



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11



December 2024

7607 Garden Gate Drive
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
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**Pastor
Scott Jones**

Do Not Be Afraid

“Does this smell funny to you?”

“Taste this, and let me know if you think it is still okay to eat.”

“Stand over there, I want to make sure that the board is secure.”

“Go ahead and try it. I’ve seen other people do it, so it should be okay.”

“Do not be afraid.”

Each of these requests, and I think we have probably heard them all, provide me with little to no assurance. I don’t want to put my nose near anything that you think MIGHT smell funny. I don’t want to taste anything that MIGHT not be okay to eat. I don’t want to stand anywhere that MIGHT not hold me. I don’t want to try do something that SHOULD be okay, because others have done it. And simply telling me to not be afraid, is NOT going to calm my fears.

So, when we read the nativity story from Luke again this year, and the angel Gabriel says to the young, virgin Mary, “Do not

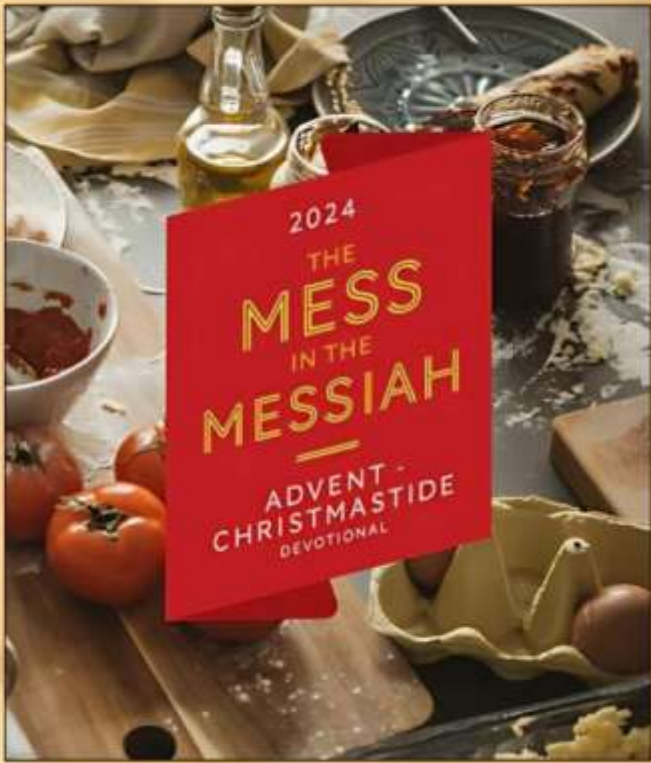
be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God” (Luke 1:30). I will once again have trouble NOT feeling afraid for Mary, who couldn’t possibly imagine what was in store for her. She was asked to do so much, and had so much to lose. In the following verses Mary is told that she will have a son, and she will name him Jesus; and that he will be the Son of God and will ascend to the throne of David, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

If I was Mary, I think I would have said, “I am afraid you have come to the wrong person. You must be looking for someone else.” What the angel Gabriel said would have sounded funny, unsafe, and not plausible to me; even though he prefaced it by telling her not to be afraid! And yet, Mary faithfully, hopefully not fearfully, responded to Gabriel, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

As we enter the season of Advent and are preparing for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, is there anything that you are afraid to do, that God might be asking you to do? Maybe it is not as lifechanging as carrying the Christ-child, but it is still scary. I won’t suggest that you shouldn’t be afraid, but would encourage you to work through the fear. And that you place your trust in God, as you let it be with you, according to God’s word.

I look forward to seeing you during our Advent and Christmas worship services.

Pr. Scott



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



Oh come let us adore him

Christmas Worship at Ascension

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24 - 5 pm and 10 pm

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25 - 10 am





Staff Christmas Gifts

The holiday season is upon us! Let's show our appreciation to Pastor and the church staff for all their hard work this year by giving a monetary donation to the staff Christmas gift. Please list "staff gift" on your envelope or memo line. It's always fun to hand out the gifts before Christmas Eve services, so please donate by December 20th.

Thank you!
Brian Davis,
Council President



Sacramento Valley Concert Choir



All are invited to a very special Christmas Concert right here in our sanctuary, on Tuesday, December 17th, at 7:30 pm. After the concert we will enjoy a light nosh of goodies and drinks. This is a free event open to any and all! It's a great time to come get in the Christmas spirit, enjoy the Advent/Christmas season with beautiful music and friends and family. We hope to see you all there. Note: There will be a receptacle into which a free will offering may be placed.

Christmas Quarter Folders due December 15

Ten-dollar quarter folders will be available in the narthex until Sunday, December 15. Return the folders with cash, checks (payable to Ascension Lutheran Church) 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



Underground Clothing Connection, Sunrise Mall

The Underground Clothing Connection has reopened under new manager Michelle Camba, shown at right. The Underground is in need of new or gently used coats for Pre-K through High School students. If you can donate one or more coats, please leave them in the WIND Bin in the Social Ministry room and the coats will be delivered to the store.



Ascension Christian Preschool will be celebrating the Christmas holiday learning about Christ's birth, the Star of Bethlehem and the animals who came to see Jesus the night He was born. We will be celebrating Jesus' birthday with the church. What a party that will be.

The children will be very busy making presents for their families. The children get so excited to make special gifts and then learning to wrap them. We also will be enjoying the sounds and smells Christmas. We will have a book exchange and celebrate seeing Santa.

We will be closing early on Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas Day. We also will be closing early on New Year's Eve and closed on New Year's Day.

Ascension staff wishes everyone a joyous Holiday season. Thanks for all of your support and prayers.

Off Road Youth Group

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

3rd-6th Grade

- Dec. 1 12:00 noon—Advent
Decorating at Church
Dec. 15 12:00 noon—Christmas
Party
Dec. 22 9:45 am—Birthday Party
for Jesus

Contact Mr. Justin with questions.

G1 Youth at Ascension

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

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

- Dec. 1 12:00 noon—Advent
Decorating at Church
Dec. 8 4:30—7pm Meet in
Youth Room
Dec. 15 4:30—7pm—Christmas
Art & Crafts
Dec. 22 4:30—7pm—Ugly Sweater
Christmas Party



Save the Dates

January

6 Epiphany Dinner & Service

February

23 Congregational Meeting

March

5 Ash Wednesday
9 Daylight Savings Time starts

April

13 Palm Sunday
17 Maundy Thurs-
day
18 Good Friday
20 Easter Sunday



December Office Closures

12/24 Closed in a.m.
12/25 Closed for Christmas
12/26—12/31 Hours will vary
 (call before visiting)



FINANCE STATUS THROUGH OCT. 2024

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$36,795.68	\$41,840.87	\$402,162.76	\$425,000.02	\$388,010.40	\$470,139.16

Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$263,983.03
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$121,150.57

October'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	

Loving God, One Another & the Community



Our **G-1 Youth** kiddos learning how to help prepare Thanksgiving side dishes.



COUNCIL UPDATE

Just a reminder that the Finance Committee meets at 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month and the Church Council meets at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month AND these meetings are always open to all members.

Our next congregational meeting, at which we'll be electing new Council members, is scheduled for Sunday, February 23.

You're always welcome to reach out to any member of the Council (whose photos are now posted in the hallway) with questions or concerns. Members of the Council are: Brian Davis (President), Mary Jo Edmondson (Vice President), Mark Chapman (Secretary), Roger Linder (Treasurer), Terri Jellesed (Loving God), Brian Shannon (Loving One Another), and Phil Guemmer (Loving the Community), along with Pastor Scott.

The many ministries of Ascension continue to thrive, with Council members assigned to support those ministries/committees which fall under their "pillar" of the mission statement.



Loving God, One Another & the Community



Download the Bible app -
follow along in the NRSV -
"discover" Ascension
as YOUR church!



Connect with Ascension's Prayer Chain



prayer@luthchurch.org



luthchurch.org/prayer

SCAN
ME



Pub Theology

This is a recurring event, meeting the 4th Thursday of the month. Jo Ann Little takes the lead and, using 'Pub Theology's' resources, comes up with very interesting questions and topics for us to discuss over dinner and drinks. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23 at 6:00 pm at R Vida Cantina, located at 7040 Sunrise Blvd. in Citrus Heights.

Blessing Bag Sunday

The next Blessing Bag Sunday will be December 29. 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 and crackers. New athletic socks are also appreciated. We will continue to donate Blessing Bags to the Citrus Heights Health Workers and other area non-profits. 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 to all who have donated for this project.

Loving God, One Another & the Community

W E L C A

Welcoming all women into the joy of serving our Lord

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

On December 22nd, will be having a Birthday party for Jesus between services. Invitations have been sent to our youth and preschoolers. We are requesting a gift of a nonperishable food item. There will be games and goody bags for the children, and birthday cake for all,

Please look for the Christmas tree with ornaments for items needed for the Taylor House residents. We may also post items for families we are aware are in need. Gifts are to be returned to the church no later than **December 14th**. Please remember to leave the ornament you got with the gift. Wrapping will take place at our **December 16th** meeting. 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.

If you would like to be part of our WELCA group, we would like your opinion as to whether a meeting on Monday afternoon at 4 PM, or a Saturday at 2 PM would be better for you to enable you to join us. Please let Cindy Erickson know. If you don't know who she is, just ask. Or call her 702-630-4748.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 6 pm on **December 16th, 2024**, in Conference Room 1. Remember **all women of Ascension are welcome**. Please come and join us.

The Need is Still Present on the Holidays

Our regularly scheduled shift at Loaves & Fishes on the first Wednesday of the month falls on New Year's Day. We will still be sending a crew to serve. Please let the church office know if you are able to help.



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 December 4. **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 December 18, 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

Dec 2024 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Ascension Public Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Kids Sunday	2 1pm - Mary & Martha 2pm - Craig Brewick	3 10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Finance Committee	4 10am - Loves & Fishes 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	5 2pm - Craig Brewick	6 8:30pm - Romanian SDA	7 9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
8 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @	9 1pm - Mary & Martha 2pm - Craig Brewick	10 10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope 7pm - Council @ C-1	11 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	12 11am - Gary Hooper 2pm - Craig Brewick	13 8:30pm - Romanian SDA	14 9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
15 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Kids Sunday	16 1pm - Mary & Martha 2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - WELCA Meeting	17 10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7:30pm - Sacramento	18 1pm - Sunrise Christian 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	19 2pm - Craig Brewick	20 8:30pm - Romanian SDA	21 9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
22 Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Confirmation @ 9:45am - Jesus' Birthday	23 2pm - Craig Brewick	24 10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	25 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	26 2pm - Craig Brewick	27 8:30pm - Romanian SDA	28 9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
29 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Kids Sunday 9:45am - Mustard Seeds 11am - Modern Worship	30 2pm - Craig Brewick	31 10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	1	2	3	4