



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.



December 2025

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

Peace on Earth

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those he favors.”

Luke 2:14

We read this verse within the Nativity Story every year on Christmas Eve.

“Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright...”

ELW, 281

And we sing these words as we are lighting our candles every year on Christmas Eve.

However, do we connect the birth of Jesus with the advent of peace on earth? Do we see the birth of the Christ child as the advent of God’s peace?

I suspect that most of us hear and sing these words without giving them much thought. They sound good, but are they practical? Could there ever be peace on earth? And could Jesus’ birth over 2,000 years ago have really brought any peace to the earth today?

I sure hope so! If not, our faith is in vain. To suggest that Jesus didn’t, and doesn’t, bring peace, is to place a limit upon the owner of God’s gracious love to impact creation. If we believe that God is the creator and that God spoke everything into being, then we must believe that God is capable of effecting the world that God created.

Jesus, by being born both human and divine, broke through the barrier that separated heaven and earth. And in doing so, has given us the permission to pray for, and work for, God’s peace to reign on earth, as it does in heaven. Doing so requires that we become like the one ushered in this peace; the one who was born as the Prince of Peace.

I think that we could all agree that the world could use some peace. Peace within each of our troubled and weary souls, and peace in our relationships with each other.

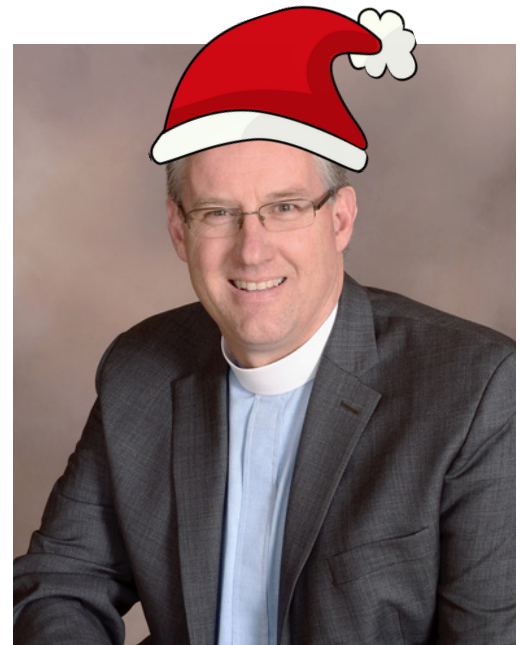
This Advent and Christmas I will be praying for that peace to come on earth and I will be praying that I might be a part of bringing it within my relationships.

And I encourage you to do the same.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

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

Pr. Scott



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Worship and Media

Through the church, the song goes on ...

The Advent and Christmas season always bring a wealth of music to the life of the church ... and plenty of opportunities to join in the musical life of your congregation!

Instrumentalists – that’s both wind players and string players – you are invited to play for the prelude and the offertory at the 5 pm service on Christmas Eve. The parts will be easy for this “pick up” group. We did this a couple times at my church in Laramie with instrumentalists of all skill levels from 1st year saxophonists to professional violinists, and everyone really enjoyed it – both players and not-players. I even played trumpet one year! If you or your family members are interested, contact me and I’ll get the music to you!

The Ascension Band is always welcoming new singers to our group! We rehearse on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm and Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. If you’d like to try it out, let me know! We’d love to have you. Our group has a great time leading the music at Modern Worship each Sunday.

Don’t forget to pick up your Advent devotional book, All Creation Waits. Printed copies – regular print and large print – are available at the info center and online at luthchurch.org/advent. The devotions for days 5 and 6 remind me of a great song my college choir did my junior year – All You Works of the Lord, Bless the Lord by Kenneth Jennings. It’s an absolute bear to conduct but a blast to sing! Take a listen on YouTube – luthchurch.org/allyouworks-YT – or on Apple Music – luthchurch.org/allyouworks-AM

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Andreas



Council CORNER

Traditions old and new ...

“So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter” (Thessalonians 2:15).

Traditions help communities for their own unique identity. Traditions help establish ways of observing times and seasons. Traditions also connect us to those who came before us. Yet Jesus was clear that traditions don't need to stay the same forever. We read in the Gospels about Jesus breaking the traditions of his day by healing people on the sabbath, talking to women, eating with sinners, overturning money tables in the temple, touching lepers, and teaching hearers to love both their friends and their enemies.

Jesus changed these traditions because they no longer fit what God was doing. God was doing something new and exciting. These traditions were keeping some people from experiencing God's love and presence, and they needed to change. When old traditions need to change or end, it gives us an opportunity to start new traditions – traditions that share God's love with everyone and add value to our communities.

(Excerpted from “Traditions” by Becca Ehrlich in the November 2018 Cafe online magazine.) As we move forward in the New Year it is important to be aware of some of the reasons why some people are resistant to change:

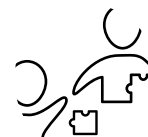
- Feel they're losing the church they once knew;
- Don't feel they have a voice;
- Don't deal with change very well;
- They have a point!



Our path forward will depend on how well we work together and discuss issues when we don't understand each other and when we don't agree. We have important decisions to make as we discern what God is calling us to do – who God is calling us to be – as we begin to make future plans for the use of the former preschool space. There will be ample opportunity for all to participate in the discernment process.

President's Pondering

Do you remember playing the “telephone” game? The one where one person whispers something into a neighbor's ear, then that message gets passed on and on and then back to the original person? Quite often, what's repeated back is not quite the same as what the original message was. So it goes with communication here at the church. We sometimes find it easier to ask a third party about what was said than to go to the source; what can happen is the message is relayed only partially, because that's what the listener focused on, and sometimes has an opinion added without clarification that it was not included in the original message. This can inadvertently lead to confusion, misunderstandings, and hurt feelings. Let's do our best to “go to the source” whenever possible.



Grace & Peace,
Terri Jellesed
Council President

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Finance status through October 2025

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$33,992.44	\$42,806.00	\$427,791.60	\$410,833.32	\$413,052.88	\$461,069.24

Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$287,766.14
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$120,643.32



Roger Linder
Treasurer

October was another lean month for income, but we did meet our obligations. We look forward to a strong finish for the year.

.....
Need to contact the office?
office@luthchurch.org for Heidi
.....

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Women of the ELCA 



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

Our Christmas Tree with ornaments went up the 1st week of November and Thank you to all that helped with this ministry.

We will be wrapping the gifts on Saturday the 13th of December at 9 am, you are welcome to come and join us.

If you have **paper grocery bags**, please bring them to the food closet.
As of now we have plenty of the plastic ones.

Just a reminder: Food Pantry Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of the month. Peanut Butter seems to be in short supply. Please remember to pick up your 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 tremendously.

Our next meeting is December 15th, please join us in C-1 at 4 PM.

Properties Report

Narthex Renovation Project

The Narthex has undergone a remarkable transformation, and the results are truly wonderful. This ongoing beautification effort has been made possible thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, energy, and resources. As the project moves toward completion, we are pleased to report that we remain on budget, which is excellent news for all involved.

With the end in sight, our focus is now on adding the finishing touches, including furniture and planters. We invite you to continue supporting this endeavor through your prayers and contributions. Donations are still being accepted until December 31, 2025. Your ongoing support has been vital throughout this project, and with your help, we are confident that we will finish 2025 on a strong note.

Other Properties Projects

In addition to the Narthex renovation, we manage a variety of property-related projects. For effective coordination, we maintain a log and a process for all volunteer activities. If you are volunteering to work on any part of the facility, please check in with Heidi and ensure that your project is recorded. This system helps us stay informed about what has been completed and prevents duplicate efforts.

We greatly value the contributions of our volunteers. If you are working on the premises, please make sure to complete a Volunteer Waiver in the office. This step is important for everyone's safety and for maintaining accurate records.



Thank You to Our Volunteers

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who volunteer their time and skills. Your commitment is deeply appreciated and essential to the success of our property projects.

Happy Holidays to All!

Mary Jo Edmondson,
Vice President/Properties



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:

December 7th - Confirmation - 9:45 - 10:45 am
- Holiday Crafts - 12:00 - 2:00 pm

December 14th - Christmas Party 4:30-7:00 pm

Lefse Lala-palooza

Saturday, January 3rd 9am-2pm
@ Ascension Lutheran Church



What is lefse?

Lefse is a Norwegian flatbread.

Visit our talented bakers in the
kitchen and Fellowship hall.

Come see how lefse is made!

Try your hand at making lefse!

Sample this delicious treat!

Questions? Please contact Cynthia
Hannem



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Supporting One Another

Ascension Cancer Support Ministry

In November, we introduced the **Caregiver Care Package**. Cancer not only turns the patient's life upside-down; it also does the same thing to the caregiver. Like their loved one, they are being tested physically, emotionally and spiritually.

A caregiver wears many hats. They provide love, support and encouragement for their loved one. They are an advocate when it comes to the medical team, asking questions and getting answers. They keep track of appointments. They often take on more of the household tasks and responsibilities that their loved one can't handle at the moment. They walk a fine line of knowing when to step in and when to let their loved one be in control. They handle this and more, as they try to manage their own feelings and fears that come with a cancer diagnosis. Caregivers are inspiring. They may not see it but others do.

What I hear when talking to caregivers is that they can sometimes feel isolated and alone, and they find it hard to make time for themselves. Like with the other care packages, the caregiver package contains a devotional book and a prayer square to help them stay connected to God. The devotional is about the power of prayer and how God is there for them right where they are. In addition, we remind them to lean into family and friends and accept their love and support. Also included in the care package are items that encourages them to take a quiet moment for themselves.

The **Caregiver Care Packages**, **Cancer Care Packages** and **Chemo Care Packages** are located in the church office. If you know of someone facing cancer please stop by and pick one up or see Heidi or myself on Sunday mornings. Please reach out if you have any questions.



Cheri Hubbs
Coordinator,
Ascension Cancer Support Ministry



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

October was a busy month for deliveries to non-profit organizations such as The Book Den, Francis House and Loaves and Fishes.



44 Boxes of books were delivered to The Book Den, a program of the Sacramento Public Library.



18 Bags of clothes and 4 bags of toys were delivered to Francis House.



**LOVING GOD,
ONE ANOTHER, AND
THE COMMUNITY.**



**The next Blessing Bag
Sunday will be
December 28th
following both services.**



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Opportunities to Serve in the Community



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 to serve on **December 17th**. 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



*Habitat for Humanity's new housing construction has progressed on Sayonara Drive. Ascension will be given the opportunity to participate in the Build For Unity workday. This special event designed for members of different faith groups to come together to work on this project will be either **Saturday, 31 January** or **Saturday, 7 February**. We'll let you know as more information is available.*



Loaves & Fishes



Ascension volunteers serve lunch in the dining room on the first Wednesday of each month. The next time we will be serving is on **December 5th**.

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.



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Save the Dates

December

- 7 Blue Christmas
- 13 WELCA Gift Wrapping
- 16 Sac Valley Concert Choir
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services @ 5 & 10 PM
- 25 Christmas Day Service @ 10 am

January

- 3 Lefse Baking Day
- 22 Pub Theology is back!

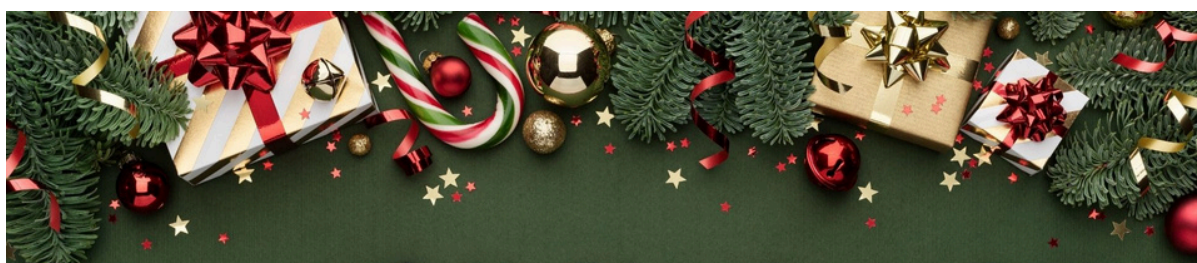


2025 Church Council

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

Loving:

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



*From your
church
council ...*

Staff Christmas Gifts

Contributions toward the staff Christmas gift are being gratefully received. Please give before December 21, and note "Staff gift" on your memo line or your envelope.

Pub Theology

Thankful for a break!
Pub Theology will be dark
for November and
December.
We will get back to it
January 22, 2026!



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.

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Finance Committee	10am - Loaves & Fishes 2pm - Pub Theology 6pm - AA Meeting @ 8:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-		9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6pm - Romanian SDA
7	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	1:15pm - Robbye Lamb - 2pm - Craig Brewick 3pm - Robbye Lamb - 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-	12	13
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Confirmation 9:45am - Kids Sunday						9am - WELCA Gift 9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6pm - Romanian SDA
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Kids Sunday	2pm - Craig Brewick 4pm - WELCA Meeting	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7:30pm - Sacramento	8:30am - Sunrise Christian 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-		9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6pm - Romanian SDA
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Kids Sunday 9:45am - Mustard Seeds 9:45am - Screwtape	2pm - Craig Brewick	2pm - Craig Counseling	Christmas Eve 5pm - Christmas Eve 6pm - AA Meeting - yes @ 10pm - Christmas Eve	Christmas Day 10am - Christmas Day 2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-		9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6pm - Romanian SDA
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Blessing Bags Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Kids Sunday	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	New Year's Eve 6pm - AA Meeting-yes @			