



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.



October 2025

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

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Prayers during Pr. Scott's Sabbatical

We pray for the congregation during Pastor Scott's time away, that his absence would allow untended seeds of ministry to germinate and grow.

We pray that Pastor Scott would receive the rest and renewal that his mind, body and soul need.

We pray that the time together will draw Robin and Pastor Scott closer together, and that he doesn't get on her nerves too much!

We pray for safe travels to the places he/they visit, and that those visits provide the reconnection with family and friends that the rigors and demands of ministry don't always foster.

We pray for the times of spiritual reflection and renewal, in planned times and space, and those that are unplanned.

We pray for the journey to and along The Camino. May this long imagined pilgrimage draw Pastor Scott closer to God and closer to his brother, Eric, who will be his companion, as they remember their dad.



Volunteers

It is not only what you do, but how you connect and love that can transform a role or task into a gift from God.

God bless your showing up and the details of your doing.

God bless your willingness to fail and learn from the process. God bless your humility and humor in the heart of what you do best.

God bless your duty and joy for this community and impact.

God bless your candor about what really matters to you.

God bless your flexibility about the details and outcome alike.

God bless your observations about who else might be invited to help.

God bless your stepping back so another can participate more fully.

God bless your openness to a process of becoming together.

For these are the gifts of God.

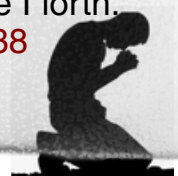
And so are you.

-Meta Herrick Carlson

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, Jesus went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee. And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.

Mark 1:35-38



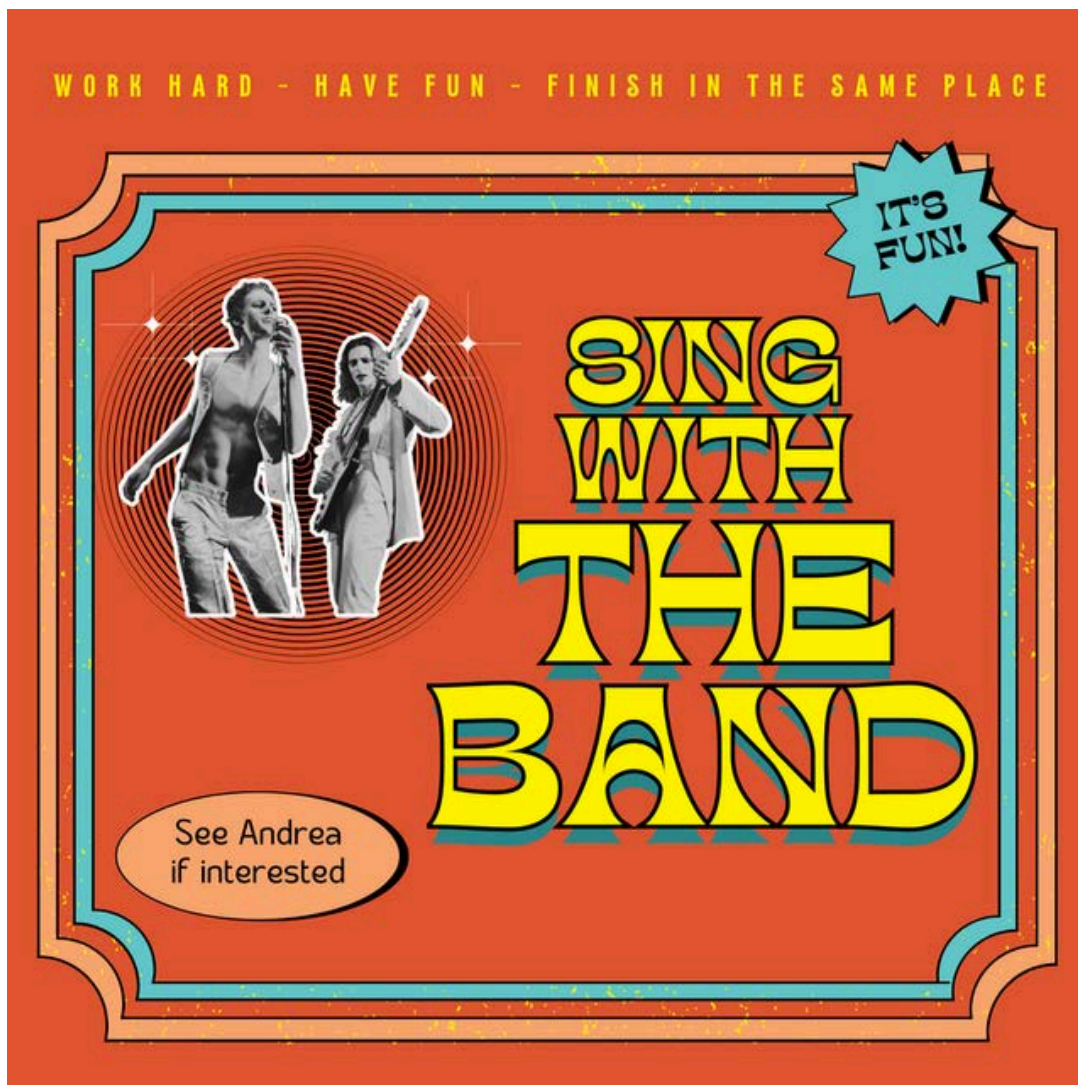
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Worship and Media

We've had a great response to the God's Work - Our Hands videos that are premiered on social media each Wednesday at 7 am. Thanks to those who have starred so far - Greg, Mark, Eva, and Cheri - and to Cynthia Hannem for having the idea and asking folks to make the videos. More videos are coming! If you take part in a ministry that you would like to highlight in a video, let me know, and we'll set up a time to record.

I'm reading a fascinating book by Teresa Berger called *@ Worship: Liturgical Practices in Digital Worlds*. Rather than exploring *how* we do digital worship - streaming software, camera controls, sound equipment, etc. - this book explores the *what* and the *why*, along with the influence of media in all its different forms from the very first days of Christian worship. This book was written pre-pandemic (2018), so it will be interesting to work through it and imagine how the ideas posed would have been different through the lived experience of online worship in a time of pandemic.

Have you ever thought about singing with the Ascension Band? I'm always looking for folks to raise their voices in song with us. Even if it's just one Sunday a month, we'd love to have you! Our rehearsals are open to visitors - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and Sundays at 9:45 am.



Andrea

Council Corner

Were you at the fall kickoff event on September 14? If so you had the pleasure of really great food, warm fellowship, and maybe even played Bingo with some passionate competition. The purpose of the annual kickoff is to launch a new year of education, not just for youth but also for adults! As a church, we're all about Faith Formation, i.e., gaining faith through learning about the love of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ. Whether you plan to lead a Bible study, or attend one, we on the Council are thankful that you are committed to this spiritual growth!

To both learn about God AND grow closer to other members of our church family, the next generation of Pub Theology began on September 25 at R Vida Cantina. Mark Chapman, our Council Secretary, is taking the lead, replacing JoAnn Little, who stepped down after many years of organizing this fun event. Many thanks to Mark for taking this on, and infinite gratitude to JoAnn for making this event a key part of our church life. Please join us for our next event on the 23rd of October.

The Narthex project is moving forward in high gear now! We can be looking forward to enjoying the new space as early as this month. Many thanks to everyone for your financial support, volunteer assistance, and patience with the unavoidable "pardon our dust" disorder. More than ever, when friends and neighbors join us for worship or a church event, we can be sure we're putting our best foot forward with a welcoming entrance. Who will you invite first?

Greg Imlay
Loving God



President's Pondering

I like to think that I'm a fairly optimistic person as I'm usually able to see past current circumstances to better days. I have a note on the inside cover of my bible that says "Check the text. The answer can always be found in the text." There has been a lot of page-flipping going on!

"Only when the right wing and the left wing work together can the bird truly fly." I've seen this verbiage on social media lately and take it a little deeper: we are all a part of the same bird, balancing each other. We are all Americans and we are all God's children. Amen.

ON EAGLES WINGS



Grace & Peace,
Terri Jellesed
Council President

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord,
"My Refuge, My Rock in Whom I trust."
And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.
You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day,
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

FINANCE STATUS THROUGH AUGUST

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$30,368.87	\$47,483.45	\$358,100.89	\$328,666.64	\$325,890.90	\$368,855.48

Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$330,775.10
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$146,181.01



The next two months are critical with expenses relating to Pastoral care and pulpit supply, so we must keep those expenses in mind, as well as our ongoing monthly expenses.

Roger Linder
Treasurer

"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".

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

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

Just a reminder: Food Pantry Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Please remember to pick up your bag on the 1st Sunday and return it on the 2nd Sunday. We are handing out over 80 bags of food each month and your contribution helps tremendously.

We will be having our **Bake Sale** on the 19th of October and our proceeds will be donated to the Ascension Cancer Support Ministry.

We will be supporting Acres of Hope this year for Christmas. We will be providing Christmas gifts to 30 children, infants to 12 years old.

The tree will be up the beginning of November.

Our next meeting is October 20th, please join us in C-1 at 4 PM.

Properties Report - October 2025

NARTHEX RENOVATION PROJECT: **Looking Good!**

It has been an exciting September with lots of work on the Narthex we are moving right along...I hope you join me in saying,

“Looking Good!!”



As we approach the point of adding the enhancements to the project (furniture, planters, pictures, etc.) we continue to ask for your prayers and support. Please remember you can still give a donation until December 31, 2025.

We appreciate all your support as we complete the basic construction.

If you haven't signed up to lend a hand, please do so in the narthex! Project Management is imperative to keep our costs down and our volunteers involved. As of this writing, we will begin painting soon, so watch your email for a request to join the painting fun!



OTHER PROPERTIES PROJECTS:

Properties is working on a Security Policy now that the pre-school is closed as there are times when only a couple of people are in the building.

We want everyone safe!

We also have a need for a Handy Man - we will be creating a job description for one soon and start that search! Know anyone?

We continue to appreciate all that our volunteers do! Please have a Volunteer Waiver completed in the office if you are doing work on the premises!

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER ...WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT!!



Mary Jo Edmondson, Vice President/Properties

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Loving the Community

I am honored to have the privilege of serving on Council representing Loving the Community. Ascension members serve the community in many ways. From keeping our food closet stocked, assembling blessing bags, and serving food at Loaves and Fishes, to hosting neighborhood events such as National Night Out, and so much more, we are doing what God has called us to do, to love the people in our community as He loves us.

In the coming months, there will be more opportunities to love and serve the community. We are planning to have a Harvest Festival in November open to neighborhood families as well as the children from Sayonara Community Center. During Advent, we plan to visit a local assisted living facility and provide holiday activities for residents. In the new year, we hope to make serving at such a facility a monthly ministry.

If anyone has ideas for future community outreach events, please let me or another Council member know.

Thank you,
Doreen Nichols



**FAMILY
AND
FAITH**

Family Support Group

Our group will be facilitated by LaPria from “Frustrated but not Faithless”, this is a safe place for parents to share, find encouragement and grow in life and faith. The group offers faith-based support, practical tools for navigating family challenges and a strong sense of community - reminding parents they are not alone.

On September 7 the Ascension Family Support Group met for the first time. The feedback was quite positive, with our families sharing that the group was quite relevant to their daily lives.

There was good food, lots of laughs and the youth running all around the church. We would like to extend a grateful THANKS to: Linda and Irv Lownes for providing lunch to the group, Justin Carballar for entertaining our youth during the meeting and LaPria for leading this new support ministry at Ascension.

The next session of this group is going to be October 12th after second service. Keep an eye out for sign-up!

Contact Mark Chapman with any questions: mark.chapman2000@gmail.com

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Supporting One Another

Ascension Cancer Support Ministry

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**.

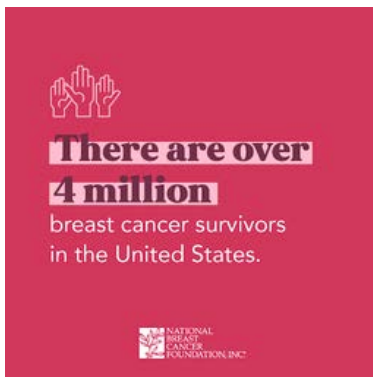
On average, every 2 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, but there is hope.

With better screening and early detection, along with improved treatment options, the 5-year relative survival rate in the United States of early-stage breast cancer is 99%. It is also important to note that there are currently over 4 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.



When diagnosed at an early, localized stage, **the 5-year survival rate for breast cancer is 99%.**

NATIONAL
BREAST
CANCER
FOUNDATION, INC.



As part of our effort to support those impacted by breast cancer, either directly or indirectly, we are highlighting the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Their website has a lot of useful information for those currently facing breast cancer and, for survivors and caregivers. We have created a handout that provides an overview of what's available, as well as, tips for navigating the website. Please stop by and pick one up.

On **Sunday, October 19th**, we will be doing our part to recognize **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**.

- We are asking everyone to wear **pink**, and
- Enjoy delicious baked goods and treats from WELCA's bake sale which is in support of Ascension Cancer Support Ministry.

What can you personally do? If you know someone facing breast cancer or even a breast cancer survivor, consider asking them how they are doing. A couple of things to keep in mind. You will want to communicate with empathy and compassion, and don't assume they necessarily want to talk about their cancer journey. For some "Dos and Don'ts," as to what to say, see the "What to Say to a Cancer Patient," which can be found on the National Breast Cancer Foundation website.

Cheri Hubbs
Coordinator,
Ascension Cancer Support Ministry



Let's be a community ally AGAIN for Katherine Johnson Middle School!



Find a list of needed items in the work room - we'll collect items through Oct. 26



- Water bottles/plastic or metal
- Granola bars/snacks
- Socks
- Backpacks
- Gas or grocery gift cards
- Small lap blankets
- New shoes - women's sizes 6-8, men's sizes 8-10
- Pads - Stayfree, Always, Carefree



Did you know that Ascension has a prayer shawl ministry?

Are you looking to use your knitting or crochet talents in a way that will have a meaningful impact on others in our church community? A way to pray for them, to comfort them and to let them know they are not forgotten? A tangible reminder that

God is surrounding them with his love? Our care team would like to give these prayer shawls to the people they visit, and we are in need of people willing to knit or crochet them. This is a project you can do at home, at your own speed and on your own timeline. The only commitment required is your mindful prayers as you create them.

Contact Emalie Fletcher for more information: 818-395-7529,
emedmisten@sbcglobal.net

Don't know how to knit or crochet but would like to learn? Please let Emalie know. We may hold a learning workshop sometime in the future.



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Between services

Screwtape Letters Study



Women Encouraging Women



Mustard Seeds



Praise Band Rehearsal

Coffee Hour



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

We are, we are.. the Youth of Ascension



Youth Group Schedule

William Barker - Youth Director
Justin Carballar - Asst. Youth Director
g1youth@luthchurch.org
carbiemagoo@yahoo.com



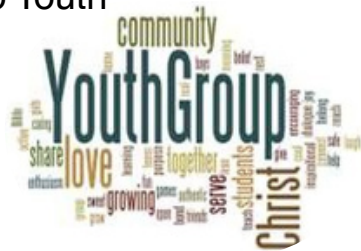
THIS MONTH:

October 5 - 12:00 - 4:30/5:00 PM - Bishops Pumpkin Farm

October 12 - 9:45 - 10:45 AM - Confirmation

October 19 - 4:30 - 7:00 PM - Halloween Party

October 26 - No Youth



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Opportunities to Serve in the Community

Blessing Bag Sunday

150 Blessing Bags were assembled on August 31st!!!

Monday September 8th, 40 of the bags were delivered to 2 of the Citrus Heights Navigators, Gaby and Aaron to pass out to clients.

Thank you to all who assembled bags or donated food items for the bags.

The next Blessing Bag Sunday will be held October 26th.



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Opportunities to Serve in the Community



Ascension volunteers, wearing their "Gods Work. Our Hands." t-shirts served lunch on Wednesday, September 3, to the clients of Loaves & Fishes.

Loaves & Fishes



Ascension volunteers serves lunch in the dining room on the first Wednesday of each month. We will be serving on

October 1st.

We need more volunteers for this community outreach to homeless people in the Sacramento area. Our group meets at the church at **10 am** for carpooling.

Contact Doreen Nichols for more information.



"God's Work. Our Hands." was a big success with many bags and boxes of food donated for Ascension's food pantry. The free-will offering totaled \$1,152 and was divided equally between

Ascension's food pantry and the Sunrise Christian Food Ministry's food pantry. Thank you for your generous support!!

We also received a food donation from Sierra Meadows Mobile Estates of collected food. The shelves were pretty bare before services started and this is what the pantry looked like the next day!



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 are scheduled for **October 15th.**

Contact Betty Alvord if you would like to help. (916) 926-2067 or bettyalvord7@gmail.com.

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



A promotional poster for a piano recital. The background features a man in a dark suit and tie, looking down thoughtfully, standing behind a grand piano. The piano's internal mechanism, including hammers and strings, is visible. In the center, there is a black and white portrait of a smiling woman with dark hair, wearing a blue dress, resting her chin on her hand. Text is overlaid on the image in various fonts and colors.

Justin Philip Nash

Piano
Recital

featuring Sophia
Silvers, soprano

Friday, October 3rd
@ 7:30 p.m.

Lutheran Church of
the Ascension
Citrus Heights



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Take
Note

Save the Dates October

3 Justin Nash Piano Recital
18 Men's Retreat @ Ascension
19 Breast Cancer Awareness Bake Sale w/ WELCA
23 Pub Theology
24 HART's Spaghetti Fest

November

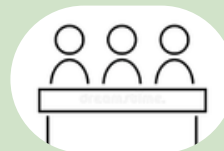
2 Welcome Back Pastor Scott
14 Trivia Night
15 Harvest Gathering
16 Budget Informational Meeting
23 Congregational Meeting

December

13 WELCA Gift Wrapping
16 Sacramento Valley Concert
Choir Christmas Concert

2025 Church Council

Pastor - Scott Jones
President - Terri Jellesed
Vice President - Mary Jo Edmondson
Secretary - Mark Chapman
Treasurer - Roger Linder
Youth - Autumn Davis



Loving:
God - Greg Imlay
One Another - Brian Shannon
The Community - Doreen Nichols

Technology - Brian Shannon

Pub Theology

Mark Chapman
10/23/25
6-8 PM
R Vida Cantina
7040 Sunrise Blvd
Citrus Heights, CA 95610



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. In person or via Zoom.



No Directory Updates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			10am - Loaves & Fishes 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - The Chosen	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting C-1	7:30pm - Piano Recital - 8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Grief support 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6pm - Romanian SDA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Temple Talk 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Mustard Seeds 9:45am - Screwtape	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Finance Committee	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - The Chosen	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting C-1	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Grief support 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6pm - Romanian SDA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Mustard Seeds 9:45am - Screwtape	Pr. Bruce birthday 2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope 6:30pm - Council @ C-1	8:30am - Sunrise Christian 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - The Chosen	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting C-1	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Men's Retreat - @ 9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Grief support 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6pm - Romanian SDA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
BCAM Sunday - WELCA 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Mustard Seeds 9:45am - Screwtape 9:45am - Sunday School	2pm - Craig Brewick 4pm - WELCA Meeting	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - The Chosen	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Pub Theology 7pm - SLAA Meeting C-1	HART's Spaghetti Fest @ 8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 10am - Grief support 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6pm - Romanian SDA
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Blessing Bag Sunday Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Mustard Seeds 9:45am - Screwtape	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - The Chosen	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting C-1	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	



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