



October 2026

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Loving God, One Another, and the Community

In my last newsletter article, in August, I introduced the Seeking in Faith process that we are going to utilize to seek God's mission for the future ministry of Ascension Lutheran Church. This past Sunday I preached about Abram's call to GO! (Genesis 12:1-9) and I encouraged us to prepare to be sent by God as a congregation. Like Abram, we don't know the destination, but also like Abram, we are called to be faithful and faith-filled as we prepare to GO.



The steering committee (Mark Chapman, Kay Emery, Diana Karlson, June Stolan and Pastor Scott) has been meeting together since June. We were excited to have Cheri Hubbs join us for our last meeting, where she offered her expertise and experience with helping organizations and businesses do this type of work. We are grateful to see signs of the Spirit's work amidst our work.

The first public event in our Seeking in Faith process will be our combined All Saints Day worship service on November 1, 2026 at 10:00am. That's right, there will be ONE worship service that Sunday. Following the worship service, we will gather for a reception to acknowledge and celebrate the faith of those who gave so much to bring us to this point in our ministry. A small committee (Mary Jo Edmondson, Helena Fisk, Heidi Samudio) is preparing a presentation of our history so that we can learn and give thanks for the faithful work of those who have brought us to this time and place. Please plan to join us.

Following the historical kick-off event, we will conduct a congregational survey to hear from you about where we are as a congregation. This information will guide our conversations about where God is calling us to GO next.

In January, you will be invited to participate in an off-site retreat, focused upon the Holy Spirit. In August, we had three worship services focused upon different spiritual practices. At this retreat, we will engage in different practices to seek the Spirit. We will practice these listening exercises to prepare us to seek and listen to the Spirit throughout our lives and during this discernment process. We will NOT be discussing next steps for ministry at the retreat but will be engaging in spiritual practices that will aid us in future discernment.

In the meantime, I would ask you to continue to keep this work in your prayers. As I did in August, I am including a prayer that you might find helpful.

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 Chapman, 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

The makeover of luthchurch.org is almost done! The new look is live and running, so go check it out!

When most people think of "church", what they picture is a worship service. Thanks to all those who make each of our worship services happen - assisting ministers, lectors, stream team, musicians, ushers, Communion servers, acolytes, preachers, presiders, worshipers, and anyone else I may have forgotten! We're always welcoming new ministry partners, especially on the stream team. Training is available for all areas of service! As our council president Terri says, "If I can do it, anyone can do it!" My church in Laramie once had kindergarteners serve as ushers, and they did a fantastic job! Students - if you need service hours for school, talk to me and we'll find a place for you to serve.

I'll see you all in worship, both on site and online!

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

President's Ponderings

Our new women's bible study is a five-week course, each session focusing on one bold woman from the bible. Aside from Mary, all are women we meet in the Old Testament. Five women from the class will each facilitate one session; I've been getting to know Abigail, described as "Bold & Humble", in order to facilitate the third session. She certainly knew how to "read the room" and act accordingly. Abigail's story emphasizes wisdom under pressure, diplomacy, and faith. These are traits that I'd like to strengthen in my life. My mantra for 2027 is "Progress Over Perfection", which I'll pursue in both my spiritual and physical journeys.

Not every situation needs a reaction. Sometimes the wisest thing you can do is pause, pray, and choose your words carefully. Abigail could have made the situation worse, but she chose wisdom instead of anger. Her story reminds us that how we respond matters. May God give us that kind of wisdom too.

Grace & Peace,
Terri

Abigail **didn't** respond to conflict with more conflict.

She chose wisdom when anger could
have taken over.

Her discernment stepped into a moment
that could have ended in destruction and
changed the outcome.

Sometimes **God protects you** not by
removing the conflict, but by giving you
the wisdom to respond differently.

1 Samuel 25:23-33

-mar coronado

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026

Don't forget to wear red!



Loving God, One Another, and the Community

As we enter the fourth quarter of 2026 we have many activities to look forward to. These may be found in the “Save the Date” section of the newsletter. Not yet scheduled is the annual Christmas Concert by our friends at the Sacramento Valley Concert Choir. (Our own Brian Peterson has recently joined their ranks.)

We’re excited about the “buzz” as we continue to get to know each other better. Please let staff or Council know of any activities you’d like to pursue and we’ll be happy to help you put together a team to make it happen.

2027

January

6th Epiphany

TBD Seeking in Faith Retreat

February

9th Shrove Tuesday

10th Ash Wednesday/Lenten Activities

21st Congregational Meeting

March

21st Palm Sunday/Holy Week

28th Easter

May

TBD Sacramento Valley Concert Choir

August

3rd National Night Out

September

12th Fall Kick-Off

October

8th Oktoberfest

November

23rd Thanksgiving Eve Eve – at Ascension

25th Thanksgiving Day

28th Advent begins

TBD Budget Meeting

December

24th Christmas Eve

25th Christmas Day

TBD Sacramento Valley Concert Choir



Lutherans are imperfect, but we know we are loved and forgiven. We come from different backgrounds and identify in different ways, with a commonality in our conviction that our unconditionally loving Creator and Redeemer offers us mercy, forgiveness, an eternal life as a free gift - we call it God's grace.

We love Jesus, and we remember he told us to love ourselves, our neighbors, and our God.

We trust that the Holy Spirit is always at work within and around us, guiding us into joyfully expressing that love through service, justice, and worship.

We try to be welcoming,
and we like to think our catch phrase is kinda cool:
God's work. Our hands.

Quarterly Men's/Women's Breakfasts

5th Friday Fun in January, April, July, October (Fall Fun Fest) and December (New Year's Eve)

5th Sunday – One Worship Service at 10am – in January, May (Memorial Day BBQ), August (Sundae Sunday) and October (Reformation)

Loving God, One Another, and the Community

Union Gospel Mission

Fifteen bags of clothes were delivered to the Union Gospel Mission. In Sacramento. They are in need of blankets, coats, disposable razors, and new underwear for their clients.



All Saints Day

Sunday, Nov. 1 - 10 am

Combined
worship service

Reception following

Seeking in **FAITH**

SCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION
DISCERNMENT

Together we will recognize those who have come before us and have brought us to this place in our 65 year history

Treasurer Report

Looking Ahead to the 2027 Budget

In the next month or so, Council and the Finance Committee will be planning the budget for 2027. Among topics, we'll need to forecast our offerings for the year to ensure we are running a fiscally sound "ship". That leads me to the topic of Stewardship – our giving of time, talent and resources. It's even more important than ever.

How Much to Give?

Most churches have annual pledge drives, with pledge cards and pulpit exhortations. We haven't found the cards useful, so we discontinued them some years back. But we still owe it to God to think and pray about our current level of giving. It's easy to get into a giving habit and stick to it over the years. But with time, these offerings can't keep pace with inflation or our own financial circumstances. Pastor's recent series of sermons on Stewardship encouraged us to trust that God will provide for us if we give past our comfort zone. In return, our support provides for God's work through the saints of Ascension Lutheran. In short, please prayerfully consider increasing your offerings in 2027. With inflation going up, and membership declining again in 2026, it's vital for everyone to be as generous as possible in their giving plans/pledges/promises.

Budget Calendar Countdown

This year, we'll provide copies of the 2027 budget on November 8, a full two weeks before we vote to approve it in the November 22 congregational meeting. I'll also lead a meeting that day which I'm calling Budget 101. We'll look at the budget to help the uninitiated understand the big picture on how to "read" the spreadsheet. On November 15th, we'll follow that up with a formal Q&A in the Sanctuary, as we have in years past.

Numbers!

August numbers showed us falling behind on offerings, which were below our expenses for the month (\$34,834 vs expenses of \$39,355). Fortunately, on an annual basis, our expenses are below budget as of month end (\$314,961 vs budgeted \$341,555).

Remember, if you would like a full accounting of our finances, I am happy to provide the complete spreadsheet to you on request - booksbygreg@yahoo.com or phone/text at 213-880-2448.

 SACRAMENTO LOAVES & FISHES  Twice a month! *1st Wednesday *2nd Friday	Wednesday, October 7 Meet at church at 10 am to carpool	Friday, October 9
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Council Corner

Dear Christians,

Be mindful of the words you speak—especially within the Church. A single piece of gossip can damage what took years of prayer, fellowship, sacrifice, and ministry to build. The enemy does not always attack the Church through obvious opposition. Sometimes division begins quietly—with a conversation that sounds harmless, a rumor disguised as “concern,” or information shared under the excuse of “I’m just telling you.”

But remember:

A whisper can separate friends. A rumor can destroy trust. Careless words can break someone's heart.

Gossip can discourage someone who is still learning to walk in faith. We cannot praise God with our lips and then use those same lips to tear down His people. Our Christianity is not only demonstrated by how we worship inside the sanctuary. It is also demonstrated by how we speak about people when they are not around. Not every wound in the Church comes from outside. Sometimes the deepest wounds are caused by people sitting in the same sanctuary, singing the same songs, hearing the same Word, and calling upon the same Lord. Before you speak about someone, stop and ask yourself: “Will my words help this person heal, or will they cause more harm?” If you genuinely care about someone, pray for them before talking about them.

If you have a concern, speak to them with love instead of speaking about them behind their back.

The Church should be a place where broken people find grace, restoration, forgiveness, encouragement, and hope—not a place where reputations are quietly destroyed by careless conversations.

James 3:5–6 reminds us that the tongue, though small, can cause enormous damage, just like a small fire can set a great forest ablaze.

Never underestimate the power of your words. You may forget what you said, but someone else may carry those words in their heart for years. So, choose your words carefully.

Speak life.

Speak truth with love.

Speak grace.

Speak encouragement.

Speak words that heal—not words that destroy.

And when you are tempted to spread something about another person, remember:

If it doesn't need to be said, don't say it. If it isn't yours to tell, don't tell it. If it will only hurt someone, don't spread it. Pray instead. Protect the unity of the Church. Protect the hearts of your brothers and sisters. Protect your testimony. Because sometimes, one careless conversation can destroy what many faithful people spent years building.

“And the tongue is a fire...” — James 3:6. Let your tongue be a tool for God's glory, not a weapon against His people.



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.

Food Pantry: This is our sixth month to request the need for one food closet item. This month will be for Small Jams and Jellies and Small Peanut Butter. We continue to hand out approximately 80 bags of food each month with approximately \$25.00+ of food in each bag. So, in addition to your regular food donations, please add Small Jams and Jellies and Small Peanut Butter to your list in October. Your contribution helps us help others. Important – please no more paper bags at this time, we will advise when we start running short. If you have any of the plastic bags you are willing to part with, we will gladly take them.

Aspire – They were here on October 3rd, if you missed this time, I am so sorry. Hopefully they will be back in the area in the near future.

Mariposa School shoe drive is over, and I just want to say Thank You, Thank you, Thank you. We delivered 36 pairs of shoes, 40 beanies, 41 pairs of gloves, 16 scarfs and 40 pairs of socks. 4 boxes, 1 paper bag and 1 plastic bag.

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, October 19th , please join us in C-1 at 4 PM.



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, October 17 - 8:30 am
Pacific Street Cafe - Roseville

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, October 16th

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 **October** are the 7th and 9th. 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 October 25th

SAVE THE DATE!

CITRUS HEIGHTS HART PRESENTS ELENA'S kitchen & catering

Spaghetti Fest FUNDRAISER

Friday, October 23, 2026
Doors Open: 5pm | Dinner: 6:30pm

Citrus Heights Event Center
6300 FOUNTAIN SQUARE DR., CITRUS HEIGHTS

\$30 EARLY BIRD TICKETS (UP TO SEPT 13TH) **\$35** SINGLE TICKETS (AFTER SEPT 13TH)

DINNER INCLUDES: SPAGHETTI, MEATBALLS, SALAD, GARLIC BREAD & DESSERT
CASH BAR FOR: BEER, WINE & NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

Raffles • Silent Auction • Live Music

COME CELEBRATE OUR 10 Year Anniversary

Purchase Tickets

Tables can be purchased for 8, 9, or 10 people. Please send us an email with your guest list.

Tickets MUST be purchased by October 15th

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MIKHAILA AT CITRUSHEIGHTSHART@GMAIL.COM

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

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

October 22nd 6-8 pm
R Vida Cantina
7040 Sunrise Blvd
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Contact Mark Chapman
for details

Save the Dates



October

3 Aspire Women's event
7 Loaves & Fishes
9 Loaves & Fishes
10 Learn to Cross Stitch
11 Family Support Group
12 Columbus Day, office open
13 Council Meeting
16 Sunrise Christian Food Ministry
17 Men's Breakfast @ Pacific Street Cafe
19 WELCA meeting
22 Pub Theology
23 HART Spaghetti Dinner
25 Blessing Bag Assembly
25 G1 Annual Halloween Party
30 Fifth Friday Fall Fun Fest

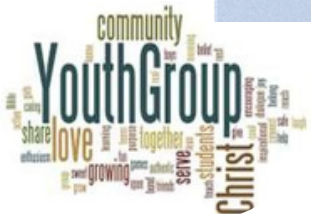
November

1 Combined Worship Service
24 Thanksgiving Eve Eve w/ CTK

December

6 Blue Christmas Service
14 SVCC Holiday Concert

Youth Group Schedule



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



October 4th - Confirmation 12:15pm - 1:30pm
- Youth Group 12:30pm - 2:30pm

October 11th - No Youth

October 18th - Confirmation 12:15pm - 1:30pm
- Youth Group 12:30pm - 2:30pm

October 25th - Annual Halloween Party 4:30pm - 7:00pm

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	7pm - Romanian SDA Church	9am - Grief Group @ 9:30am - Romanian SDA 5pm - WELCA Aspire event 6pm - MOVED - NA Meeting 6:30pm - MOVED - Romanian
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Kid's Sunday School 9:45am - Women 9:45am - Women's Bible 11am - Modern Worship @	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Finance Committee	10am - Loaves & Fishes 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	10am - Loaves & Fishes 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	9am - Grief Group @ 9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Learn to Cross-stitch 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Kid's Sunday School 9:45am - Women 9:45am - Women's Bible	Columbus Day 2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope Quilters @ 6:30pm - Council @ C-1	6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	9am - Sunrise Christian Food 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	Not-So-Cruisers Howl-O 8:30am - Men's Breakfast @ 9am - Grief Group @ 9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Kid's Sunday School 9:45am - Women 9:45am - Women's Bible 11am - Modern Worship @	2pm - Craig Brewick 4pm - WELCA Meeting 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	5pm - HART Spaghetti Dinner 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	9am - Grief Group @ 9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 11am - Mary Jones' Service 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Blessing Bags Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Kid's Sunday School 9:45am - Women	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	2pm - Craig Counseling	6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	Fifth Friday Fall Fun Fest 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	Halloween 9am - Grief Group @ 9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA