



ASCENSION  LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Pastor Karen Asmus-Alsnauer
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www.ascension-columbus.org

June 13, 2021

Ascension Lutheran Church's *mission*:

To welcome everyone in learning, living, and sharing God's love and grace.

Service of Worship—Ascension Lutheran Church
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Karen Asmus-Alsnauer

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Immortal, Invisible by Birchwood

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 17:22-24.

A: A reading from Ezekiel.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

After the reading:

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15

Said responsively.

*The Assisting Minister (A) says the regular text; the Congregation (C) says the **bold text**.*

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²**to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how upright the Lord is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

A: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

After the reading:

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word

Verses 1 & 2 only.

1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;

Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav - en's gifts ex - tend to all.
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
let the gath - 'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 4:26-34

P: A reading from Mark.

²⁶Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able when the music begins.

HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Fruit of All Creation



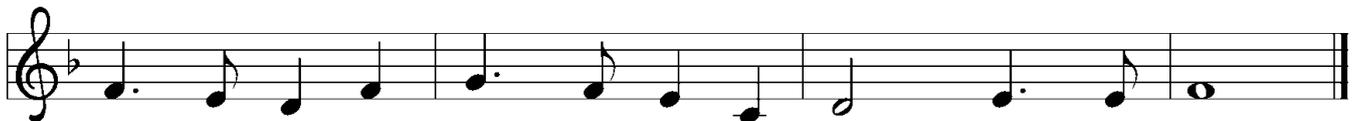
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for all that God provides and for the present of Jesus Christ among us.

During this time, members of the community worshipping in-person are invited to drop their offering in the plates near the front or rear doors of the sanctuary on the way in or out of the sanctuary. Those worshipping on-line (and in-person) are invited to mail their offerings to the church to a secure mailbox (1479 Morse Road, Columbus, OH. 43229); or drop it off to the church secured mailbox clearly marked for Ascension offering; or use the button to contribute to Ascension's online giving site by credit card: <http://www.ascension-columbus.org/giving.html> ; or have automatic donations taken from your checking or savings account through Simply Giving found on the website: <http://www.ascension-columbus.org>. Further information can be found on Ascension's website.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of Life, you give your very self to be our daily bread. Gather these first that you have sown in us and make us to be your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

A: Holy God, Fount of blessings, we pray for the church: that the seeds of faith which you plant take root and grow; that those churches that are emerging from the pandemic re-gather their members in safety; and that you bless the church in Ethiopia and other places that are experiencing great distress. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the earth: that the trees and plantings in national forests be protected; that farms around the globe be safeguarded from drought, flood, and pestilence; and that wild animals thrive in the habitat they require.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the nations: that world leaders care for those in greatest need; that all prejudices cease; that the might of tyrants be halted; that journalists be kept safe from harassment; that the displaced find a welcome homeland; and that peace reign between nations. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the aged: that they be embraced by their relatives and friends; and that their many needs be met. And we pray for the children: that they be protected from harm and danger; and that summertime give them opportunity to enjoy nature's bounty. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for health and wholeness: for countries where COVID-19 is accelerating and vaccines are not available; for relief agencies, that the hungry be fed; for those who are beaten down by poverty and homelessness; for those who are suffering from climate disasters; for any who are sick, especially those with no access to medical care; and for those we name here before you:
(time of silence and names added here)

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians, especially for our band director, Tom, and the band members, Danny, Von, and Chris; our organist, Bob; our Bell Choir and director, Jan; our choir, and our Director of Music, Chad; for the many soloists and ensembles who have served during these months. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the voices of soloists, the melody of instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: For all who have died in the faith, and for those whom we remember here before you, we offer our thanks, gracious Redeemer. For all who will die today, we ask your mercy. And at the end that we join with all your people in the perfection of your presence, we pray. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

A: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
+ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads

by Ritter



Serving Today:

We welcome and are grateful to Pastor Fred Wiese who is our preacher and presider today. Pastor Karen is on vacation and will return by Friday of this week.

ALTAR GUILD: Pam Kratzer, Brenda Noe, Barb Summers

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Chad Loomis

ORGANIST: Bob Hendrickson

SOLOISTS: Curt Skarloken and Chad Loomis

CWS BAND DIRECTOR: Tom Martin

CWS BAND: Danny Aguiar, drums; Von Smith, guitar;
Tom Martin, bass; Chris Young, piano player;

HAND BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jan Dahlstrom

LIBRARIANS: Celeste Schnabel, Martha Gostely

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been placed by Karen and Wayne Lashley to the Glory of God!!



IF YOU WISH TO SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS, WITH A DEDICATION, PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE CHURCH OFFICE, or CALL JOE RIGGS!!

Come into the Church Office or Call a few weeks in advance of the your chosen Sunday Worship, and Joe will make the flower order for you!!

Altar Flowers

News You Can Use — June 13, 2021

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1479 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229

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Update on Pandemic Protocols and Singing in Worship

effective June 10, 2021

While COVID-19 vaccinations are increasing but not yet available for everyone in the community, medical and government authorities recently made recommendations to their previous pandemic protocols. Now, vaccinated people only need to mask and safe distance in nursing homes, hospitals, mass transit, and any business/organization/municipality locations who still require it; while all safety protocols remain in place for those who are unvaccinated due to age, medical condition or choice. In light of that guidance with input from Music and Worship and the Executive Team, Church Council modified Ascension's pandemic safety protocols as follows:

For any gatherings inside the church building (not inclusive of worship):

For those who are fully vaccinated, face coverings are optional.

For those who are unvaccinated, face coverings are expected.

Safe-distance seating, sanitizing spaces, and the use of hand sanitizer is expected.

For any worship gatherings of the church, in the church:

For those who are or are not vaccinated, face coverings are required for indoor worship.

For those fully vaccinated, face coverings are optional for outdoor worship and other congregational outdoor gatherings.

Safe-distance seating, stationary communion, and traffic patterns are maintained to accommodate any who are unvaccinated.

Health care guidance identifies indoor group singing as a least safe activity for those who are not vaccinated. Church Council with input from the Worship and Music Committee is still discerning a faithful path to re-introduce congregational singing in worship for the benefits it offers to our praise of God and spiritual well-being. In order to begin more congregational involvement in the music and liturgy, face coverings are required of all worshippers, and worshippers are invited to sing and speak quietly into their covering. As this plan continues to evolve, a hymn leader will continue to sing and lead songs for worship on behalf of worshippers reflecting on the lyrics.

The building is open again for community groups to use under this guidance. They may also request additional protocols for attendees independent of the church, so check with the group before attending.

Signage around the church will be modified to reflect the changes.

Thank you again for your cooperation and patience as we continue to manage pandemic events with the health and safety of the whole congregation in mind. The love of Christ is clearly evident in your love for one another and the surrounding community.



CALENDAR June 13—June 27

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Prayer in Serenity Park 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Crafty Hands-AL 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Adult Lounge

Saturday, June 19, 2021

Prayer Gathering in Serenity Park 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Father's Day

10:00 a.m.—In-person Worship, Indoors Sanctuary

Facebook Live Worship [ALC Facebook Page](#)

Monday, June 21, 2021

First Day of Summer

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Prayer in Serenity Park 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Saturday, June 26, 2021

Prayer Gathering in Serenity Park 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Sunday, June 27, 2021

10:00 a.m.—In-person Worship, Indoors Sanctuary

Facebook Live Worship [ALC Facebook Page](#) 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Sanctuary

Transition Team-ZOOM 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**Monday through Thursday
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
COVID Standard Masks Required
COVID Standard 6' Safe Distancing
Call Us If You Have Questions!**



ETERNAL GLORY

- ♦ **Jan Reisch** passed to eternal glory on Sunday, May 30, 2021. Memorial plans are pending at this time.
- ♦ **Barbara Duane** (former member of Ascension) passed to the glory of God this past week. Visitation and funeral service is on Monday, June 14th, at All Saint's Lutheran Church, 6770 North High Street, Worthington, OH. Visitation begins at 9, and will conclude before the service begins at 11:00. The funeral is open to the public. Our prayers are with her husband, Rodney, and children, Meg and Kevin; grandchildren and rest of the family, plus many friends.



Health Concerns Friends and Relatives of Church Members

(With their consent, submit names on the following list):

PRAYER REQUEST LIST -- Health Concerns - Church Members

Jonathan Abele
Ron Althoff
Laura Bass
Lisa Billing
Roger Deerhake
Bruce Halverson
Howard Kerchner
Emily McWhirter
Jim Mead
Joan Miller
Wayne Miller
Linda Morrison
Bob Naumoff
Matthew Olsen
Nancy Olsen
Pat Papadopoulos
Carol & Ray Patten
Marion Rees
Brian Rideout
Ingrid Robb
Lewis Sale
Brigitte Segieth
Barbara Summers
Marcy Webster

These members are regularly and currently contacted by our

Shepherds:

Janet Arnold
Lori Engler
Linda Frysinger
Shirlie Gorman
Ruby Koenig
James Lewison
Alice Mills
June Nebllette
Jim Putnam
Pat Stocker
Marilyn Sullivan
Helen Grace Weaver



Health Concerns-Friends and Relatives of Church Members:

With their consent, submit names on the following list:

- Bernie Aleman**—Brother-in-law of Frank & Jean Agriesti
Christopher Blaesing—Son of Vicki Blaesing
Joyce Blue-Friend of Shirlie Gorman
Kimberly Blubaugh—Daughter of Jim Mead
Joe Brosious—Our Ascension Friend
Paula Card—Friend of Jan & Ken Reisch
Barbara Chadwick—Friend of Jan & Ken Reisch
Lavon Daugherty-Friend of Allan & Cindy Hiscox
Dave Deerhake—Son of Georgia & Roger Deerhake
Lola Dixon—Mother of Carol Dixon
Jayla Dozette—Granddaughter of Perry & Linda Morrison,
Andy Ellis—Father of Margaret Owens
Monica Epstein—Niece of Jean & Frank Agriesti
Ted Fairley—Nephew of Judy Jester
Randy Ferguson—Friend of Jean & Frank Agriesti
James Frysinger—Brother of Linda Frysinger
Karen Gehrig—Friend of Carol Silness & Chris Rudin
Cecil Gillingham—Friend of Cindy & Allan Hiscox
Mya Green—Friend of Laura Bass
Victor Groves—Cousin of Shirlie Gorman
Mason Daniel Harper—Great Nephew of Diane
& Chad Loomis, Brenda Noe, & Barbara Summers
Russell Haley—Father-in-law of Jim Mead
Dean Harper—Brother-in-law of Jack & Pat Abele
John Harris—Friend of Allan & Cindy Hiscox
Robert Haueisen—Brother of Joyce Heft
Michelle Hines—Friend of Judy Jester
Donald Honaker-Husband of Dottie Honaker
Anne Mary Klaprat—Friend of Allan & Cindy Hiscox
Allan Kulikowski—Friend of Allan & Cindy Hiscox
Stephanie Leisten—Daughter of Brenda Burkett
Judith Lewison—Mother of James Lewison
David Lowe—Friend of Shirlie Gorman
Peggy Martin & Family—Neighbors of Jim Mead
Gary & Lois McCoy—Brother & Sister-in-law
of Pat Papadapoulos
Jackie McDonald—Sister of Jim Mead
Kae McGregor-Sister of Jill McGregor
Wendy Miller-Engel—Daughter of Joan Miller
Richard Miller—Brother-in-law of Cathy Miller
Jill Morrison—Sister-in-law of Perry
& Linda Morrison
Charlotte Neely—Great-granddaughter of Ruth Serr
& Great-niece of Bev Cook-Finley
Greg Nutter—Friend of Joe Riggs
Ed Noga—Relative of Margaret Owens
Megan O'Connor—Friend of Shirlie Gorman
Loni & Bill Quick—Daughter & Son-in-law
of Peggy Dlusky
Alexa Rockhold—Grand-niece of Curt Skarloken
Thomas Schaber—Brother of Shirlie Gorman
Baby Henry Scott Smith—Close Relative of
Barb & Bob Naumoff
John Staples—Brother of Vall Greer
John Stocker—Brother of Marion & Chuck Rees
Dave Strawers—Friend of Barbara Naumoff
Enid Tangeman—Sister of Sandy Baker
Mary Frenz Taylor—Friend of Joan Miller
Mark Weber—Husband of Carol Dixon
Michael & Sharla White—Friends of Ascension
Sue Whittier—Friend of Barbara Naumoff
Jami Whitworth—Daughter of Perry & Linda Morrison
Sue Wilson—Sister-In-Law of Wilma Wilson
Carmedy Family, Boring Family, Reisch Family

