



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.

FIFTH FRIDAY WINNERS



July 2026

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

Next Steps

A year ago, I was writing about the plans for my upcoming sabbatical and the closure of Ascension Christian Preschool. It has been almost one year since I left for sabbatical and that the preschool closed.

When we made the difficult decision to close the preschool we focused first upon the children who were in the program and their families, quickly followed by the needs of our staff. Then we developed a plan for how we would dissolve the corporation and deal with all of the assets from the preschool. This process took a few months as we hosted a two-day sales event, then donated the remaining equipment and resources that remained in the preschool rooms.

Then we intentionally set time aside to grieve; to allow the space for us to get used to the idea that this ministry had come to its conclusion. Over this year we have heard many suggestions for how we might use the former preschool space, however we were not ready to move forward then.

Now is the time for us to begin a process of discerning how we will engage our mission statement “Loving God, one another, and the community” in the future. The preschool was one of the significant ways that we demonstrated our love of our community, what might be next?

We have assembled a team to develop the process that we will use, as a community, to discern what is next for Ascension. The team includes Mark Chapman, Kay Emery, Diana Karlson, June Stolan and Pr. Scott. Please be in prayer for us, as we have just begun our work (we had our first meeting last week). And know that when the discernment process is created, you will all be invited to participate in it. We want to hear every voice and every opinion, as we seek together to discern what God’s desires from the ministries of Ascension Lutheran Church over the next decade.

If you have questions, be assured that you are not alone. The future holds many questions, but also many possibilities. Let us place our trust in God, as we engage this process together.

Pastor Scott



Worship and Media

One of the things I love so much about history is looking at the past and seeing how past events shaped our story today. While I was on my study abroad in Wales in seminary, I was able to literally stand in the footprints of those leaders who shaped the English church in the 6th through 11th centuries. And years later, I was able to visit St. Martin's Church in Canterbury. The oldest part of St. Martin's was built for an unknown purpose in the late 3rd century, with its earliest documented use as a church in 580. Christian worship has happened in that building ever since, making St. Martin's the oldest existing church in the English speaking world. It was breathtaking to study the building and see where it had been expanded and repaired and modernized over the past 17-plus centuries. That small building played a pivotal role in the shaping of the English speaking church, becoming the base of the Benedictine mission to Britain in the late 6th century.

Heidi has unearthed a treasure trove of photos and slides of life at Ascension over the years. As one who's been here for only a short time, I've loved to look through these pictures, remembering the faces I recognize and wondering about those who I don't know and what role they might have played in Ascension's early years. I post a couple pictures on Facebook and Instagram every Thursday at 2 pm. This "Throwback Thursday" feature is our most engaged post every single week. Folks comment with their memories of the event. They fill in names that others don't know. It's fun to see people's stories.

If you're not on Facebook or Instagram, do not lose heart! I've added the week's Throwback Thursday pictures to the loop on the narthex TV. New pictures every Thursday at 2 pm! Also check out a few of our throwback pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Throwback Thursday



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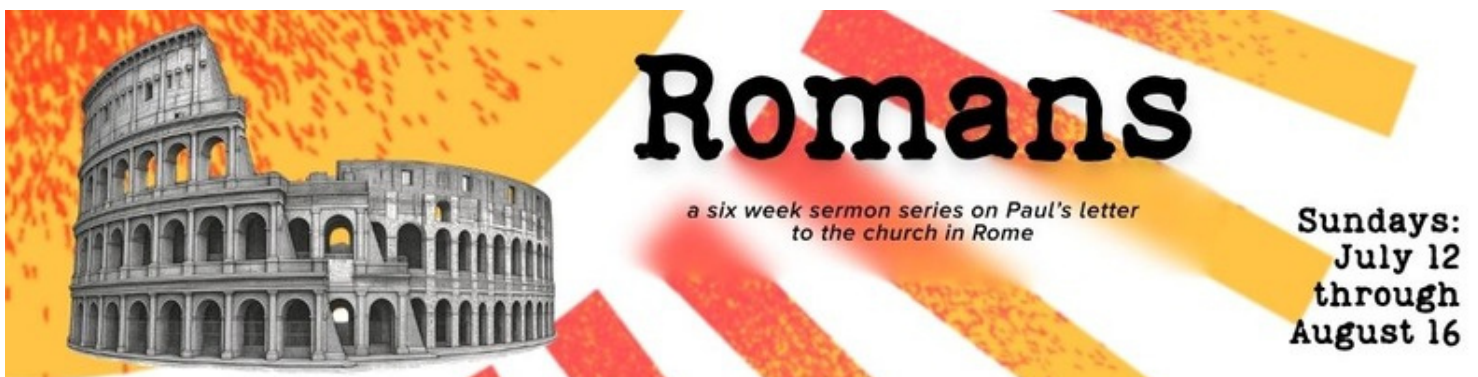
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Council CORNER

Greetings from your Council! Come try out the **new Conference Room Chairs** at the next Council Meeting, July 14 at 6:30 pm. Or if you prefer, you can participate by Zoom (see Heidi for Zoom access info).

Meanwhile, here are some of the projects we're doing now:

- **Photo Directory** - We plan to update our member directory this year, but with photos of our members! Photo directories were once widespread in churches, but higher costs for production and printing put a stop to that. However, we will produce the directories using new software and in-house photography. Stay tuned for more details.
- **Renewal Discernment** - A Committee of church members has started meetings to discuss our renewal process (begun with the Lenten small groups discussions). The question they are addressing for us is how do we best take the skills learned in our small groups and apply them to our discernment on the church's role in the community, post-preschool.
- **"Canoeing The Mountains", by Tod Bolsinger** – To help with the changes we've been discussing, council members will be meeting weekly to discuss this guidebook for church leadership in our challenging times. The title refers to Lewis and Clark in 1803 thinking they could canoe all the way to the Pacific Ocean, and then suddenly facing an unforeseen mountain range that threatened their mission. They succeeded, and so can we! If you'd like to follow along, the book can be purchased new or used online (E-Bay, Amazon, etc.)
- **5th Friday, July 31 at 7 p.m.** - Join us for a movie night to enjoy with popcorn and snacks. (More info coming soon!)



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Finance status through May 2026

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$55,919.68	\$40,766.74	\$219,794.75	\$206,250.00	\$197,616.45	\$213,472.27



Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$302,609.74
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$119,988.04

Treasurer Report

I'm happy to report that our May offerings were above budget, at \$55,564, thanks to your generosity and devoted sharing of God's bounty.

As we continue to refine our vision of how best to serve our community and each other, we are grateful for the good people of Ascension Lutheran. Summer months can often mean less giving, so with that in mind please don't let vacations and picnics distract you from your donations to our ministry.

Remember, if you would like a full accounting of our finances for any past month, I am happy to provide, or please ask any council member.

President's Ponderings

We often hear about the lazy days of summer. It's nice to slow down a bit, take a deep breath, and relax. It seems we don't have quite as many commitments during the summer, the days are longer, and some routines are put on hold for the summer.

I encourage us all to continue to flex our spiritual muscles during this time; perhaps start a new bible study or prayer discipline. Maybe commit to volunteering at the church or in the community. Let's keep the momentum going by participating in the various activities at the church, gathering with friends for lunch or coffee – or ice cream!

Wishing you all safe and happy summer...

Grace & Peace,
Terri



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Properties

HAVE YOU “SEEN” OUR COUNCIL?

Walk through the hallway of our church and you’ll see them: the photographs of our church council, lined up neatly on the wall. Just past them are the Pastors as well who have so faithfully served Ascension through the years. Each picture on that wall represents hours spent discerning budgets, praying over decisions, supporting ministries, and guiding the church through both good times and discerning times.

Do you see the people who serve among us, or have their images become part of the background? Do you know their names, their stories, their roles in our church? Do you know who to ask when you have a question or concern about something in the church?

What would you ask the “**Loving God**” Council member, **Denise Lehr**? Maybe... “when is our next bible study?”

And the “**Loving the Community**” Council member, **Doreen Nichols**? Perhaps you should ask her...” when is National Night out this year or will we have Trunk or Treat?”

“**Loving One Another**” is an easy ask for **John Stolan**...” how are the youth being ministered to?” Or congratulate him on a great Arts & Crafts Show!

If you attend the early service, would you recognize the Council **President, Terri Jellesed**, or the Council **Secretary, Cynthia Green**? Maybe not at first glance, but their photographs are there for you to see and seek out.

Treasurer, Greg Imlay, sings in the praise band, you know him, right? Ask him about our finances!!

So next time you walk past that wall, pause. Look at their faces. Offer a prayer for them. And maybe even thank one of them in person. Because behind every picture is a servant heart, and behind every servant heart is the quiet work that helps the church flourish.

Mary Jo Edmondson,
Vice President



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

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



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

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. Because of your support we were able to put together 8 full collapsible laundry baskets filled with items that new home owners can use. Dedication of 8 homes took place on June 6th. See below for pictures.

Food Closet: This is our fourth month, to request the need of one food closet item. This month will be for **Canned Vegetables**. So, in addition to your regular food donations, please add **Canned Vegetables** to your list in July. We continue to hand out approximately 80 bags of food each month with approximately \$12.00+ of food in each bag. Your contribution helps us help others.

October 3rd Women and girls 16 and older, mark your calendar for October 3rd. We will be having a special event here at Ascension and you will not want to miss it. A team from Aspire will be here, a comedian, music and an author and Bible teacher. Tickets are \$35.00 for Reserved/VIP seating (includes snack bag) and \$25.00 for general admission. Doors open @ 5 PM, show is at 6 PM. We will be needing assistance by some of you, please contact Cherie McCormick (916) 768-7019 or Cindy Erickson (702) 630-4748 or tickets or assisting with that night. Tell your friends and family.

Mariposa School shoe drive will happen this fall. Watch for more information.

If you have **paper grocery bags**, please bring them to the food closet.

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 Monday, July 20th, please join us in C-1 at 4 PM.



Social Ministry



Delivered 12 bags of clothes to Francis House. We learned that they are closing the end of June. As a result we will now be delivering donated clothes to the Union Gospel Mission and to Loaves and Fishes.



Ascension was recognized for their volunteer support in the construction of the homes and for the eight laundry baskets full of new household items which our WELCA prepared for the families moving into the houses. Thank you to all who contributed.



On Saturday, 6 June, Habitat for Humanity held a dedication of the new houses recently completed. On Sayonara Drive, Citrus Heights. There was a ceremony to turn over the keys to the new owners who had to have contributed 500 'sweat hours' on their home.



Delivered 15 boxes of books to Lutheran Social Services for their Novel Idea online bookstore. Ascension Council member Doreen Nichols met Rebekah Marshall, the Social Enterprise Manager, and discussed how Ascension can support LSS' book sales.

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Opportunities to Serve in the Community



Ascension members volunteer at Sunrise Christian Food Ministry to pack bags of produce and delivered bags of food to client's cars.

The next time we will be at Sunrise is
Friday, July 17th.

Call Betty Alvord if you're interested in volunteering.
(916) 926-2067 or bettyalvord7@gmail.com.



Ascension volunteers serve lunch in the dining room at Loaves and Fishes on the *first Wednesday* and the *second Friday* of each month. The times we will be serving in **July** are the **1st** and **10th**. Sign-up at the info center. Max volunteers is 5 per visit. Our group meets at the church at **10 am** for carpooling.

Contact Doreen Nichols for more information.

Blessing Bag Sunday

Come assemble Blessing Bags with us after worship services on August 9th



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

SAVE THE DATE!

August 4, 2026

The annual event brings neighbors together to foster community spirit, promote crime prevention, and build positive partnerships with the Citrus Heights Police Department and local first responders.

More information to follow, keep an eye out for sign-ups at the info center. Questions or would like to help. Contact Doreen Nichols.

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

2026 Church Council

Pastor - Scott Jones
President - Terri Jellesed
Vice President - Mary Jo Edmondson
Secretary - Cynthia Green
Treasurer - Greg Imlay

Loving:
God - Denise Lehr
One Another - John Stolan
The Community - Doreen Nichols

Text Talk

All are welcome to attend Text Talk at 10 am in C-1 to discuss the preaching text for the upcoming Sunday. In person or via Zoom.

Pub Theology

July 30th 6-8 pm
R Vida Cantina
7040 Sunrise Blvd
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

**Contact Mark Chapman
for details**

Save the Dates

Take Note

July

1 Loaves & Fishes
2 Gwen Curtis Memorial Service
2 Office Closed (July 4th observation)
7 Text Talk
10 Loaves & Fishes
12 “Help is Here” Bible Study begins
14 Council Meeting
17 Sunrise Christian Food Ministry
20 WELCA Meeting
31 5th Friday Fellowship - Movie Night

August

4 National Night Out
8 Men's Breakfast @ Brookfields
9 Blessing Bag Assembly
21 Trivia Night

September

13 Fall Kick Off & Blood Drive

October

3 Aspire Women's event
30 5th Friday Fellowship

Youth Group Schedule



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

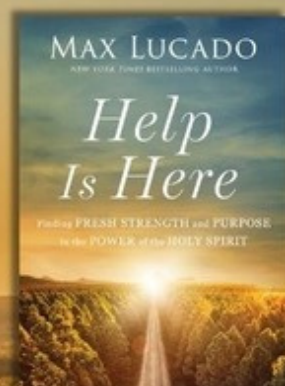


July 12th - 12:00 - 2:00 pm - Youth Group

Help Is Here by Max Lucado

A summer Bible study on this book will be led by Paul and Lois Bacchi, beginning on Sunday, July 12, and running for 5 weeks.

Sign up at the info center or contact Paul and Lois with questions.



July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			10am - Loaves & Fishes 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	10am - Gwen Curtis Memorial 2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	Independence Day 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	Independence Day 9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Screwtape 11am - Modern Worship @	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - NNO meeting 6pm - Sacramental Practice	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Finance Committee	7:30pm - AA Meeting @	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	10am - Loaves & Fishes 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - 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 - Help is Here - Bible 9:45am - Screwtape 11am - Modern Worship @ 12:15 pm - Family Support Group	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope Quilters @ 6:30pm - Council @ C-1	2pm - Council Book Club - 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	9am - Sunrise Christian Food 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Help is Here - Bible 9:45am - Screwtape 11am - Modern Worship @	2pm - Craig Brewick 4pm - WELCA Meeting 6pm - NNO meeting 6pm - Sacramental Practice	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	2pm - Council Book Club - 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	7pm - Romanian SDA Church	9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Help is Here - Bible 9:45am - Screwtape 11am - Modern Worship @	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	2pm - Council Book Club - 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Pub Theology @ R Vida 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	5th Friday Fellowship 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	