



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.



February 2026

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Citrus Heights, CA 95621
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GROWING IN G.R.A.C.E.

It is difficult to believe that I have been back from my sabbatical longer than I was gone. I continue to be grateful for the time away, as I am also happy to be back! Soon after I returned, we had a congregational meeting where we approved this year's Ministry Budget. At that meeting Terri Jellesed, our Council President, announced that this would be a year of discernment for us. We needed some time to grieve the preschool's closure before we began to discuss and imagine what ministry should come next.

To begin our year of discernment we are going to spend Lent focusing upon the Relational Covenant that we created during the summer of 2019. That year during Lent we read the book "A House United; How the Church Can Save the World" together. In response, we developed the Relational Covenant and the Prayer for Unity. The Prayer has become a part of our culture, as we pray it at the beginning of each meeting that we have, and at the conclusion of worship. However, the Relational Covenant has not garnered much attention hanging on the walls of the Conference Room and Work Room.

The Relational Covenant is based upon an acrostic of the word "GRACE".

Gratitude with humility
Relationships that are God-honoring
Accept our differences with respect
Called to reconciliation
Encourage one another

Our Lenten theme is Growing With GRACE. During Lent we will focus upon one of the letters and its corresponding concept every Sunday during worship. Then on the Wednesday night following the Sunday when a letter/concept has been introduced, it will be discussed in small groups after we have enjoyed Soup Supper together. That is right, Soup Suppers are back this year! For five Wednesdays (Feb 25, Mar 4, Mar 11, Mar 18, Mar 25), we will need help setting up, serving and cleaning up for the Soup Suppers. And maybe more importantly, we will need volunteers to make and bring delicious soup.

The Relational Covenant, according to Gil Rendle, "answers the question, 'How will we work together and discuss issues when we don't understand each other and when we don't agree?'" We want to make sure that we are prepared to have the important conversations that discerning our future mission and ministries will require. So, we are going to practice having meaningful conversations, where everyone might not agree, throughout Lent. We will practice listening to each other, not to frame our response, but to really hear, see and accept each other. Doing so will help us to become one in Christ, in unity, not uniformity, we pray.

Pr. Scott



Worship and Media

Lent is coming! I'm excited to be a part of the Lent observances here at Ascension. Pr. Scott and I have been working diligently on the theme and the accompanying worship elements. "Growing With Grace" is the first phase of our year of discernment here. I love doing visioning work - dreaming and discerning and trying and wondering and praying to see what God is calling us toward as a congregation.

Our theme song for Lent and carrying into the rest of the year is "We Are One" by the supergroup FAITHFUL. Each week in worship at both services and at our midweek gatherings, we'll be singing this song. This song was written back in the "olden days" of the covid pandemic, and has a great message for us. Here's verse 1 -

You've got a place at the table
A family where you belong
So, open your arms if you're able
Welcome home! Welcome home!

We hear this message every Sunday at communion, and we'll have the opportunity to really embody this as we begin discerning what's next for Ascension. If you'd like to listen to this ahead of time, you can find it on YouTube and Apple Music (and I'm sure on other platforms).

Let us draw near to each other
We are one, we are one
We are all sisters and brothers
Telling stories of our Father's love

We'll see each other in worship, at the soup suppers, in small groups, and in service. Let us draw near to each other!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

President's Pondering

I recently read an article that posits every local church is comprised of a diverse group of members who have been transformed by the power of God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. These people have no reason to live and work together, let alone care for each other; yet, they choose to live in love and unity together, to the praise and glory of the Lord's name.

The six types of people who help to build up churches are those who:

- Attend
- Encourage
- Confront without indulging gossip
- Pray
- Serve
- Show Patience

This causes me to pause and consider where I could (and should) grow. I encourage all of us to pursue these qualities in our own lives and encourage them in others. Pray for yourself and others. Pray that we build up the church together as we move forward with the process of discernment in the New Year.



Grace & Peace,
Terri Jellesed
Council President

Finance status through December 2025

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$33,966.60	\$36,498.17	\$495,902.10	\$493,000.00	\$487,842.80	\$553,283.00

Roger Linder
Treasurer

Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$279,683.27
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$119,239.87



Our 2025 income exceeded our budgeted income, and also exceeded actual expenses, allowing us to finish the year in the black.

We look forward to continued success in the new year.

Thank you all for your support with turning in ink cartridges in 2025!!
Because of you, we returned 116 cartridges and received \$279.48 in credit at Staples!

Council CORNER

Greetings from your Council! This month's Council Corner is by Greg Imlay. I'll highlight:

- Zoom available for council meetings
- Annual Meeting Feb. 22.
- Lent soup suppers with group discussions
- New opportunities at Sunrise Christian Food Ministries
- Fifth Fridays fun

Good news! Our first Zoom meeting for the monthly Church Council meeting was attended by Lois Bacchi and Patricia Zampardi from the comfort of their homes! All members can join future Council meetings via Zoom and provide suggestions or ask questions. Next month's meeting will be February 10.

Mark your calendar! At our upcoming February 22 Annual Meeting, you'll be invited to vote for the two candidates who've volunteered to join the Council this year, replacing Roger Linder and Mark Chapman. We will announce their names soon, meanwhile put the date on your calendar to attend the meeting between services.

Speaking of calendars, Lent is fast approaching, and members are planning with Pastor Scott for Wednesday evening soup suppers followed by guided discussions on the five promises listed in our Relational Covenant. The goal is to help renew our relationship together and plan for the future of Ascension as we move forward. This year will be one of building our Unity as we look forward to our future together serving the Lord.

Our ministry for feeding the hungry entered a new phase on Friday January 15, as we changed our monthly Sunrise Christian Food Ministries shift from Wednesday to the third Friday. Please join us next time on February 20. We start at 9:30 a.m. bagging produce and other items and then help with the distribution to clients from 11:15 until 1:30.

Again with calendar dates... this time about future fun. We're going to start planning evening events for every 5th Friday. Some might be Trivia Nights, others can include potlucks followed by games as we build on our love for each other in this year of Unity. Stay tuned

Greg Imlay
Loving God





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

Taylor House is accepting vehicles for their girls, and it would be a 501c donation. If you or anyone you know has a vehicle to donate, please contact Kathleen Lopez 916-402-8525.

Remember, all women at our church are welcome to our meetings.

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

Beginning this month, we are going to request the need of one food closet item. This month will be for **Cereal**. I found some great prices at Grocery Outlet on cereal. So, in addition to your regular food donations, please add **Cereal** to your list in February.

Just a reminder: Food Pantry Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of the month. 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 February 16th, please join us in C-1 at 4 PM.

Join us for Soup Supper and Discernment Discussions

5 weeks - 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18 & 3/25

5:30 - 6:30 - dinner & 6:45 discussion groups

[sign-up to help at the info center](#)



Growing With **GRACE**



Loving the Community

Habit for Humanity's Build for Unity is Sat Feb 7th. Ascension will have a group of 12 volunteers taking part in this wonderful opportunity to provide housing for families in the Citrus Heights Sayonara neighborhood. Kudos to Rich Peterson for organizing this project and setting up our volunteers.

Important update on Sunrise Christian Food Ministry at Advent Lutheran: Our day to volunteer has changed to the **3rd FRIDAY of the month, from 9:00am to 1:30pm**. The new day and times will allow us to both pack up and distribute food to community residents. If you are interested in joining our fun group of volunteers, please contact Betty Alvord.

Loaves and Fishes: We've had a good turnout each month, averaging 5-7 volunteers. If you're interested in participating in this crucial ministry of serving meals to our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, please let me know. We meet at the church at **10:00am on the 1st Wednesday of each month** and carpool together to Loaves and Fishes.

Our food closet continues to be a blessing to an increasing number of people experiencing food insecurity, thanks to congregation members' generosity, the reusable bags provided by WELCA, and the volunteers who graciously maintain our food closet (you know who you are 😊)

Warmly,
Doreen Nichols
Loving the Community



**Congregational
meeting**

Sunday, February 22

9:45 am

In the sanctuary

**2025 Annual Ministry Report
and Council Elections!**

Youth Group Schedule



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



February 1 - No Youth

February 8 - Confirmation 9:45-10:45 am

February 15 - Youth Group 12-2 pm

February 22 - Confirmation 9:45-10:45 am
Guys Grocery Games 4:30-7 pm



God is
LOVE

155 Blessing Bags were assembled on 1/25/26 and will be distributed to people in need!!

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Opportunities to Serve in the Community



Ascension has an active group of volunteers who pack up food for hungry people on the third **Friday** of each month.

We are scheduled to serve on **February 20th**.

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



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 **February 4th**.

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.



Ascension has the opportunity to send 12 volunteers to Habitat for Humanity's "Build for Unity" on Saturday, 7 February. This will be held on Sayonara Drive in Citrus Heights, which makes it very convenient. This special event is designed for members of different faith groups to come together to build houses for low-income families.



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Save the Dates

February

7 Learn to Crochet with Emalie
17 Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Dinner
18 Ash Wednesday
22 **Annual Congregational Meeting**
25 Soup Suppers start (5 weeks)
26 Pub Theology



March

26 Pub Theology
29 Palm Sunday

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

Directory Updates

Lynn & Sonja Semington
5353 Dreamgarden Loop, Roseville, CA 95747
Lynn # (916)390-6917 & Sonja # (916)847-2489

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

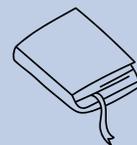
Feb 26th 6-8 pm
R Vida Cantina
7040 Sunrise Blvd
Citrus Heights, CA 95610



Contact Mark Chapman
for details

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.



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:30am - Classic Worship @</p> <p>9:30am - Coffee Hour @</p> <p>9:30am - Women</p> <p>9:45am - Band Rehearsal @</p> <p>9:45am - Kids Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Mustard Seeds @</p> <p>9:45am - Screwtape Letters</p> <p>11am - Modern Worship @</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am - Paul Casimiro -</p> <p>10am - Paul Casimiro Funeral</p> <p>11:15am - Paul Casimiro</p> <p>2pm - Craig Brewick</p> <p>6pm - Sacramental Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am - Text Talk @ C-1</p> <p>2pm - Craig Counseling</p> <p>7pm - Finance Committee</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am - Loaves & Fishes</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @</p> <p>6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:30pm - The Chosen - season</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10am - Lose Control ~</p> <p>2pm - Craig Brewick</p> <p>7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30pm - Romanian SDA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9am - Learn to Crochet @</p> <p>9:30am - Romanian SDA</p> <p>4pm - Romanian SDA Church</p> <p>6pm - NA Meeting @</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Food Pantry Sunday</p> <p>8:30am - Classic Worship @</p> <p>9:30am - Coffee Hour @</p> <p>9:30am - Women</p> <p>9:45am - Band Rehearsal @</p> <p>9:45am - Confirmation</p> <p>9:45am - Kids Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Mustard Seeds @</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10am - Care Ministry Team</p> <p>2pm - Craig Brewick</p> <p>6pm - Sacramental Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Prayer Chain Gathering 2pm -</p> <p>Craig Counseling 6:15pm -</p> <p>Antelope Quilters @ 6:30pm -</p> <p>Council @ C-1</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @</p> <p>6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:30pm - The Chosen - season</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10am - Lose Control ~</p> <p>2pm - Craig Brewick</p> <p>7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30pm - Romanian SDA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>9:30am - Romanian SDA</p> <p>4pm - Romanian SDA Church</p> <p>6pm - NA Meeting @</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Blessing Bags</p> <p>8:30am - Classic Worship @</p> <p>9:30am - Coffee Hour @</p> <p>9:30am - Women</p> <p>9:45am - Band Rehearsal @</p> <p>9:45am - Kids Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Mustard Seeds @</p> <p>9:45am - Screwtape Letters</p> <p>11am - Modern Worship @</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>Presidents' Day</p> <p>2pm - Craig Brewick</p> <p>4pm - WELCA Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Sacramental Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2pm - Craig Counseling</p> <p>6pm - Shrove Tuesday -</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Ash Wednesday 12pm - Ash</p> <p>Wednesday 6pm - AA Meeting @</p> <p>@ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:30pm - The Chosen - season</p> <p>7pm - Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2pm - Craig Brewick</p> <p>7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am - Sunrise Christian Food</p> <p>6:30pm - Romanian SDA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am - Romanian SDA</p> <p>4pm - Romanian SDA Church</p> <p>6pm - NA Meeting @</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Healing Sunday</p> <p>8:30am - Classic Worship @</p> <p>9:30am - Annual</p> <p>9:30am - Coffee Hour @</p> <p>9:45am - Band Rehearsal @</p> <p>9:45am - Confirmation</p> <p>9:45am - Kids Sunday School</p> <p>11am - Modern Worship @</p> <p>4:30pm - Youth - Guys</p>	<p>23</p> <p>2pm - Craig Brewick</p> <p>6pm - Sacramental Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am - Text Talk @ C-1</p> <p>2pm - Craig Counseling</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @</p> <p>6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:30pm - The Chosen - season</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2pm - Craig Brewick</p> <p>6pm - Pub Theology @ R Vida</p> <p>7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30pm - Romanian SDA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am - Romanian SDA</p> <p>10am - Gold Country</p> <p>4pm - Romanian SDA Church</p> <p>6pm - NA Meeting @</p>