



# ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.

**They bagged  
almost  
A TON of  
carrots!  
1750 lbs.**

**Ascension  
Volunteers at  
Advent  
Lutheran  
Church  
Serving  
Sunrise  
Christian  
Food  
Ministry.**



**November 2024**

7607 Garden Gate Drive  
Citrus Heights, CA 95621  
(916) 723-5223 [luthchurch.org](http://luthchurch.org)



**Pastor Scott Jones**

### **Thanksgiving Traditions**

Is it Thanksgiving without the turkey?

I hope so, since I haven't eaten turkey on Thanksgiving for almost 40 years.

Many of us have a lot of Thanksgiving traditions, from what we eat, when we eat, where we eat, as well as who we eat with. And it wouldn't feel like Thanksgiving without the traditions. And our family was no different; we always had the traditional Thanksgiving meal with one of our extended families, and some years we would eat dinner twice, once with each family.

However, all of that changed when we moved out of state. It was not always possible for us to travel back to northern California during the short Thanksgiving weekend. So, we began to celebrate Thanksgiving in different ways. Sometimes we gathered with friends and their families. That was nice. It was nice to be included, but it also invited comparisons with our family's traditions, which made us miss our family even more. As a result,

we spent many Thanksgivings doing very non-traditional things. A few times we went to the regional church camp that was associated with our denomination. They invited individuals and families to come up to southern New Hampshire for the Thanksgiving weekend. Some years we stayed home, but didn't have the traditional meal.

However, regardless of what we ate, where we ate, or who we ate it with, we were still thankful. Our gratitude was not predicated upon the traditions we grew up with, but upon our hearts. We found that it was more important to feel and express our gratitude than it was to worry about whether my grandmother's sweet potato recipe is going to turn out (it NEVER turns out as good as she would make it). The same principle applies to our worship. Our focus should always be upon God and worshiping God, rather than the traditions that we hold so dear. The traditions were created to help us focus, not on the tradition, but upon God, who is the focus of our worship.

This Thanksgiving we will be in New York City, celebrating and giving thanks along the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade route. Don't bother looking for us on TV, but as you watch the parade (if it is your tradition to do so), join us in giving thanks to God for all that we have and all that we are, and for the love that God so gracious bestows upon us.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pr. Scott



## Pub Theology

Pub Theology will be on hiatus for the months of November and December. We hope to be back at our new “usual” spot, R Vida Cantina, in the new year. Stay tuned .....

## CHURCH WORK DAY Saturday, November 16 8am—1pm

As we prepare our hearts for the Advent season and the birth of our Lord, let us also prepare the space in which we worship Him. Please sign up in the narthex to help with both inside and outside tasks to beautify the properties here at Ascension.

Lunch will be served.



## Christmas in July



Ten-dollar quarter folders are available in the church office for those who didn't have the opportunity to pick one up in July. Return the folders with cash, checks or quarters inside by placing them in the collection plate by December 15. The proceeds will be given to the Mustard Seed School for school supplies. The Mustard Seed School serves homeless children ages 3 to 15 years old and is located in the Loaves and Fishes Complex in Sacramento.



This month we will be celebrating Thanksgiving by having a picnic outside (weather permitting) with our favorite stuffies. We will be talking about why we have a Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends. We will be making decorations, including placemats, for our families. We will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28th, and Friday, Nov. 29th for the Thanksgiving weekend. We hope your holiday weekend is pleasant and all you want it to be.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Ascension Preschool Staff

## New Members Class

There are currently 6 individuals signed up for our New Members classes being held on October 27 and November 3. This is an opportunity for us to get to know them better and for them to ask questions about Ascension. Attendance at these classes does not necessarily mean one will become a member, but it is a requirement for those who wish to join. We look forward to receiving our new members during worship Sunday, November 17.



## HART Spaghetti Fund Raiser

The fund raiser for HART's operations was very successful, with a near sell out for the spaghetti dinner. We're still waiting to hear how much was raised but it looks very positive. Ascension was proud to be a sponsor, and even had our logo on every picture taken at the photo booth.



Spaghetti Fest Fundraiser 2024



## Paint & Sip



## Living out the Mission to Love the Community



The fruit of the Spirit is love,  
joy, peace,  
patience, kindness,  
generosity, faithfulness...  
Galatians 5:22

This Spirit is alive and well here at Ascension. See the bounty shared with the students of Katherine Johnson Middle School, thanks to the generosity of our members. Thanks to Kay Emery for bringing this to our attention, and to April, the social worker at the school (pictured), who attended worship with us and picked up the donations on October 13.

## Loving God, One Another & the Community

### G1 Youth at Ascension

William Barker—Youth Director  
Justin Carballar—Asst Youth Director  
g1youth@luthchurch.org

#### Junior & High School Youth (7th-12th Grade)

3rd 4:30—7PM Meet in Youth Room  
10th No meeting—holiday weekend  
17th 4:30—7 PM Holiday Cooking  
Come and learn how to make a  
Holiday dish  
24th No meeting



### Off Road Youth Group

William Barker—Youth Director  
Justin Carballar—Asst Youth Director  
carbiemagoo@yahoo.com

#### 3rd-6th Grade

3rd 12 PM Meet w/Mr. Justin  
24th 12 PM Family Together Event

Contact Mr. Justin with questions.

Here are some of the Off Roaders NOT  
sleeping at the sleepover!



### Save the Dates

#### December

1 Advent begins  
Deck the Halls decorating after  
2nd service  
8 Blue Christmas Service  
17 Sacramento Valley Concert Choir  
22 Jesus' Birthday Party  
(during Sunday School)  
24 5 PM Christmas Eve Worship  
10 PM Christmas Eve Worship  
25 10 AM Christmas Day Worship



### November Office Closures

Please note the church and preschool of-  
fices will be closed on Monday, Novem-  
ber 11, in honor of Veterans Day AND on  
November 28 for Thanksgiving.

## FINANCE STATUS THROUGH SEPT. 2024

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$42,577.36	\$39,144.21	\$365,367.08	\$382,500.03	\$346,169.53	\$423,125.24

Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$263,266.13
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$122,476.82

September's numbers have still fallen short of our year-to-date budgeted income, but have improved over previous months. We must still be diligent about our giving as we continue to lag behind our budget income goal.

Roger Linder  
Treasurer



**Support the Ascension Food Pantry by bringing 2 food items on the 2nd Sunday of each month**

Soup	Chili	Cup of soup
Green beans	Stew	Cookies
Corn	Pork and beans	Fruit snacks
Black beans	Refried beans	Granola bars
Potatoes	Cereal	Peanut butter
Tuna	Oatmeal	Jelly and jam
Chicken	Crackers	Ramen
Ham	Pasta	Instant potatoes
Salmon	Pasta sauce	Pancake mix
Applesauce	Rice	Syrup
Canned fruit	Macaroni and cheese	

## Blue Christmas

A special service for those who struggle during the holidays

Sunday, December 8

Lunch at 12:30 pm

Service at 1:30 pm



Blue Christmas is a worship service for all who are feeling down, sad, depressed or grieving as we head into the Advent and Christmas season.

This year's service will be earlier in Advent, to acknowledge the challenge that the season can be for those in pain.

On Sunday, December 8, we will gather for a simple luncheon after the Modern Worship Service. This will be followed by the Blue Christmas Service at 1:30pm. All are invited to attend in person or online.

## COUNCIL UPDATE

As we start the countdown to the end of the calendar year we look forward to the beginning of a new church year on Sunday, December 1, the first Sunday of Advent.

The Finance Committee will use the financial portion of the Ministry Support cards collected to prepare the operations budget for the coming year while Council members and staff will review the lower portions to discern ways in which members' talents may best be put into action in ministry.

A budget informational meeting will be held between services on November 17 and the congregational meeting between services on November 24. No adult faith formation classes will be held on those days.

Another congregational meeting is scheduled for February 23, at which time elections will be held to fill vacant positions on the Council.





## Thanksgiving Eve Eve

Our Thanksgiving shared worship service with our friends at Christ the King Lutheran Church will be held at Christ the King this year. They will host a pie social following the worship service. Please join us at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 26, at Christ the King, 5811 Walnut Avenue in Orangevale.

Fun Fact: Both congregations have Scott for pastor and their Pastor Scott is the son of none other than our own Phil Guemmer!



## Blessing Bag Sunday

Ascension will again assemble Blessing Bags in the Narthex after both services on November 24. Join us in assembling bags or donate any of the following single-serving packaged foods and beverages for the Blessing Bags: bottled water, small juice boxes, fruit cups, little raisin boxes, cookies and cheese& crackers. New athletic socks are also appreciated. We will continue to donate Blessing Bags to the Citrus Heights Health Workers and other area nonprofits. Blessing Bags will also be available in a basket in the Narthex for congregation members to distribute to needy people they encounter and for the Ascension staff to give to those who come to our church requesting aid. Thank you for your support.



## Loving God, One Another & the Community

### W E L C A

Welcoming all women into the joy of serving our Lord

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Food collection of Food:** Thank you to all who remember to bring in your additional food collection on this day. Remember, we accept food any day office is open.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be having a Birthday party for Jesus between the services. Invitations are being distributed to all the children, including those enrolled in our preschool.

We are going to support the Taylor House for our Christmas outreach this year. Please refer to the October newsletter for more information about this worthy cause.

Please look for the Christmas tree with ornaments listing items needed for the Taylor House residents. If you would like to donate money and have us purchase the items for you, please submit your donation to WELCA, with a notation that it is for Taylor House gifts. The tree will be put up by November 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Narthex.

Our January meeting will take place between services on a date to be determined and announced in the December newsletter article.

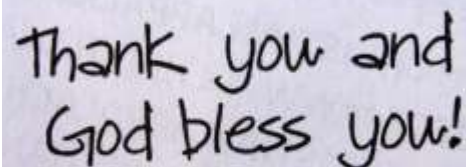
Our next meeting is scheduled for 6 PM on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the large conference room. Remember **all women of Ascension are welcome**. Please come and join us.



## Preschool Update and Thanks

Our enrollment has grown from 11 children to 18 children in less than 1 month. Thanks to Ascension Church, we are able to pay all staff and continue forward. I can't **Thank You** all enough for your prayers, your gifts and your love for Ascension Preschool. The generosity of members to our plea for some interim support has resulted in \$2600 in donations so far.

Blessings,  
Kim



Thank you and  
God bless you!

## Opportunities to Serve in the Community

### Loaves & Fishes

Ascension volunteers serve lunch in the dining room on the first Wednesday of each month. We will be serving on November 6. **We need more volunteers** for this community outreach to homeless people in the Sacramento area. Our group meets at the church at **10:00 am** for carpooling. Contact Art Champ for more information.



### Sunrise Christian Food Ministry

Ascension volunteers fill bags on the third Wednesday of each month; our goal is to send six volunteers. The next scheduled date is November 20, from **8:30 am—12 noon**. In September, the food pantry started offering Wednesday evening family distribution. We will be packing bread and produce in advance of the evening food distribution. We always enjoy our time together while helping needy people. Contact Betty Alvord for more information.



# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Ascension Public Calendar

Nov 2024 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Kids Sunday	1pm - Mary & Martha 2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Finance Committee	10am - Loaves & Fishes 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick	10:30am - Theresa Allen 11:30am - Allen Memorial 8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Grief Group @ C- 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @	Church & Preschool 1pm - Mary & Martha 2pm - Craig Brewick	2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope 7pm - Council @ C-1	6pm - AA Meeting @ 8:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	8am - Building Cleanup 9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
Receiving New Members 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Kids Sunday	1pm - Mary & Martha 2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - WELCA Meeting	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	1pm - Sunrise Christian 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Confirmation @	1pm - Mary & Martha 2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Thanksgiving	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @