ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.



November 2026

7607 Garden Gate Drive
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Loving God, One Another, and the Community

God's Plans for Us!

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

The prophet Jeremiah shared these words with the Israelites during their exile in Babylon. If anybody had a reason to wonder if God had a plan for them, it was the Israelites. They had been conquered by the Babylonians and many of them were taken out of their homes and relocated to another region. Not by choice, but because Jerusalem had fallen to Babylon. During their time of exile Jeremiah assures them that God has a plan for them. A plan for their welfare, not for harm; to give them a future with hope. The plan was not that they would all return to Jerusalem, even though they might have wanted it to be. The plan was for their welfare and to give them a future with hope.

This is the time of year each year when we approve our Ministry Budget for the coming year. As we reflect upon the current year and previous years, we wonder, we worry about what the future might hold. AND we worry whether God will provide for that future. The answer is YES. God will provide for the future that God has planned for us. A future for our welfare, not our harm, to give us a hope. However, that future may not be what we have in mind. It is essential that we include God, through prayer, reflection and discussion, in our planning for the future. Because God will give us what we need for the future that God has planned for us, but we need to align our plans with God's.

To do so requires us to listen. Listen to God through prayer, and Scripture and even through the words of the modern-day prophets that we worship with each Sunday. That's right, sometimes God will speak to us through each other, through our sisters and brothers who have been in prayer and heard God's voice. If we aren't attentively listening for God to speak, we might conclude that God hasn't spoken and miss out on the plan, and the provision that God has for us.

As you receive and review the Ministry Budget for 2027, I encourage you to pray about it. Discuss it with each other and listen for what God has planned for us in 2027 and beyond. This prayerful listening will be at the heart of our Seeking in Faith Discernment Process, so we might as well begin to practice doing so together.



And let us not forget to give thanks to God for guiding and providing for us this far!

Pastor Scott

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I spend most of my driving time listening to Apple Music. Their algorithms serve up songs based on songs I've listened to a lot, saved to my favorites, or artists I've favorited as well. Sure, I'll see some real stinkers come up in those suggestions, but every once in a while, Apple Music suggests some real gems - For All the Saints by RYM Worship, Broken Body of Christ by The Many, and Salt and Light by Rend Collective. I'll also be reacquainted with some old chestnuts that I'd nearly forgotten about, like For Those Tears I Died and Kids of the Kingdom that I learned back in Sunday School at First Lutheran in Barron, Wisconsin.

It's amazing how music has the power to instantly transport us to a place and a point in time. Each of us probably has a favorite hymn that does that. For me, it's Lift High the Cross, which takes me to leading Sunday morning worship with Bible camp staffers in our member congregations. St. Augustine of Hippo said, "Qui bene cantat bis orat" - "He who sings well prays twice". I hope that each of you can find a deeper connection with God through music!





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Thank you to the Nor Cal Cruisers Car Club for your support of Ascension's food pantry! Exhibitors at their recent car show contributed 3 FULL carts of food plus some cash to buy more groceries for our food pantry.

Budget 101 - Understanding Our Budget
Sunday 11/8 - 9:45 am
In the fellowship hall

Congregational Budget Meeting
Sunday 11/15 - 9:45 am
In the fellowship hall



Congregational Meeting

Sunday 11/22 - 9:45 am

In the sanctuary



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Congregational Survey

Dear Ascension Community,

Who are we as a congregation today, and where might God be calling us in the future? We want to hear from you!

Whether you have attended once or have attended many times, we invite you to participate in the **Ascension Congregation Survey**, an opportunity to share your thoughts, experiences, and hopes for our church community.

The survey takes approximately 15–20 minutes to complete and is anonymous. Please set aside some time to thoughtfully and prayerfully share your perspective. **We encourage every adult in your household to complete their own survey** so that every voice and perspective can be heard. A separate youth survey will be available soon so that we can include their thoughts as well.

A link to the survey will be emailed to you on Tuesday, November 3.

Your responses will help guide our upcoming small-group discussions as we thoughtfully and prayerfully discern, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, where God may be leading Ascension. The survey results alone will not determine our future; they will help guide our conversations as we listen and discern together.

Thank you for sharing your perspective and being part of this important journey!

With gratitude,

Your Planning Team

Oakwood Meadows Holiday Sing-Along

Hi! To anyone who likes to sing and/or would like to spread some cheer to the residents of Oakwood Meadows Assisted Living here in Citrus Heights. I'm hoping we can get a group together to go there on either a Saturday or Sunday afternoon in December, to share our love and voices with the residents. And maybe some treats as well :)
If you are interested in participating in this outreach opportunity, please let me know so an exact day and time can be set and planning can begin.

Thank you,
Doreen Nichols







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.
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

Quarterly Men’s/Women’s Breakfasts
5th Friday Fun in January, April, July, October (Fall Fun Fest) and December (New Year’s Eve)
5**th Sunday** – One Worship Service at 10am – in January, May (Memorial Day BBQ), August (Sundae Sunday) and October (Reformation)

HART Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Thank you to all who purchased tickets for HART's Annual Fundraiser. Ascension had 54 members and guests attend the dinner. HART also wants to thank those who donated money even though they were not able to attend. The funds from this event support HART's programs which include Winter Sanctuary, Citrus Heights Navigators (work with the homeless), Student Support and Rental Assistance.

Union Gospel Mission

We delivered new blankets and gently used clothes donated by Ascension members to the Union Gospel Mission in Sacramento. The Mission is in need of warm blankets, disposable razors and new underwear in addition to clothes for both men and women. If you have gently used clothes appropriate for this season, please deposit them in the Wind Bin behind the Food Pantry. If you have a large quantity of clothes or books, please contact Rich Peterson to arrange a pickup at your home.



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WELCA continues with our mission to
Love God, One Another, and the Community.

Women of the ELCA

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

Food Pantry: This month we are asking for cereal as well as items for holiday meals (stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, green beans, and canned yams). 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 cereal and items for holiday meals to be added to your list in November and December. Your contribution helps us to help others.

Important – If you have any plastic bags you are willing to part with, we will gladly take them.

Aspire – They were here on October 3rd, if you missed it this time, I am so sorry. Hopefully they will be back in the area in the near future. Here are a few pictures from the event: on the left is Mia Koehne (singer & Co-Founder of Aspire Women's Events) with Amberly Neese (Comedian). The center picture is the church filled with women attending that night and on the right is Barb Roose (Teacher). There will be a Bible study with one of her books called "Stronger than Stress" coming soon.







Our holiday gift giving is coming this month, please check the tree in the narthex. We will be helping young ladies at Taylor House and children from Acres of Hope as well as a gift card for the mothers.

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, November 16th.** Please join us in C-1 at 4 PM.

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Opportunities to Serve in the Community

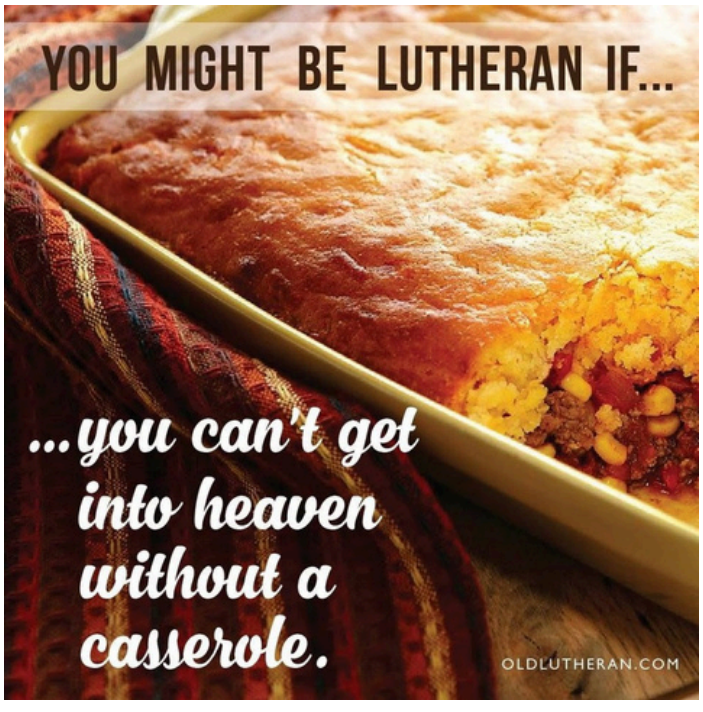
Ascension members volunteer at Sunrise Christian Food Ministry to pack bags of produce and deliver bags of food to client's cars.
The next time we will be at Sunrise is
Friday, November 20th
Call Betty Alvord if you're interested in volunteering.
(916) 926-2067 or bettyalvord7@gmail.com.



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 **November** are the **4th** and **13th**. 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 **November 29th**



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 Bags	Raisins
Water	Snack Bars
Juice	Crackers
Peaches	Cookies
Applesauce	Spoons
Treats	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

We are taking a break for November and December. Pub Theology will resume in January 2027.

Save the Dates

Take Note

November

1 Combined Worship Service
4 Loaves & Fishes
7 David Dallmann Memorial Service
10 Council Meeting
11 Veteran's Day - *Office Closed*
13 Loaves & Fishes
15 Family Support Group
15 Budget Informational Meeting
16 WELCA Meeting
19 Pub Theology
20 Sunrise Christian Food Ministry
22 Congregational Meeting - Budget
24 Thanksgiving Eve Eve @ CTK-OV
26 Thanksgiving Day - *Office Closed*

December

6 Blue Christmas Service
11 Trivia Night
15 SVCC Holiday Concert

January 2027

16 Men's Breakfast

Youth Group Schedule



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

November 1st. - Confirmation 11:30pm - 12:30pm

November 8th. - Holiday Cooking Lessons 12:00pm - 2:00pm

November 15th. - Confirmation 12:15pm - 1:15pm

- Youth Group 12:15pm - 2:30pm

November 22nd - Friendsgiving 4:30pm - 7:00pm

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time ends 8:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 10am - Combined Worship 11:30am - Confirmation @	2 2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	3 Election Day 10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Finance Committee	4 10am - Loaves & Fishes 5:30pm - All Comers Choir 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	5 2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	6 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	7 9am - Grief Group @ 9:30am - Romanian SDA 11am - David Dallmann 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
8 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Kid's Sunday School 9:45am - Women 11am - Modern Worship @	9 2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	10 10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope Quilters @ 6:30pm - Council @ C-1	11 Office closed Veterans Day 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	12 2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	13 10am - Loaves & Fishes 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	14 9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
15 8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Budget 9:45am - Kid's Sunday School 9:45am - Women 9:45am - Women's Bible	16 2pm - Craig Brewick 4pm - WELCA Meeting 6pm - Sacramental Practice	17 10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	18 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	19 2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Pub Theology @ R Vida 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	20 9am - Sunrise Christian Food 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	21 9:30am - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
22 Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship @ 9:30am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Band Rehearsal @ 9:45am - Congregational 9:45am - Kid's Sunday School 9:45am - Women	23 2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	24 10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Thanksgiving Eve Eve 8pm - Thanksgiving Eve Eve	25 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	26 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day 2pm - Craig Brewick 7pm - SLAA Meeting @ C-1	27 Black Friday Office Closed 7pm - Romanian SDA Church	28 9:30am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 6pm - NA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Romanian SDA
29 Blessing Bags 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	30 2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Sacramental Practice	1	2	3	4	5