



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.



On May 29 We Celebrate Jesus' Ascension Into Heaven

May 2025

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

Pastor Scott Jones



I Love To Tell The Story

During Lent this year our theme in worship, small groups and daily Lenten devotional videos was God's Story, Our Story. In our small group sessions over the weeks, we were encouraged to think about a story from our own life, when God's story impacted our own. Then we were encouraged to share that story with someone in the group, or the entire group.

In order to remind and encourage us to tell our stories, as we transition from Lent to Easter, our theme is shifting to "I Love To Tell The Story." During the season of Easter, we will be hearing one another's stories in worship and through our weekly Humpday Hallelujahs. Hopefully as we hear one another's stories we will be encouraged and reminded to tell our own stories about how and when we have experienced God's love, presence, grace and/or direction in our lives. Through telling our stories we bear witness to God's presence and God's love.

In the final video for the small group gatherings, I told a story from my life of a time that I experienced God's presence and grace when my father's illness began in 2016. At the risk of sharing too much, or too often, I thought I'd share another story about how God's story impacted my story.

While I was in high school, we had an associate pastor who was an accomplished musician and worked with the youth. At that time, he had written three musicals to be performed by high school students, that humorously and effectively shared the good news of the Gospel. In the 40 years since then, he has written many more and he even brought a group of students to perform one of his musicals at Ascension during a west coast tour in 2019.

Anyway, in order to raise money for the tour, we were going to Canada, we hosted four nights of "dinner theater" at the church, over two weekends. We sold tickets, then we helped to serve the dinner (our parents cooked it), and then we changed into our costumes/characters to perform the musical. During the fourth performance of the musical, that we had been rehearsing for months, I finally heard what we were saying through word and song. The Happiness Quotient, which was the name of the musical, was not based upon any of the worldly things that we focus upon; career success, financial standing, social status, or intelligence. True "happiness" comes from God's love for each and every one of us.

Continued next page

Pastor Scott (continued)

For some reason, that message resonated with me and after the performance I cried; I sobbed in thanksgiving for God's love. As a teenage boy there were, and would continue to be, a lot of things to worry about. But, in that moment all of those concerns melted away, because I knew that I was loved by God, just for being me. God's story impacted my story that night and every time we performed the musical to and from Calgary that summer.

Pastor Scott



**Memorial Day is
Monday, May 26, 2025**



A Social Message on Child Protection

The prevalence of child maltreatment in the United States is staggering. At least 1 in 7 children has experienced abuse or neglect in the last year, according to the U.S. Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), though the CDC cautions that abuse and neglect are often unreported.

Recognizing the church's important role in addressing this, the ELCA Church Council authorized the develop a social message on child protection and maltreatment, as requested by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Social messages are ELCA teaching documents that draw from existing social teaching but focus direct attention on a particular social issue.

A draft of this social message has been released for public feedback. You are invited to share your comments and suggestions during the public comment period, from March 21 through June 30. Visit the ELCA website (www.elca.org) to do so.

The draft will be strengthened using the public feedback and presented to the ELCA Church Council for a vote this fall.



Loving God, One Another & the Community

G1 Youth at Ascension

William Barker—Youth Director

Justin Carballar—Asst Youth Director

g1youth@luthchurch.org



May 4 12-2pm—Story Corps
May 18 12-2pm—Story Corps/
 Lunch with William & Justin



Off Road Youth Group

William Barker—Youth Director

Justin Carballar—Asst Youth Director

carbiemagoo@yahoo.com

May 4 12-2pm—Story Corps
May 18 12-2pm—Off Road

Contact Mr. Justin with questions.



Loving God, One Another & the Community



Welcoming all women into the joy of serving our Lord

We are excited to share that, in the near future, we'll have designated bags to be used for Food Pantry Sunday. They'll be distributed on the first Sunday of the month to be taken home and filled, then returned on the second Sunday. Stay tuned.

Rachel's Day is May 4. We will be accepting donations for this worthy cause of preventing gun and other violence against children.

Next month, on June 29, WELCA will be hosting a bake sale. Come hungry!

Just a reminder that ALL women of Ascension, by virtue of being members of the congregation, are also members of WELCA. All are welcome at our monthly meetings held at 4:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.



National Night Out
Tuesday, August 5, 2025
6:00—8:00 pm

Plans are underway for this year's National Night Out. Ascension will again partner with Citrus Heights Neighborhood Association Areas 2 and 6 (CHATS) and host this community event on our campus. There will be games, a bounce house, music, face painting and food. This event is free to the public and a wonderful way for us to be good neighbors. Watch for further information in the newsletter, along with opportunities to volunteer and/or donate. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm on Monday, May 19.

Contact Doreen Nichols (916-599-8626 or danichols325@gmail.com) for details.

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 May 7. **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

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**. A team of volunteers from Ascension serve on the third Wednesday of each month. We're scheduled for May 21. Contact Betty Alvord if you'd like to help.

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



Properties Report – May 2025

The plans for the Narthex Renovation are coming to you at your nearest theater...the Ascension sanctuary on **Sunday, May 4th at 9:30 am and 10:30 am.**



The Renovation committee has been working diligently to bring you both information and a visual experience ... and I know you won't want to miss it! No tickets are necessary for the showing. Members of the committee will be available for questions in the Narthex following the presentation! Plan to stay a bit after Classic service or come early for Modern service.

A Congregational meeting will be held on May 18th to approve this plan and then the fun will begin. You will have lots of opportunities to be part of this amazing major improvement project.

Mary Jo Edmondson
Vice President, Properties



FINANCE STATUS THROUGH MARCH 2025

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$35,226.48	\$40,238.59	\$143,842.20	\$123,249.94	\$127,366.38	\$138,321.08

Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$292,797.57
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Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$123,939.17
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We've seen a drop in monthly income that is below the budget target. Although year to date figures are looking good, we must continue to be intentional in our giving to achieve our budgeted goals.

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 May 22 at 6:00 pm at R Vida Cantina, located at 7040 Sunrise Blvd. in Citrus Heights.



Loving God, One Another & the Community

Ministry Partner Training

Training is being offered for all who are interested in learning more about the various ministries involved in providing the wonderful worship experiences we have here at Ascension. There is no obligation to commit to serving, although that is the hope.

Sunday, June 1	Stream Team -	Words, Sound, Cameras (observe during worship services)
Saturday, June 7	9am—noon	Altar Guild; Coffee Hour; Ushers; Acolyte; Assisting Minister; Communion Assistants; Lector

Note: Each session this day will last approximately 20 minutes, allowing for exposure to multiple opportunities to serve.



Contact the church office with questions; watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex.



SVCC Concert Tuesday, May 20, at 7:30 pm

Sacramento Valley Concert Choir presents “Sing Together” in our sanctuary. Experience the marvel of the power that comes from joining voices together in song. The Spring concert repertoire highlights music’s amazing ability to celebrate our life’s joyous moments, share our hopes, and bring us together. Audience sing-along and refreshments will follow the performance, and free-will donations to SVCC will be warmly received.

SVCC is a non-profit community choir lead by professionals: Aya Ueda, Artistic Director and Jason Sia, Concert Pianist. Please visit svcchoir.org for more information.

Spotlight on new Church Council Members Involved in Social Ministry

Shown below are Doreen Nichols and Greg Imlay, new members on Ascension's Church Council. They are both very busy in reaching out to our community. The books they are holding were procured by Greg while he was picking up food donations at a local supermarket for Sunrise Christian Food Ministry. He requested and was given a large quantity of new paperback books. These books are being offered to Lutheran Social Services, libraries and schools.



Both Doreen and Greg volunteer at Loaves and Fishes as well as Sunrise Christian Food Ministry.



Doreen met Canyon and Aaron, Citrus Heights Health Workers, when we delivered blessing bags. The health workers give the bags to their clients who are homeless.

BIG DAY OF SERVICE
Saturday May 17, 2025

What is Big Day of Service? One day. One day where we seek to unite. Where we work together to make our community beautiful. Everyone can play a part. Join us in this annual gathering of unity and service. Grab a friend, bring your family, and let's beautify Fair Oaks, Citrus Heights, and Orangevale together on Saturday, May 17, 2025.

Ascension will be doing a family friendly project: Love our Seniors at Citrus Heights Terrace. Ten volunteers are needed to do crafts, play games, and share cookies with residents from 10am to 2pm

Please contact Doreen Nichols (916)599-8626 for registration details.

Story Corps

Following our Lenten theme of “God’s Story:Our Story”, during the Season of Easter some of the younger members of the congregation will be interviewing some of the more senior members to learn about their stories. We’re very much looking forward to bridging the generational gap and seeing how differently things are experienced. If you’d be interested in sharing your story, please let us know in the church office.



Preschool News—May 2025

We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter celebrating Jesus' death and rising from the dead. We will be celebrating Mother's Day and our moving up ceremony with the children going to Kindergarten in August.

We will be making special gifts for our moms this month. The children get excited when they make gifts for their moms. They are proud to share with their family what they can do for someone else.

We love this time of year when the weather is changing and the bugs are around to be caught. The tall grass hides the worms and the warm sand hides the beetles. The sun is warm for swinging on the swings and playing in the sand box. We planted some flowers in the flower box and there are yellow and white flowers growing in the grass for the children to pick.



Did you know May is National Hamburger Month?!?!

This is news!



A candidate for the best burger you ever ate is the Hot Mess Burger at Princess Seafood in Noyo Harbor near Fort Bragg. You choose Angus beef or salmon for the burger and have a choice of cheddar or provolone for the cheese. To this they add bacon, guacamole, mango salsa, pickled onions and spicy mayo and put it all on a toasted challah bun. This writer's choice was the beef and cheddar to begin with

Congregational Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting at 9:45 am on Sunday, May 18, in the sanctuary

Having received the Narthex Renovation Committee's proposal on May 4, we will vote on whether or not to approve the project. Presuming the project will be approved, next steps will be discussed.

Following Susie's retirement it is time to begin the search for a new secretary here at Ascension. Please share this information with anyone you know—who is not a member of Ascension—who may be interested.

Summary

The Secretary is the first impression of Ascension Lutheran Church to the community. Their welcoming, grace-filled presence is an example of who we are. The Secretary serves as the first point of contact for phone calls, emails and office visitors, supporting the mission, vision and values of Ascension Lutheran Church. The efficient completion of their duties is essential to the success of the church's ministries.

Qualifications

- Ability to use a computer
- Ability to navigate phone system
- Experience with Google Chrome environment



Details

- Part-time (25 hours per week) - \$20/hour
- Sunday 7:45 am - 12:45 pm (Coordinate Ministry Partners during worship)
- Monday - Thursday 9am - 2pm
- 1 year administrative experience required. Experience working in church/ministry preferred.
- Live Scan background screening required
- Support the mission of Ascension Lutheran Church, and confess a faith in Jesus Christ.
- Candidates shall not be members of Ascension Lutheran Church.

Directory Updates

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

- Carole Boon—cell phone corrected to 916-601-2061
- Shannon Davis—address added : 2848 Del Paso Blvd., Apt. #4, Sacto, CA 95815
- John Kreutzer—email corrected to climberjk@hotmail.com

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

Thank you.



Save the Dates

June

- 1 AV/Stream Team Training
- 7 Ministry Partner Training
- 21 Women's Retreat
- 29 WELCA Bake Sale

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

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!!

Having just celebrated Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday, we have entered the Season of Easter. Jesus will ascend to heaven in 40 days, and Pentecost Sunday on June 8 will conclude the Easter Season. Jesus could have immediately ascended to heaven, but His love for us caused Him to stay a little longer. He spent 40 days with His disciples for a specific purpose: He taught them about the kingdom of God and the mission they were to carry out; He commissioned them to go and make disciples; He prepared them for his departure, encouraging them to continue in faith. Let's spend this time to reflect on what Jesus and his disciples experienced during the first East Season.....

Council members have been commissioned to "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."

To that end, we invite each member to flex your spiritual muscles and move forward in one new area of growth. Do you feel called to be a ministry partner serving in support of worship service? Is your happy place gathered with the church in fellowship? Are you drawn to love your neighbor through community service? We have just the thing for you! You may be contacted by a Council member to partner in a specific area or, better still, you're invited to reach out to a member of Council with your ideas.

Our devotion theme at this month's Council meeting is the parable of the sower, found in Luke 8:1-15. You'll find us planting seeds, knowing that we're rich in good soil!



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Grief Group @ C- 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Kids Sunday	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	7pm - Trivia Night @ 8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9:30am - SP Synod 10am - Grief Group @ C- 6pm - NA Meeting @
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Food Pantry 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 6:15pm - Antelope 7pm - Council @ C-1	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Grief Group @ C- 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Special 11am - Modern Worship 12:30pm - Story Corps 4:30pm - G1 Youth @ On	2pm - Craig Brewick 4pm - WELCA Meeting 6pm - National Night Out	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7:30pm - Sacramento	8:30am - Sunrise 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 @
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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	2pm - Craig Counseling	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Grief Group @ C- 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @