ghana Group)
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA

24

10:00am - 11:00am Worship:
In-person & Streamed
11:00am - 11:30am Coffee
Fellowship
11:15am - 12:15pm Confirma-
tion Class (Conference Room)
11:15am - 12:15pm Sunday
School (Cloud Room)
2:00pm - 4:00pm Compassi-
onate Friends (Assembly)
5:30pm - 6:30pm Sunday SA -
Choir Room
6:30pm - 9:00pm Chamber
Singers Rehearsal

25

6:30pm - 7:30pm Cub
Scouts Pack 613 Assembly
Room
7:00pm - 8:00pm Boy
Scouts Troop 613 - Acton
Hall
7:00pm - 8:30pm SA-Choir
Rm
7:00pm - 8:30pm SLA
(Adult Lounge)

26

10:00am - 11:00am Bible
Study (Lounge)
10:00am - 11:00am Wom-
en's AA Group (Assembly)
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA Group
(Acton Hall)
7:00pm - 8:00pm SA

27

11:00am - 12:00pm Prayer
Meeting - East Foyer

28

7:00pm - 9:00pm AA
7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir
Rehearsal in Sanctuary
7:00pm - 8:00pm SA
8:30pm - 9:30pm Ascend-
ing Tones Rehearsal in
Choir Room

29**30**

9:30am - 11:30am MCO
Rehearsal in Acton Hall
7:00pm - 9:00pm AA

31

10:00am - 11:00am Worship:
In-person & Streamed
11:00am - 11:30am Coffee
Fellowship
11:15am - 12:15pm Confirma-
tion Class (Conference Room)
11:15am - 12:15pm Sunday
School (Cloud Room)
5:30pm - 6:30pm Sunday SA -
Choir Room
6:30pm - 9:00pm Chamber
Singers Rehearsal

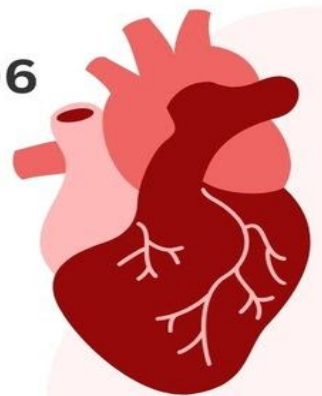
FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH



**You have the power to
restart a Heart!**

**+ Heart Disease is the No. 1 killer of
Americans.** Join the Healthy Heart
month movement and learn CPR to
save a life. Training with *CPR for Us*
will prepare you to respond to real
+ life emergencies.

**Call us today to schedule @ 614-434-6406
email: deidrabankston@cprforus.info
visit: www.cprforus.info**



Deidra Bankston, CPR for us/OSHA for us
AHA BLS, CPR, Heartsave & First Aid Instructor
Advanced Cardiac Life Support
OSHA Authorized Trainer
OSAP Infection Prevention & Control Specialist





Sunday, February 11, 2024, was Scout Sunday and we were appreciative of our scouts and their leadership. Following is a list of the cub scout & boy scout troop leaders. Thank you to the scouts and their leaders!

Cub Scout Pack 613

Lion Den Leader:	Sean Downey
Tiger Den Leader:	Joshua Benson
Wolf Den Leader:	Matthew Gaddis
Webelos Den Leader:	Leigh Leonard Arrow of Light Den
Leader:	Pat Abele Committee Chairman: Jack Abele
Committee Members:	Jerry Harvey, Meranda Stewart, Toniqua Crump,
sentative:	Toni Crump Institutional Repre-
Abele	Leigh Leonard Cub Master: Pat

Boy Scout Troop 613

Scout Master:	Nathan Abele
Asst. Scout Master:	Jared Leonard
Asst. Scout Master:	Alan Dahlstrom
Committee Chairman:	Jack Abele
Scouting Coordinator:	Leigh Leonard
Committee Members:	Russ Smith, Terry Stohr, Greg McKee, Derek Billingsly, Dale Linder, Graham Geisler, Jerry Harvey, Matthew Gaddis





48th Annual LMC Maple Syrup Festival 2024



Pancakes | Syrup Demos | Live Music



Lutheran Memorial Camp
At HopeWood Pines

March 10th | 11 AM - 3 PM

**All Proceeds to Benefit “Camperships”
-Help Send A Child to Camp!-**

48th Annual LMC Maple Syrup Festival

At HopeWood Pines

March 10th | 11 AM - 3 PM



**All You Can Eat Pancake
and Sausage Brunch**



- Adults: \$11 Each
- Youth (Ages 3-9): \$8

- Tours of Maple Syrup Production
- Maple Baked Goods
- Local Syrup for Sale
- Live Music
- Sassafras Tea
- Wagon Rides
- Children's Crafts
- Hiking

**All Proceeds to Benefit "Camperships"
-Help Send A Child to Camp!-**



2790 State Route 61 ● Marengo, OH
hopewoodoutdoors.org ● (419) 864-8030

Central Ohio Conference - January 2024



WELCA Mission Statement:

Mobilizing Women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Greetings... to all of you Ladies in the Central Ohio Conference! We hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas season & celebration this past December! We may not have experienced a white Christmas in 2023, but we certainly are experiencing a white January in 2024! We pray that all of you are staying safe and healthy too!

It seems like we just finished celebrating the birthday of Jesus, and now we are getting ready to prepare for the Lenten season with Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection! The first day of Lent or Ash Wednesday will fall on Valentine's Day, February 14th, this year. Wow! This has not happened since February 14, 1945.

2023 Lutheran World Relief Ingathering

Our ingathering of donations for **Lutheran World Relief** was held on Friday, October 6, 2023 at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Gahanna, Ohio.

We drove our rental truck to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Kettering, Ohio again this year. Phil & Janet Dixon solicited their son's help in driving the rental truck for them again this year. They also stayed and helped unload about half of the donations, after they arrived in Kettering, Ohio.

FYI: There were **10 churches** from the COC area that came to St. Luke Church on Oct. 7th.

Clinton Heights – Columbus

Faith – Mt. Vernon

Grace Lutheran – Pickerington
Peace – Gahanna

Holy Trinity – Columbus
Prince of Peace – Dublin

Hope – Columbus
St. Luke – Gahanna

St. Paul – Columbus

St. Paul – Newark

There were four (4) Churches from outside our Central Ohio Conference area that brought their donations to our WELCA/COC site at St. Luke in Gahanna. They were:

Ascension – Cincinnati, OH

St. Paul – Lancaster, OH

Trinity – Circleville, OH

Hope Lutheran /Missouri Synod – Sunbury, OH

Grangaar Family – A big THANK YOU to John & Gail Grangaar, who are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Newark, Ohio! Their family put together a total of 50 Personal Care Kits packed inside of 6 boxes for LWR. This was in addition to the number donated by their church.

We collected **347 Boxes** full of donations. Below is a list of total donations collected: Baby Kits - **50** Fabric Kits - **9** Personal Care Kits - **877** Quilts – **656** School Kits – **922**

A total of \$1,203.75 was collected from seven churches for the LWR Shipping Fund.

A total of \$156 was collected from 3 churches towards the COC's Rental Truck expenses.

A big **Thank You** to all of the ladies (and men too) who participated in this ingathering! We had a wonderful crew unloading all the boxes from vehicles and re-loading them into the rental truck! We also had a wonderful team inside the church collecting all the paperwork with the total number of donations and total number of boxes. **You are truly awesome!!**

God blessed us with good weather this year, so the work went much easier.

Please mark your calendars now for our next 2024 **LWR Ingathering** of donations on

Friday, Oct. 4, 2024 at St. Luke Lutheran Church on Morse Road in Gahanna.

If your church is not listed above, it may be that your donations were taken to another site where donations were being collected. We do not have any records from those sites.

Secretary Needed: We have an OPEN Position on our COC/WELCA Board for **secretary**. Please give this your prayerful consideration. There is no experience required, but a computer is necessary for recording and sending out copies of the minutes! We only meet for a board meeting once every 3 to 4 months, so it will not take up that much of your time.

COC - SPRING GATHERING

We are beginning to plan for our 2024 Central Ohio "Spring Gathering". So... watch for more information in the next couple of months.

We have not chosen a location for this event yet. If your women's group would like to sponsor

it at your church, please let the COC Board members know ASAP.

This would be a great time to show off your church building and show us what the women in your congregation are doing within your church too!

The **Spring Gathering** is open to all women to attend! WELCA stands for: **Women of the ELCA**. That mean ALL of the women, who are members of an ELCA church, are automatically members of this organization. Just as you are ALL members of the family of GOD.

Please remember, you do not need to be a member of an organized WELCA group within your church to participate in any of the WELCA activities or events.

Your sisters in Christ,
The Ladies of the COC/WELCA Board

\$3 Movies at Marcus Theatres Kids Dream Winter Film Series

- Ruby Gilman, Teenage Kraken – February 16-19 (incl Monday, no school!)
- Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie – February 23-25
- Abominable – March 1-3

Food and Drink Specials

Enjoy \$3.50 Sodas, \$3.50 Popcorn, and \$3.00 Hot Dogs while attending Kids Dream Showings!

Participating Locations

Crosswoods Cinema
200 Hutchinson Ave.
Columbus, OH 43235

Pickerington Cinema
1776 Hill Road North
Pickerington, OH 43147

Free Prom Dresses for students with Fairy Goodmothers

Prom is a core experience for many high school students, but not all families can afford to purchase a prom dress. **Fairy Goodmothers** helps high school students find their dream **prom dress for free** during **three weekends in February and March 2020**.

How to get free prom dresses at Cinderella's Closet Boutique

Students should sign up for a shopping appointment. Personal shoppers will help the students find a dress they love.

After selecting their dress, students are able to select complimentary accessories items to complement her dress and is given an exclusive goodie bag.

To pre-book an appointment, [students can sign up here](#) or visit www.fairygoodmothers.org.

The Lord YOUR GOD
IN YOUR MIDST,
THE MIGHTY *One*,
WILL SAVE; HE WILL REJOICE
OVER YOU WITH *Gladness*,
HE WILL QUIET YOU WITH
HIS *Love*, HE WILL REJOICE
OVER YOU WITH *Singing*.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17



COME TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

We welcome all to join Ascension Lutheran in-pew at Ascension, as well as online, for worship and connection.

Worship begins at 10:00 AM whether you choose to be in a pew at Ascension or you want to join us live on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranChurch>

Or by visiting Ascension's Website at www.ascension-columbus.org

Upcoming Events In Columbus

February/March 2024

\$3 Movies at Marcus Theatres Kids Dream Winter Film Series

- Ruby Gilman, Teenage Kraken – February 16-19 (incl Monday, no school!)
- Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie – February 23-25
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Congregational Life is asking for help in order to continue the weekly fellowship time after church by contributing to the donation basket helping cover expenses. The paper products and cakes are expensive. Thank you for your past donations and for your continuing support.

PRAYER GATHERING AT ASCENSION

Every Wednesday



The prayer gathering is a time to be still, a time to get to know God, and a time for prayers of intervention for those in need. Ascension invites you to an in-person prayer time in the east narthex at 11:00 AM every Wednesday.

SHEPHERDS & SAINTS



a

Ascension has many Shepherds who volunteer their time to visit those who are sick in the hospital or homebound.

Shepherds demonstrate Christ's caring love and offer spiritual support in time of need. Shepherds will talk with you, listen to you, and pray with you. Shepherds are also com-

missioned to bring Communion to you where you are, if you wish.

If you need home/hospital visits and/or communion, please contact Fred or Ruth Ann Helser.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



PRESS RELEASE



‘I beg you, bear with one another in love’

The Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there, and they want to give hope to everyone. The theme of the service 2024 ‘bear with one another in love’ seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation led by women which enables us to hear the thoughts of those women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns, and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday 1 March 2024 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Palestine.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, see the WDP website: wwdp.org.uk



If you wish to sign up for altar/chancel flowers, please sign the book in the east narthex or contact Joe Riggs.

Please order a few weeks in advance of the Sunday Worship you choose, and Joe Riggs will make the flower order for you!

For All Bookworms

Book Club meets monthly on third Thursdays
10:30 AM—Adult Lounge (Everyone is welcome!)

**COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY—OPEN
SUNDAYS FROM 9:00 AM UNTIL 11:00 AM**



Once a month we will hear from a member in the congregation a part of their walk with God as

they share some part of their life story. It's a faith *testimony*, and it will be conducted as an interview between the pastor and the person sharing their testimonial. And what is a testimony? A testimony is your spoken story about how you have experienced God (perhaps at a particular point in your life), offered in the context of our community worship. The practice of testimony strengthens the bonds among us as a community and draws us closer to God as individuals and as a community. If you are interested in sharing YOUR story, please contact Pastor Karen.



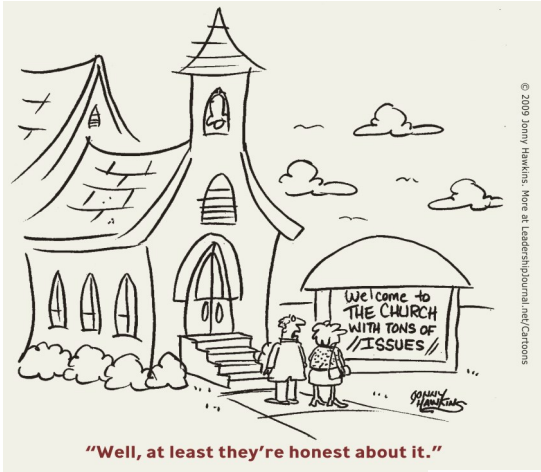
Our Free Pantry, located in front of Ascension, continues to provide food for our neighbors. Needed: Granola bars, Lance crackers, Vienna sausages, individual fruit cups or applesauce, bottled water, raisin boxes, nuts/peanuts, beef sticks, and individually wrapped desserts, such as cookies, cupcakes or pies. Thank you to those who faithfully donate.

Lutheran Social Services

(LSS) serves thousands of people in need each day in 26 Ohio counties by addressing the four core societal issues of food, shelter, safety and healing. LSS offers food through the LSS Food Pantries, housing and supportive services through LSS Faith Mission and LSS Faith Mission of Fairfield County homeless shelters, domestic violence services through LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, senior living and health care, affordable housing communities, and other services that uplift families and strengthen communities. To find out more about their services and how to volunteer, contact: 1105 Schrock Rd., Ste 100, Columbus, OH 43229. (614) 228-5200 <https://lssnetworkofhope.org/>



Funnies



"Well, at least they're honest about it."



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



"This would make a great reality show for the religion channel."



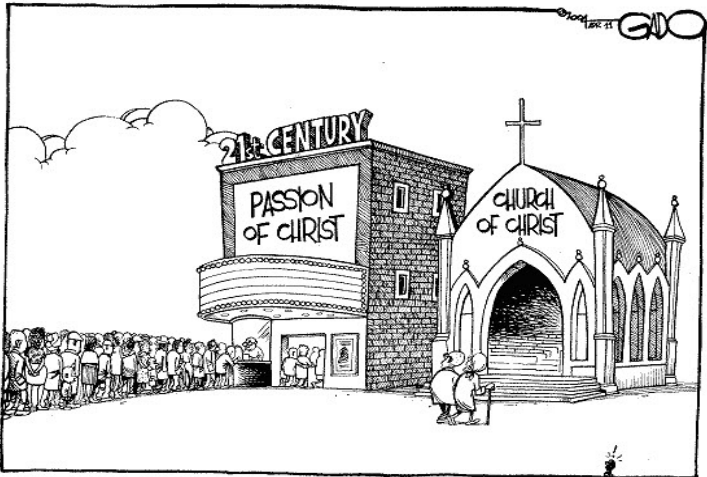
THE CHURCH'S SPONSORSHIP DEAL HAD FUNDED THE NEW ROOF, BUT THE JOURNALIST WAS STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF A McEUCHARIST



"Maybe we need to define 'community.'"



"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus... but not on Twitter."



Pastor Karen Asmus-Alsnauer
E-mail: pastorkarenALC@gmail.com

Ascension Church Office Open
Monday through Thursday, 9 am-3 pm

Brenda Noe, Church Assistant
E-mail: bnoe@ascension-columbus.org
Phone:(614) 262-7389 Fax: (614) 262-4255



Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM—Sanctuary Worship
1479 Morse Road
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Website: www.ascension-columbus.org

2023 Church Council Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer (two-year term)
Finance Committee Chair
Finance Committee Vice Chair
Financial Secretary
Congregational Life Committee Co-Chairs
Property Committee Chair
Worship & Music Committee Chair
Worship & Music Committee, Vice Chair

Andy Smith*
Curt Skarloken*
Bev Cook-Finley*
Steven Boring*
Sam Boateng*
Joel Kratzer
Allan Hiscox
Allan & Cindy Hiscox
Orin Sheumaker
Pam Kratzer
Amanda Wiesehan

***Executive Committee Members**

Keep your *address, telephone number and e-mail address* current. You can make any changes necessary by filling out the Membership Form or calling the Church Office.