

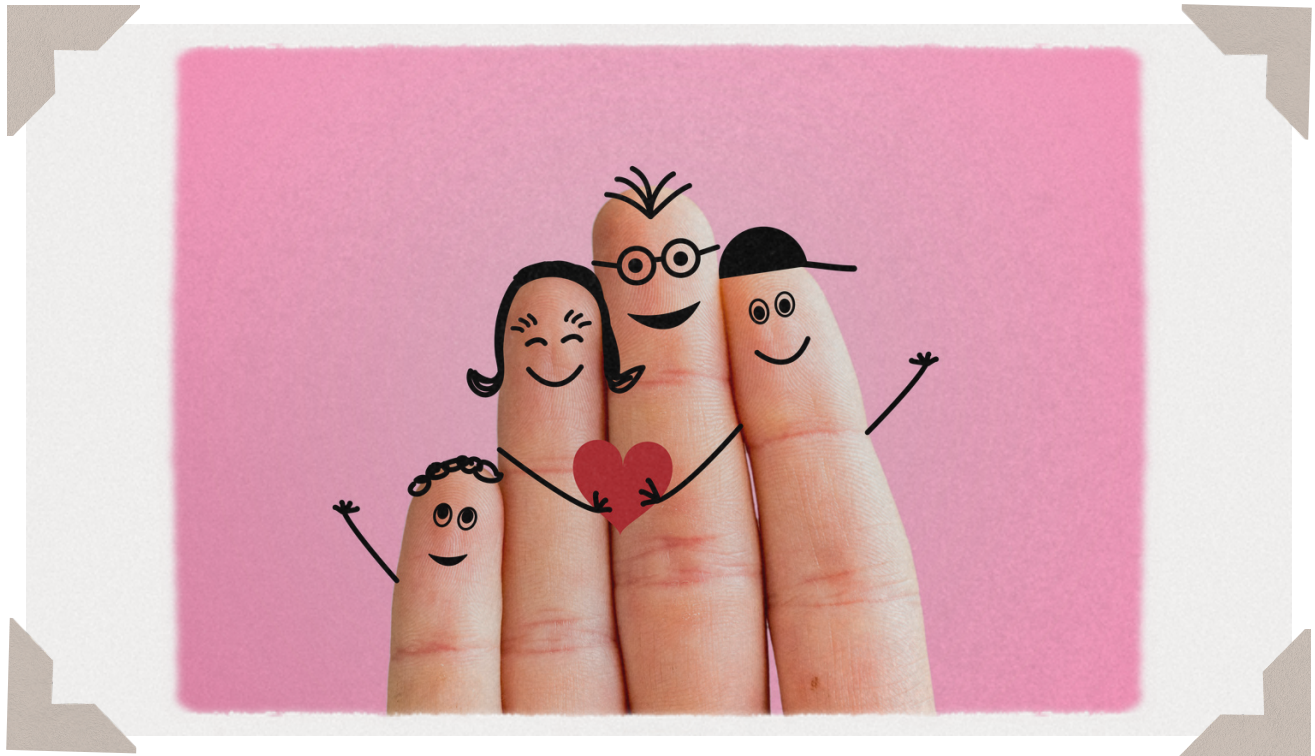


Photo Directory

August 2026

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

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

As I wrote last month, the planning team for our mission discernment process has begun to meet regularly. We have already made some important decisions that will shape the process that I am excited to share with you.

The first is that we have decided to use a modified version of the logo that we used during our Lenten Discussions to increase the awareness of the process. You'll notice that the tree is the same, but the words have changed. During Lent we focused upon

"Growing in GRACE," which still remains a priority for us as a congregation. However, for this process our focus will be "Seeking in FAITH." In Matthew Jesus says, "seek and you will find; knock and the door will be open to you." In faith we are seeking God's will for the future mission and ministries of Ascension Lutheran Church. We are trusting that God will guide our work in planning the process, so that God's Spirit will reveal to all of us God's desires for our church.

The framework for the process that we intend to use will begin with a time to reflect upon and give thanks for our history as a congregation. Those who established this church and all who have been a part of God's ministry here serve as our roots, providing us with a solid base through which to grow. Then we will focus upon where we are today. We will discuss our strengths and weaknesses, what we perceive to be our opportunities and our challenges. We will honestly assess our giftedness and our limitations. Then we will prayerfully consider what God is calling us toward for the future. Each step of this process will include one, or more, congregational gatherings. The dates, times and focus of each of them will be communicated well in advance.

We do not intend to hurry this process. We need to be patient as we seek God's spirit throughout this process. Our prayer is that this process will bring the unity that we pray for during worship each week, as we discern how to live out our mission, "Loving God, one another and the community" together.

Prayer is a central practice in our faith lives and it will be critically important for this work we are beginning together. I have crafted a series of prayer petitions for the planning team and this process, much like I did for my sabbatical (one year ago) and I invite you to pray for us, as you prayed for me and my family during my sabbatical.



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Almighty God,

We place ourselves fully into your loving, grace-filled hands: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours.

We pray that by your Spirit, you would guide us we seek your will, in faith, for the ministries of your church, Ascension Lutheran. Fill our imaginations, harness our independent wills and lead us into your desires for us and our community.

Bless and encourage those who are working to plan and implement a thoughtful, spirit-filled process: Mark Chapmen, Kay Emery, Diana Karlson, June Stolan and Pastor Scott. Work in and through them so that we might further embrace and act upon our mission to "Love You, one another and the community."

Give us all ears to hear and a gentleness of heart to receive the thoughts and suggestions of our sisters and brothers in Christ that we might grow closer to you and each other through this spirit-led process.

Unite our sense of mission, that we might reflect your love as we serve our neighbors in your holy name. And prepare us for the future that you have for us, as individuals, and as a congregation.
We pray in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.
Pastor Scott



Worship and Media

Modern Worship folks - have you ever wondered how to sing some of the songs we use in worship? There's a link to a YouTube playlist included in every Friday's weekly email. I get this playlist set up every Monday, so if you don't want to wait until Friday to click the link, you can always visit luthchurch.org/modern or click on the "Modern Worship playlist" link on the right hand side of the front page of our website.

Speaking of websites, I'm working on refreshing luthchurch.org. It's not been without a few hitches in the giddy-up, but I think I've got the concepts of a plan. You might occasionally see some electronic dust where a link is broken or a plugin or theme isn't playing nicely. For the most part, the content will stay the same, but things will look a little different. Keep your eyes open!

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

President's Ponderings

Lord, let my heart be good soil We sometimes sing that in worship, and I don't often enough truly reflect on the meaning. You can find the "Parable of the Sower" in Matthew (13:1-23), Mark (4:1-20), and Luke (8:4-15) and reflect on the seeds you sow.

1. **The Path:** Seeds that fall along the path are eaten by birds, symbolizing those who hear the message but do not understand it, allowing Satan to take it away.
2. **Rocky Ground:** Seeds that fall on rocky ground sprout quickly but wither under the sun due to lack of roots, representing those who initially receive the message with joy but fall away when faced with challenges.
3. **Thorny Ground:** Seeds that fall among thorns grow but are choked by the thorns, symbolizing those who hear the message but are distracted by life's worries and wealth, preventing them from bearing fruit.
4. **Good Soil:** Seeds that fall on good soil produce a bountiful crop, representing those who hear, understand, and accept the message, leading to a fruitful life.

We don't know where the seeds we sow will land, but I encourage all of us to continue to share the Good News that has blessed our lives.

Grace & Peace,
Terri Jellesed
Council President



- Please bring a photo I.D.
- Eat well and drink plenty of water before donating.
- Eligibility questions: Vitalant 800-289-4923/Vitalant.org
- 16-year-olds must have a signed Vitalant parent consent form.



Lutheran Church of Ascension Blood Drive

Sunday, September 13

9:30 am to 1:45 pm

7607 Garden Gate Drive
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Please schedule an appointment at
donors.vitalant.org
and use blood drive code 100564615
or call Vitalant at 877-258-4825
or scan the QR code below using a
Smartphone camera.

Ascension Cancer Support Ministry

June has been a busy month organizing. With the outreach opportunities in the community the demand for the care packages has grown.

Heidi has helped tremendously by finding, organizing and rearranging a closet at church where we can store and better keep track of the inventory needed for the care packages. And several have helped by packaging various items for the care packages. This is extremely helpful and makes assembling the care packages for distribution go much more smoothly.

A special thank you to Denise Lehr, Judy Berchielli, Jo Ann Little and Cynthia Green and her team, the Durston girls, Sheradyn, Kaydence and Remington for their support and willingness to help by doing projects from home.

If you would like to help from home in the future by packaging items for the care packages, please let me know.



Cheri Hubbs - Coordinator



"Remembering is an act of resurrection.

Each repetition is a vital layer of mourning,

In memory of those we are sure to meet again"

~Nancy Cobb

As the season of autumn approaches, we remember that some of us are also in a season of grief. Whether your grief is fresh or haunting you after many years, there is a time and place to talk about it in a safe, non-judgmental, confidential way with others who are traveling a similar journey. You are invited to be a part of an eight week grief support group ministry.

Grief Support Group

Ascension Lutheran Church Resource Room

9am-11:00am Saturdays beginning September 19th

facilitated by Cynthia Hannem

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Finance status through June 2026

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$31,014.22	\$36,898.06	\$250,968.97	\$247,500.00	\$234,514.51	\$256,166.66



Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$299,574.12
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$119,988.04

Treasurer Report

Wow, this Treasurer's Report writing has its ups and downs! Last month I began with "I'm happy to report that our May offerings were above budget, at \$55,564." This month, reporting on June finances, I have to say "Oops, offerings in June fell below budget, to just a little over \$31,000." Fortunately, our strong start for the first half of 2026 means offerings are still ahead of budget for the year in total. Please keep this in mind as you consider your offerings in the second half of the year.

Remember, if you would like a full accounting of our finances for any past month, I am happy to provide, and can be reached at booksbygreg@yahoo.com or at 213-880-2448.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, August 8 - 8:30 am
Pacific Street Cafe - Roseville



friday
august 21
7 pm
fellowship hall

Council Corner

Your church Council members are in full swing, gearing up for Fall activities. Make sure to keep an eye on the monthly newsletters, weekly e-blasts and the pre-service slides (on the screen before the start of each worship service). That's the best way to stay "in the know". In August we'll have National Night Out on 8/4, then things really get rolling in September.

We are also participating in a book study that will help us as we navigate the changes that will come out of the strategic planning process that we will undertake soon. Please be sure to engage so that all voices are heard as we determine the future of our church and our mission.



Properties

It Takes a Village!

We are once again grateful to those who have donated their time and talents to handle some things around the facility...it may not seem like much, but it makes a big difference with the big picture!

Dave Little created a weedless playground in the playground behind the former preschool. Looks so much better and some of the kids who are here on Sunday morning can even play out there these days!

Justin had another surgery recently. Prior to his leaving several of you volunteered to help with these responsibilities...Matt Corbin in helping get coffee hour set up, the Littles have been cleaning the kitchen and its floors, Diana Karlson has been cleaning the sanctuary, cry room and Narthex, the Hubbs for keeping the floors and our Fellowship Hall clean, and Doreen Nichols for cleaning our bathrooms. Thanks for all you do!

While Eva Breitwieser has been recovering from a surgery herself, Denise Lehr and Judy Berchielli have kept the Food Pantry afloat and stocked with help from Sheradyn. And what a gift to be able to have Sheradyn Durston help in the office 2 hours each week... Sheradyn gets great work experience, Heidi gets some help – it's a win/win!!

Thanks to all for what you do to keep us beautiful!
We need your help when you are able to give it...it makes a difference!

Mary Jo Edmondson,
Vice President

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



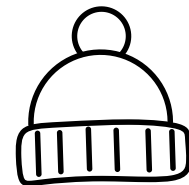
Remember, all women at our church are welcome to our meetings.

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

October 3rd, Women and girls 16 and older, mark you 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 for tickets or assisting with that night.

Here is a link to see more <https://aspirewomensevents.com>.
Tell your friends and family. Please let us know if you will be able to assist us.

Mariposa School shoe drive is happening starting this fall starting the middle of August 16th thru September 13th. We are looking for shoes children's size 13 – 5, as well as gloves, scarfs and beanies.



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, August 17th, please join us in C-1 at 4 PM.

Aspire

1 night – 3 hours Just for Women
An evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music

Author & Bible Teacher
BARB ROOSE



Comedy by
AMBERLY NEESE



Music by
MIA KOEHNE



SATURDAY
OCT. 3, 2026

LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ASCENSION

7607 GARDEN GATE
CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA 9562

6:00PM SHOW
5:30PM PANEL TIME
5:00PM DOORS OPEN

Come early and join us for
a 15 minute panel time with
all 3 ladies based on
Hebrews 12:1-2 called
“Running the Race”

ADVANCE TICKETS

General Admission – \$30

VIP/Reserved – \$40

Group tickets for 10 or more – \$25

VIP/Reserved Groups for 10 or more – \$35

Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP/Reserved Includes reserved seats
and a snack bag

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100** or online at:

ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com

Aspire has been doing ministry for
over 10 years and we hope you can
join us for a great ladies night out!

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, August 21st.

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 **August** are the **5th** and **14th**. 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

SAVE THE DATE!



August 4, 2026

Here is a list of everything that we use for each blessing bag made!

If you would like to help with this ministry and donate some items or help toward the cost please donate or reach out!

Ziploc Bag

Water

Juice

Peaches

Applesauce

Treats

Raisins

Snack Bar

Crackers

Cookies

Spoon

Socks

2026
Church Council

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

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.

**Contact Mark Chapman
for details**

 Take Note

4 National Night Out
5 Loaves & Fishes
8 Men's Breakfast @ Pacific Street Cafe
9 Blessing Bag Assembly
9 Family Support Group
11 Council Meeting
14 Loaves & Fishes
17 WELCA meeting
21 Sunrise Christian Food Ministry
21 Trivia Night
27 Pub Theology

13 Fall Kick Off & Vitalant Blood Drive
19 Grief Group begins

3 Aspire Women's event
30 Fifth Friday Fall Fun Fest

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



August 8th - Sunsplash Nite Slides!
August 23rd - Youth Group - 4:30 - 7pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
						9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Help is Here - Bible 11am - Modern Worship @	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice 7pm - Finance Committee	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6pm - National Night Out	10am - Loaves & Fishes 2pm - Council Book Club - 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	7pm - Romanian SDA Church	8:30am - Men's Breakfast @ 9:30am - Romanian SDA 5pm - Youth - Sunsplash Nite 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Blessing Bags Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Help is Here - Bible 11am - Modern Worship @ 12:15pm - Family Support	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	10am - Loaves & Fishes 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Screwtape Letters 11am - Modern Worship @	2pm - Craig Brewick 4pm - WELCA 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	9am - Sunrise Christian Food 7pm - Romanian SDA Church 7pm - Trivia Night	9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Screwtape* 11am - Modern Worship @ 4:30pm - Youth Group	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Pub Theology @ R Vida 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	7pm - Romanian SDA Church	9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
30	31				4	5
8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 11am - Modern Worship @	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice					