



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.



July 2025

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

Pastor Scott Jones



Sabbatical What Is Going to Happen?

As my sabbatical rapidly approaches, the questions about “what is going to happen?” are increasing. The answer to the question is two-fold; we have a plan for what is going to happen at Ascension while I am gone and I am working on a plan for my time away.

When is my sabbatical? August 4, through October 26, 2025. Sunday, August 3rd will be my last Sunday and Monday, October 27th will be my first day back in the office.

What will happen at Ascension during my sabbatical? Pr. Bruce will work approximately 15 hours a week during which he will focus upon: providing support to the Care Team in providing pastoral care to the congregation; providing support to the church staff during the week; providing leadership in worship each Sunday; providing a pastoral and theological perspective to the Church Council and congregation. Pr. Bruce,

Andrea and guest preachers will fill the pulpit for the 12 Sundays that I am away.

The Church Council will continue to work together and with the congregation to provide leadership and support for the ministries and projects that the congregation is already engaged in, or decides to begin, during my sabbatical. The plan is to NOT have everything planned before I leave for sabbatical, but to encourage the congregation to plan and implement the ministries and projects that have Council and congregational support. Which means that some things that have happened in the past, might not happen and new things might begin. Our time apart should provide new opportunities, new energy and new life.

I have a number of trips planned for my time away; a week in Kauai with Robin and our granddaughter, Phoenix, a week in New York to visit our daughter and son in law, a week in Cabo with a couple of long-time friends, the time in Spain walking the Camino de Santiago with my brother, and three weeks in Santa Cruz, waking to the sound of the waves of the ocean. Robin and I will take a few weekend trips, which we are rarely able to do, and there will be projects and much reading to be done while I am home and Robin is working.

I am exceedingly grateful for the gift of both time and resources that will allow me to have my first sabbatical. I pray that the time is fruitful for each of our ministries. Thanks to Pr. Bruce and the Council for the many ways that you have and will step in to make my sabbatical possible.

President's Ponderings

I retired from my job in August of 2023 and in October of 2023 I stepped in to keep Susie's chair warm for "a couple of months" while she recuperated It's now time to retire from the job here at Ascension. It has been wonderful to see things from a different perspective, but I find the lines between my life as a member of the congregation, council president and church staff to have become blurred. It's been difficult to separate what I do out of love as a member of the congregation from what is done out of a sense of duty to complete the tasks of the position of secretary. I look forward to the opportunity to focus all my energies on church and Council affairs, knowing that our new secretary will take care of the business of the church office.

It made my heart so happy to learn that we as a congregation raised the \$30,000 needed for the narthex project in less than a month. 2 Corinthians tells us, "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." We are a most cheerful group of folks!

My husband and I will enjoy an Alaskan Cruise to celebrate my retirement and our 40th wedding anniversary this month and in October we will travel to the Wisconsin Dells for our annual cousins reunion. We'll squeeze in a few days in Chicago beforehand and a few days in Minneapolis afterwards.

Grace & Peace,
Terri Jellesed
Council President



Loving God, One Another & the Community

G1 Youth at Ascension

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

July 6	12:00—2:00 pm	BBQ and Games
--------	---------------	---------------

July 13	No Youth
---------	----------

July 20	No Youth
---------	----------

July 27	12:30 pm Off Campus Field Trip
---------	--------------------------------

Double the youth, double the fun. Youth groups will meet together this month!



Off Road Youth Group

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

July 6	12:00—2:00 pm	BBQ and Games
--------	---------------	---------------

July 13	No Youth
---------	----------

July 20	No Youth
---------	----------

July 27	12:30 pm Off Campus Field Trip
---------	--------------------------------

Double the youth, double the fun. Youth groups will meet together this month!



Loving God, One Another & the Community



Welcoming all women into the joy of serving our Lord

WELCA continues our mission to love God, One Another & the Community.

Food Pantry Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of the month. Please remember to pick up your Ascension tote bag on the 1st Sunday, fill it and return it on the 2nd Sunday. We are handing out over 80 bags of food each month and your contribution helps. Rachel's Day was May 4 and, because of you, we collected almost \$600 and will most likely give to Acres of Hope in Auburn. Acres of Hope provides cottages to single mothers with children, along with job search and training, childcare and continued education. These children will be the recipients of our Christmas gifts this year.

On June 29, WELCA held a bake sale. Thank you to all who contributed baked goods and for those that purchased all those goodies. We will have a count of the proceeds in the next newsletter.

We continue to support Taylor House in Roseville. This is a safe and supportive home for young women no longer in foster care. They are always looking for volunteers who would like to assist these awesome young women with transportation, shopping, tutoring, or just someone to talk to. Please prayerfully consider if this is something for you, if so contact Kathleen Lopez

Our next meeting is August 18th; please join us in C-1 at 4 PM.



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

Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex.
We will need volunteers and a few donations.



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 July 2. **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. (916) 782-5073 or artc@surewest.net

~Above and Beyond~

Delivered 15 bags of clothes and one box of toiletries to Loaves and Fishes.

Sunrise Christian Food Ministry

Started in 1983, Sunrise Christian Food Ministry is located at Advent Lutheran Church in Citrus Heights. 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 July 16. Contact Betty Alvord if you'd like to help. (916) 926-2067 or betty-alvord7@gmail.com

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



A little Heavenly Humor

Jesus and Satan were arguing about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly, God was tired of hearing all the bickering. Finally fed up, God said, "THAT'S IT! I have had enough. I will set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job. So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away.

They moused.

They faxed.

They e-mailed.

They e-mailed with attachments.

They downloaded.

They did spreadsheets!

They wrote reports.

They created labels and cards.

They created charts and graphs.

They did some genealogy reports.

They did every job known to man.

Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency, and Satan was faster than hell. Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off. Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld!

Jesus just sighed.....

Finally, the electricity returned, and each of them restarted their computer. Satan started searching frantically, screaming, "It's gone! It's all GONE! I lost everything when the power went out!"

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work.

Satan observed this and became irate. "Wait!" He screamed. "That's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all of his work and I don't have any?"

God just shrugged and said, "Jesus saves!"

Loving God, One Another & the Community

FINANCE STATUS THROUGH MAY 2025

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$28,731.79	\$35,643.93	\$213,712.49	\$205,416.62	\$201,244.36	\$230,534.84

Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$287,490.27
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$122,719.26

Income figures for May were down significantly from previous months, and did not meet expenses. Summer is here and often proves to be lean in income as well. The congregation must be vigilant in their continued giving to meet our budget requirements.

Roger Linder
Treasurer

Pub Theology

Pub Theology will be on hiatus for July and August. Stay tuned to this space for details about plans for moving forward in the Fall.



Text Talk

All are welcome to attend Text Talk at 10 am on Tuesdays in Conference room 1 to discuss the preaching text for the upcoming Sunday with Pastor Scott. In person or via Zoom.



Loving God, One Another & the Community

From the Front Desk

Hello!

Firstly, thank you all for being so kind and warm to me!

I wanted to share a little about me and my background. I grew up in South Sacramento and attended Gloria Dei Lutheran School. While in high school I worked in their day care facility and, while studying ECE in college, worked in the preschool.

After that I worked for a manufacturing company for 13 years. I handled inventory, purchasing, accounting and project management. In August 2024 I resigned after the company was sold and moved to Iowa. Since then, I have been able to be a Stay at Home mom to my 3 children, some of whom you may know already; Austin(14), Taylor(10) and Luca(4). While I love my children very much, this is a wonderful opportunity for me to get back into the workforce and do some “adulting” while still being a mom. My husband, Steve, is able to work from home as a Technical Sales Manager and occasionally travels for business. We’re a baseball and tumbling loving family who loves to get outside and play, with frequent trips to the beach.

Heidi Samudio
Secretary



Properties Report – July 2025

NARTHEX RENOVATION PROJECT:

You are an amazing congregation! Thanks to everyone for the enthusiastic response to the plans for the Narthex Renovation.

At the time of this writing, we have reached our \$30,000 goal of **estimated** costs!!

Woohoo is right! We will continue to take donations and pledges until December 31 since, as you know, estimates and costs can change. Don't feel like you have missed your chance to be a part of this great project. **We will still welcome and be just as excited until December 31, 2025, for your support!**

Watch for news regarding the beginning of work on the Narthex. If you haven't signed up to lend a hand, please do so in the narthex soon!

OTHER PROPERTIES PROJECTS:

We are so excited to **WELCOME** Heidi Samudio to the church office. The best news in my opinion is that she has experience and will work with me to get some processes in place for the projects around the property. If you are involved in the "maintenance" of the facility, or would like to be, let me know. Watch for information regarding reporting and maintaining things around our campus. As unusual, **"if you see something that's not right, say something."**

THANK A VOLUNTEER WHEN YOU CAN...WE THRIVE THANKS TO THEM!

My utmost thanks to Terri Jellesed for the many, many months she volunteered in the church office. You are the best, Terri!

Mary Jo Edmondson
Vice President/Properties





Update your email contacts!

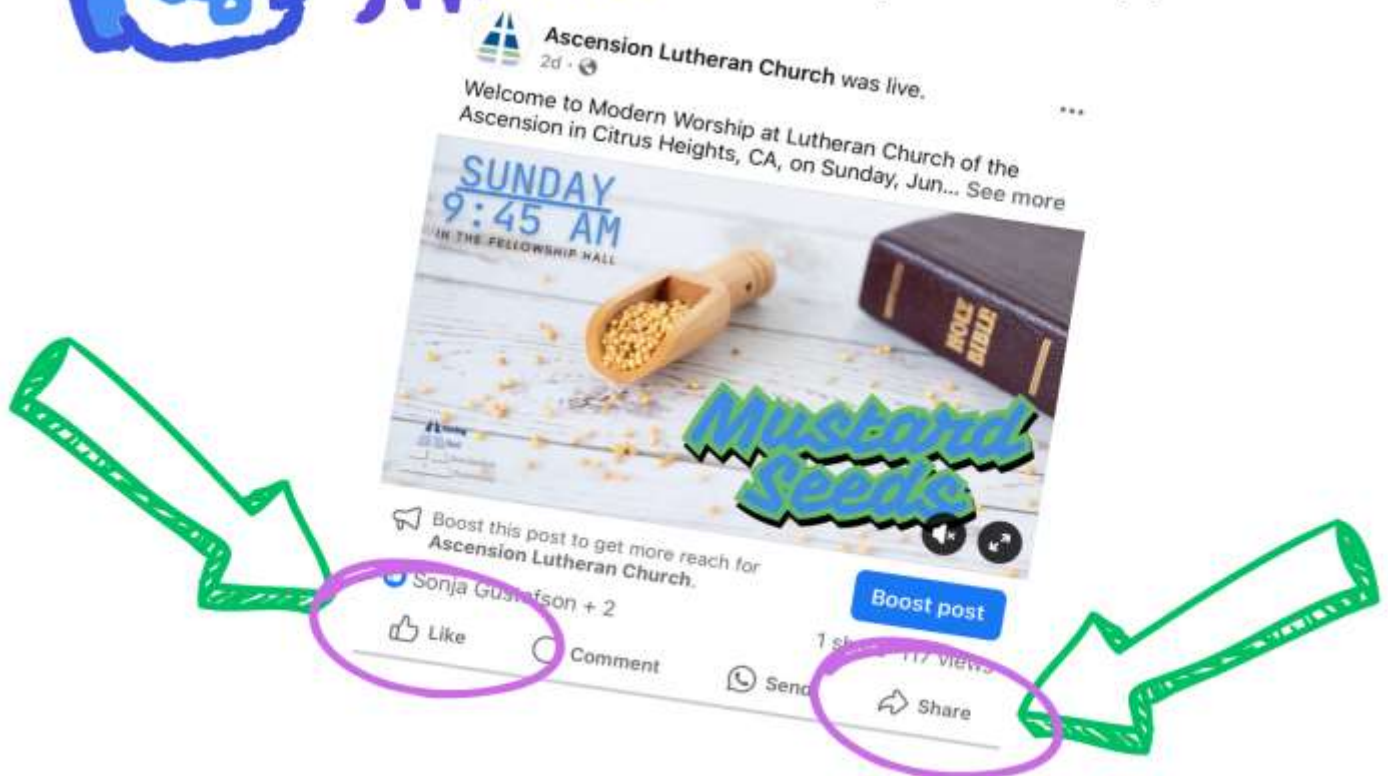
To reach Heidi in the church office,
make sure you're writing to

office@luthchurch.org

Thanks!



Help us expand our reach
on social media -
like and share any of our
posts on any platform!



Preschool News—July 2025

Ascension Christian Preschool will be celebrating America by making decorations for the children to take home for their own party. We will be talking about the noise of the fireworks in the sky and family and friends getting together for a BBQ or a meal. We also will talk about how the 4th of July is Americas birthday. Enjoy your 4th and please be safe.



The children are enjoying the water play every week. They feel like water bugs getting wet with different activities each week.



We also will be doing “On the go with God road trip” this month, celebrating a special week with God’s word.



Habitat for Humanity

Sayonara Project

Ascension was represented at the ground breaking ceremony on Sayonara Drive on Monday, 2 June. Construction on the first eight homes will begin in September. A total of 28 homes will be built. We think that Ascension will be asked to provide volunteers for this project.



Assisted an Ascension neighbor in donating her late husband's walkers, wheel chairs, and bed wedge support pillows to organizations that help people who need medical equipment.

Galatians 6:2:
"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ".



Directory Updates

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

Add: Grunwaldt, Barbara 2515 J St., Apt. 912, Sacramento, CA 95816
916-458-1658 Grunwaldt_barbara@yahoo.com

New email: Betty Alvord—bettyalvord7@gmail.com
Cynthia Green—cyndysheer@outlook.com

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

Thank you.



Save the Dates

August

- 3 Pastor Scott's Bon Voyage
- 5 National Night Out
- 23 Women's Retreat

September

- 7 God's Work. Our Hands.
- 14 Fall Kick-Off
- 21 Faith Formation Classes Resume



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

Members of the Council have been in prayer around the future of our preschool and the success of the narthex project. We are excited and anxious about what will happen during the next few months while Pastor is away. We are confident, however, that the Holy Spirit will guide our hearts and minds as we move forward in faith. We are so grateful to have Pastor Bruce here as a resource and, of course, know that we will have the cooperation and support of the congregation as we navigate uncharted waters.

I look forward to the growth muscles we'll flex while Pastor is on sabbatical. Will Text Talk continue in his absence, take a break, or has it run its course? What about Pub Theology: Will it resume in the Fall and, if so, what will it look like? It's up to us to "be the church" we want to be. Several of our usual activities take place during the time Pastor will be away: National Night Out, Fall Kick-Off, God's Work/Our Hands, Blessing of the Animals, Trunk or Treat

Please remember that the first item of business on our Council meeting agenda is always "Open Discussion", which is intended for issues and/or concerns brought by members of the congregation. We encourage ALL members to make use of this opportunity to have questions answered. You won't have to wait until the end of the meeting to be heard, but you are most welcome to stay for the entire meeting if you'd like to do so. If you're still struggling to understand the newer Council structure, or have questions about why things are done a certain way, or have an idea you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. We meet at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month in Conf. Rm. 1.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Ascension Public Calendar							Jul 2025 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
29	30	1	2	3	4	5							
		10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Finance Committee	10am - Loaves & Fishes 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - The Chosen	2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @							
6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
Temple Talk 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Mustard Seeds	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope 6:30pm - Council @ C-1	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - The Chosen	2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @							
13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Mustard Seeds	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - National Night Out	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	8:30am - Sunrise Christian 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - The Chosen	2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @							
20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Mustard Seeds 11am - Modern Worship 4:30pm - G1 Youth @ On	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 6:30pm - The Chosen	2pm - Craig Brewick	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @							
27	28	29	30	31	1	2							
Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Mustard Seeds 11am - Modern Worship	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - National Night Out	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick									