



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.



April 2025

7607 Garden Gate Drive
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
(916) 723-5223 luthchurch.org

Pastor Scott Jones



“Sunrise”

In Cromwell, Connecticut the Christian Clergy Group hosted a sunrise Easter service every year at the river. We always had a rain plan, but in the nine Easters that we were there, we never needed it. One year we had to move the service to higher ground, because the water level was so high, but we were still able to gather, always looking toward the east, to worship as the sun rose. It remains a favorite memory of our time in Cromwell.

Throughout Lent we have been focusing upon God’s Story; Our Story, and we have been encouraged to share our stories about when God’s Story has impacted each of our stories. As I think about the Son rising this Easter, I am reminded of another sunrise that left an impression on me. It was when I was a camper at Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp, in Felton, CA. I was probably in middle school at the time. There was an adult “camper” who was paraplegic, I think his name was Jeff. Jeff was staying in the nice rooms in Jensen Hall for the week. He

had an aide with him, but I remember that we were either encouraged, or assigned, to assist him with some daily tasks. I think that was a good experience, but also made me uncomfortable.

Our cabin decided that one morning we would hike up the fire road above the camp to watch the sunrise. And we decided to take Jeff with us. So, Jeff was strapped into a rescue stretcher, like the ones that they strap injured people in to carry them off of a mountain. And we took turns carrying Jeff up and down the mountain, so that he could see the sunrise with us. It was a lot of work, and a little bit scary being responsible for Jeff, but it was amazing. We all enjoyed seeing the sunrise, but it was even more magical seeing Jeff’s reaction to the light of the sun piercing the morning sky.

Whenever I read about the paralyzed man whose friends lowered him through the roof in order for him to see Jesus, I think about carrying Jeff up and down the mountain to see the sunrise. I also think that we saw Jesus that day, not just in the rising of the sun, but in the loving act of carrying a man who was unable to get himself safely up or down that mountain. It would have been easier to hike up and down this mountain without Jeff, but it also wouldn’t have had the impact upon my story that it did.

What’s your story? How has God’s story impacted your story? What not share it with someone?

Pr. Scott

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday
April 17 - 7:00 pm



Palm Sunday - April 13
8:30 am and 11:00 am

Good Friday - April 18
12 noon and 7 pm



The 12 noon service will not be livestreamed

easter
worship
Sunday, April 20
8:30 am and 11:00 am

A breakfast will be served between services

Loving God, One Another & the Community

G1 Youth at Ascension

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



4/6	9:45 –11:00am	Easter Breakfast Ticket Sales
	12:00-2:00pm	Youth Group
4/13	9:45-11:00am	Confirmation Class
	12:00-2:00pm	Youth Group
4/20	7:00—11:00am	Easter Breakfast
4/27	9:45-11:00am	Confirmation Class

Off Road Youth Group

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

4/13	12:00—2:00 pm	Craft Day
4/27	12:00—2:00 pm	On Campus

Contact Mr. Justin with questions.





Welcoming all women into the joy of serving our Lord

The 2nd Sunday of each month is Food Collection Sunday. Thank you to all of you that remembered to bring in your donations last month. Please remember that we accept food any day the office is open. We are currently giving out over 50 bags of food each month. Your donations are a blessing to those in need. Please look for the food list to be handed out on the 1st Sunday of each month.

During the month of March we supported Mariposa School with another shoe drive. Thank you to all of you, who so generously provided soles for these young souls.

Our next meeting is at 4 p.m. April 21 in the large conference room. Remember, all women of Ascension are members of WELCA. Please come and join us in serving our community



Future members of WELCA

Women's Breakfast

ALL Women of Ascension are invited to a breakfast gathering at 10 am on Thursday, April 3, at CH Café & Grill, located at 6215 Sunrise Blvd. (at the NW corner of Sunrise and Greenback). This will be a time to share food and fellowship with other women. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please see Cynthia Green or Lois Bacchi with any questions.



Sunrise Christian Food Ministry

Seven Ascension volunteers sorted and packed root vegetables on Wednesday, March 19, to be given to low-income clients along with bags of groceries.

Started in 1983, Sunrise Christian Food Ministry is located at Advent Lutheran Church. Supported by a large group of local congregations, it is one of the largest food banks in the Sacramento area. The food bank provides monthly emergency food distributions for Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks and Orangevale. The number of families served has **increased 6-fold**.

Please consider making a donation to help the current funding shortfall for Sunrise Christian Food Ministry, 5901 San Juan Avenue, Citrus Heights, CA 95610.



Clothing and Book Donations

With the approaching change of season, many of us will be updating our clothing. If you have any clean, gently used clothes you won't be needing, please consider delivering them to the WIND Bin located in the back of the Food Pantry. The clothes will then be donated to the non-profits which work with low-income or homeless people.

Similarly, if you're going to be reviewing your book collection and have some books you're ready to part with, please place the books in or near the WIND Bin. They will be donated to appropriate non-profits like Lutheran Social Services who work with youth from at-risk backgrounds.



Francis House

One of the recipients of the gently used clothing donated by our members and friends is Francis House in downtown Sacramento. During the month of March we delivered 13 bags of clothing .

Francis House Center is part of the Next Move Homeless Services in Sacramento. Their goal is to serve those suffering homelessness and poverty. Their mission is to provide relief, resources and hope to transform individuals and families from a struggle for survival to a plan for their success.

Some of the direct services they provide are: Bus passes, California ID's, Notary services, Hygiene kits, Eyeglasses, Winter coats, scarves, hats, gloves (when available), Resource Coaching. They have a Job Development Center to help their clients become gainfully employed, as well as transportation support to help them get to their first paycheck. They also provide motel vouchers for homeless families.



Loving God, One Another & the Community

FINANCE STATUS THROUGH FEBRUARY 2025

Current Monthly Actual In-come	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$56,629.11	\$43,721.71	\$108,615.72	\$82,166.60	\$87,127.79	\$92,214.20

Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$297,166.02
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$123,295.51

The year continues to be off to a good start with Income exceeding budget, and expenses below budget. However, these numbers reflect some annual and quarterly gifts, so that has to be taken into consideration when spread across several months.

Roger Linder
Treasurer

Pub Theology

This is a recurring event, meeting the 4th Thursday of the month. Jo Ann Little takes the lead and comes up with very interesting questions and topics for us to discuss over dinner and drinks. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24 at 6:00 pm at R Vida Cantina, located at 7040 Sunrise Blvd. in Citrus Heights.



Loving God, One Another & the Community



As we approach this season of Easter, we remember that some of us are also in the season of grief. Whether your grief is fresh or haunting you after many years, there is a time and place to talk about it in a safe, non-judgmental, confidential way with others who are traveling a similar journey.

You are invited to be a part of an eight week grief support group ministry.

Grief Support Group
Ascension Lutheran Church
10am-11:30am Saturdays beginning April 26
facilitated by Cynthia Hannem

*"Remembering is an act of resurrection.
Each repetition is a vital layer of mourning,
In memory of those we are sure to meet again."*

Nancy Cobb

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

In the very beginning, there was just Jesus... ..and, of course, his disciples. The disciples became apostles, filled with God's love and the power of the Spirit, and the church, established by Jesus and spread by the Apostles, grew and prospered for about 1500 years.

But there were some problems:

In 1517, a young monk who was also a priest and also a University Professor teaching Biblical Studies suggested that maybe a few changes were in order. Dr. Martin Luther did not want to start a new church but he did want to get back to some important basics. Unfortunately, the people at the top weren't really open to change, so the churches that were following Dr. Luther's ideas broke away from the Roman Catholic church and the Lutheran Church was born. Please note that Luther never, ever wanted the new church to be called "Lutheran". The name came from those who mocked his followers, and it stuck.

The central pillars of Lutheran theology are the four onlys which Dr. Luther spelled out clearly in 1520.

1. Only Grace--we can only be saved by God's grace. It's a gift that God gives us—not anything we can earn, no matter how good we try to be.
2. Only Faith--only faith can bring us to God's grace. Faith equals trust. When we trust in God's goodness and love we experience God's Grace.
3. Only Scripture—our doctrine must conform to God's word as it comes to us through the Bible.
4. Only Christ... Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God. The Scriptures point to Christ. He is the object of our faith and the One who brings us God's grace.



WITH COURAGE AND HUMILITY
DIETRICH BONHOEFFER'S ETHICAL APPROACH FOR US TODAY

A WEEKEND WITH MARK BROCKER, PhD

SATURDAY
WORKSHOP 3-5 PM
LECTURE 7-8 PM

SUNDAY
ADULT EDUCATION 9 AM
WORSHIP 10 AM

Sat - Sun
APRIL 5-6 2025
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Davis, CA

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"**The Cost of Discipleship**" is a 1937 book by **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, a German theologian, which explores the meaning of following Christ, particularly through an exposition of the Sermon on the Mount. Bonhoeffer emphasizes the **challenges and sacrifices** involved in true discipleship, arguing that it requires a commitment to live according to Christ's teachings, even at great personal cost. The book is considered a classic of Christian thought and continues to inspire discussions on the nature of faith and obedience.

Who was Bonhoeffer?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor, neo-orthodox theologian and anti-Nazi dissident who was a key founding member of the Confessing Church. His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential; his 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.^[1] Apart from his theological writings, Bonhoeffer was known for his staunch resistance to the Nazi dictatorship, including vocal opposition to Adolf Hitler's euthanasia program and genocidal persecution of Jews. He was arrested in April 1943 by the Gestapo and imprisoned at Tegel Prison for 1½ years. Later, he was transferred to Flossenbürg concentration camp.

Bonhoeffer was accused of being associated with the 20 July plot to assassinate Hitler and was tried along with other accused plotters, including former members of the Abwehr (the German Military Intelligence Office). He was hanged on 9 April 1945 during the collapse of the Nazi regime.

Loving God, One Another & the Community

Preschool News—April 2025

We will be celebrating Easter this year by learning about Jesus coming and celebrating with his disciples about going to Heaven and seeing God. We will also have our Easter Egg Hunt on Wed. April 16th. We will be closing at 12:00 noon so staff may attend Good Friday service and we will be closed on Easter Monday, April 21st. Enjoy your Holiday.

We also will celebrate Earth Day learning to conserve water, what to recycle, and plant flowers to beautify our school. We will be picking up garbage around our school to help clean our planet.



VP/Properties

The committee that is working on the **Narthex beautification** project is moving forward with A SCHEDULE to lay out our plans shortly after Easter with a presentation between services in early May. As we move forward, we value your support and need your help...we will need your construction talent, your paint brush, your green thumb, wherever you can provide a little time and energy! **Contact me to volunteer. IT'S GOING TO BE A "GROUP EFFORT"!**

Mary Jo Edmondson
edmondsonmaryjo@gmail.com
916-284-9107



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 March 5. **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.

Clothing and Book Donations

With the approaching change of season, many of us will be updating our clothing. If you have any clean, gently used clothes you won't be needing, please consider delivering them to the WIND Bin located in the back of the Food Pantry. The clothes will then be donated to the non-profits which work with low-income or homeless people.

Similarly, if you're going to be reviewing your book collection and have some books you're ready to part with, please place the books in or near the WIND Bin. They will be donated to appropriate non-profits like Lutheran Social Services who work with youth from at-risk backgrounds.



Loving God, One Another & the Community

Directory Updates

Please note the following updates in your copy of the newly published directory:

- Jessica (Jay) Adamson - phone number corrected to 916-709-8344
- Justin Carballar - phone number corrected to 916-825-3738
- Robert Jorge - removed (deceased)

Please let the church office know of any future changes to your information.

Thank you.



Save the Dates

May

- 9 Trivia Night
- 20 Sacramento Valley Concert Choir Spring Concert

June

- 1 AV/Stream Team Training
- 7 Ministry Partner Training

August

- 5 National Night Out

September

- 14 Fall Kick-Off
- 28 Sunday Funday



2025 Church Council

Pastor	Scott Jones
President	Terri Jellesed
Vice President	Mary Jo Edmondson
Secretary	Mark Chapman
Treasurer	Roger Linder
Youth	Autumn Davis
<u>Loving:</u>	
God	Greg Imlay
One Another	Brian Shannon
The Community	Doreen Nichols
Technology	Brian Shannon

Council Corner

Exciting things are afoot! Our planning session on March 18 was quite productive; we look forward to further engaging members of the congregation in the life of the church as we fully embrace our Mission Statement. In light of the fact that a dedicated group of members developed a new Mission Statement in 2020, our current Council has agreed that this Mission Statement should become our “Call to Action” as we live out loving God, one another and the community.

These tenets have biblical foundation:

Loving God—Mark 12:30 “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, all your mind, and with all your strength.”

Loving One Another—John 13:34-35 “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Loving The Community—Mark 12:31 “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

We promised during our installation on 3/23 to “see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.” and “...seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.”

The writing below is too small to read, but here are some notes from the very lively special planning session on 3/18. As you can see, we’re excited to move forward in mission! Won’t you join us?!



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Apr 2025 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Ascension Public Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Finance Committee	10am - Leaves & Fishes 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	10am - Women's 2pm - Craig Brewick 6:30pm - Cantata	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Blessing Bags 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope 7pm - Council @ C-1	10am - Aaron's small 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick 6:30pm - Cantata	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Food Pantry Sunday Palm Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	8:30am - Sunrise 1pm - Aaron's small group 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	Maundy Thursday 2pm - Craig Brewick	Good Friday 8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Kids Sunday	Church office and 2pm - Craig Brewick 4pm - WELCA Meeting 6pm - National Night Out	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Pub Theology	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 10am - Grief Group @ C- 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
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 @	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal			