



THE MESSENGER

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2024

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship - 10:30 AM

Sunday School - 9:30 AM (adult & child)

Drum Class - Tuesdays 5-8 PM Apr-July

NA Meeting - Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

AA Meeting - Saturdays at 10:00 AM

- Mondays at 7:00 PM

Soccer Shots - Tuesday evenings (Spring-Fall)



2024 COUNCIL EXECUTIVES

President – Jeff Williams

Vice President – Jason Eager

Secretary – Thom Kruse

Treasurer – Bob Thompson

2024 COUNCIL LIAISONS

Christian Education

Jason Eager

Communications & Publications

Jason Eager

Finance & Stewardship

Kelly Bryan

Mutual Ministry

Jeff Williams

Personnel

Thom Kruse

Property

Phil Spano

Fellowship, Social Ministry

& Evangelism

Sharon Giza

Worship & Music

Thom Kruse

Youth

(open)

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday November 12 at 7:00 PM

A season of **THANKS** harvest

A message from Interim Pastor Clagg

Dear friends in Christ,

The cornucopia, horn of abundance, is oftentimes a centerpiece for the season of harvest and thanksgiving. We are grateful to God, for the blessings being given to us. Individuals, families, churches, and nations are being given blessings by God's mercies.

When the season changes from plentiful to scarce, and life doesn't happen according to my plans ... When my resources are not what they once were ... When my cup seems far from overflowing. This symbol of God's abundance overflowing in my life can seem detached from my reality.

Paul, in 2 Corinthians mentions the pain and grief of being a follower of Jesus Christ. Christians being hunted, persecuted, and treated very unfairly, because they publicly demonstrated faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Raise us, your church today dear Father, with your Son our Lord, Jesus Christ. Raise us from doubt, want, and failure. Raise us from despair, grief, and complacency.

Jesus, your resurrection is for our benefit to see with our eyes of faith the abundance, nourishment, and blessings overflowing to and through us, now and always.

The Abundance of our Lord be with you all!

Pastor Gregory Clagg

2 Corinthians 4:15
All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.



*Pastor Clagg also serves
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Rochester, Pa.*

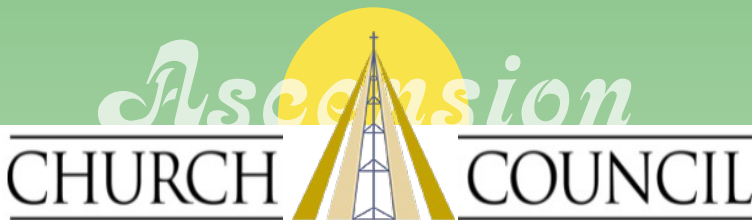
Mount Calvary Cemetery

1715 Middletown Road
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Robert J. Dudek, Supervisor
mtcalvarycem@alcpgh.com



Mount Calvary Cemetery Board

Judy Henry Bob Hughes Bette Ann Kallay
Joyce Leister George C Kasich Jason Eager



ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council meeting was held Tuesday October 1, 2024

Call to order: 6:57pm Attendance: All except Jeff & Kelly
October devotion: Thom. Sept. minutes reviewed/approved.
Old Business: AED update: new unit ordered.
e-Sign update: ordering, early payment w/discount
Campaign collections finished at end of October.
New Business: Council Nominations in October; Elections in November; Congregational Meeting in December.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education, Jason: Adults meet weekly, Kids program still needs help.
Fellowship, Social Ministry & Evangelism, Sharon: outdoor campfire Oct. 12; Oct. Vets clothing drive.
Property, Phil S: working on new rope lights for outdoor cross.
Personnel, Thom: personnel reviews forthcoming.
Youth: Pumpkins & Pancakes 10/27 during Sunday School hour.
Call Committee, Bob: 10/15 at 7pm – Pr. Asplin will train call committee to review candidates. MSP has been submitted and is awaiting approval.

Meeting adjourned 7:58pm

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, November 12 at 7 pm



Council President's CORNER



Happy Fall greetings, Church!

CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee has completed our required Pastor Interview Training, the last step in our process to prepare for our search for new pastoral leadership. This may take a while, per Pastor Asplin, the Bishop's assistant, as the typical search takes 30 months. We hope our new pastor can help us grow closer to Jesus and attract new families looking for a bible-centered church.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR CARE!

I would be remiss if I failed to thank all those again who tirelessly visit our homebound and members in assisted living settings. Our Women's Group will be enhancing those visits with a little surprise soon!

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

A big THANK YOU to all those who keep the church functioning! We all appreciate the countless "behind-the-scenes" things done in service to our congregation. Communion setup and parament color changes are just some examples.

PASTORAL CARE

Remember, our interim pastor Greg Clagg is available if you have a need for prayers or support. If you're an early bird, I highly recommend Pastor Clagg's 8:30am Sunday service at Grace Lutheran in Rochester.

Blessings to all,

Jeff Williams

Ascension Church Council president

• DATES to REMEMBER •

NOVEMBER 2024

Tuesday	05	Election Day
Monday	11	Veterans' Day
Tuesday	12	Council Meeting
Thursday	21	Lunch Bunch
Thursday	28	Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, December 24th - 4:00 p.m.

Help our local food bank! neighbors in need, neighbors indeed.

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

This is the season for THANKS and GIVING. As we prepare for our holiday gatherings, we remember those who may be dependent on the generosity of others. This is why throughout the month of November, we are collecting special items for the Inter-Church Food Bank in McKees Rocks. This year, the ICFB reports that they are well-stocked with Thanksgiving food items, but are in great need of TOILETRY ITEMS such as soap, shampoo, tooth brushes, tooth paste, lotions, shave cream, etc. Our collection will run through Sunday, November 24th.



Please keep in your prayers:

- JoAnne Erwin, Dee Gratzmiller, Mary Honath, Norma Kohnen, Lottie Lodge, Jean Marion, Betty Simpson, Rose Rahner, Betty Borden – *shut-ins*
- Mary Jane McGinnis – *health concerns*
- Cole Powers, son of Amy Reckner's co-worker – *health concerns*
- Bob Thompson – *health concerns*
- Mary Miller, friend of Sharon Giza – *multiple medical issues*
- Janis McKinney, sister of Jeff Williams – *GI surgery*
- Rachel Potts – *36-yr-old mother of 3 with terminal cancer*
- Thad Ritter – *health concerns*
- Nancy Jacobs – *recovering at home*
- Ellie Sturvist, friend of Bette Kallay – *recovering at her daughter's home*
- Frank Gillespie, friend of Amy Reckner – *cancer diagnosis*
- Bill McEwen – *multiple health concerns*
- Deb Whitfield – *recovering from recent surgery*
- Bette Ann Kallay – *recovering at home after hospitalization*



DID YOU KNOW that Ascension Lutheran Church has a Facebook page?

Please follow us and "like" us so that more people will see our posts!

<https://www.facebook.com/alcpgh>

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

Date	Supply	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Lector	Usher	Acolyte	Sunday (or special)	color	Council Update
Nov. 3	Pr. Deb Thompson	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Jerry Wessel	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 24 All Saints	green or white	Jason Eager
Nov. 10	Janice Jeletic	Jerry Wessel	Al Morrow	Melissa DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 25	green	Sharon Giza
Nov. 17	Linda Broman	Jennifer Burkholder	Amy Kruse	Gib Palmgren	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 26	green	Jeff Williams
Nov. 24	Pr. Larry Mort	Jeff Williams	Jerry Wessel	Jeff Williams	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 27 Christ the King	green or white	Bob Thompson
Dec. 01	TBA	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Jason Eager	Volunteer	Volunteer	Advent 1	blue	Phil Spano
Dec. 08	TBA	Jerry Wessel	Amy Kruse	Rich Mussman	Volunteer	Volunteer	Advent 2	blue	Jason Eager
Dec. 15	TBA	Jennifer Burkholder	Bob Dudek	Sharon Giza	Volunteer	Volunteer	Advent 3	blue	Sharon Giza
Dec. 22	TBA	Jeff Williams	Jerry Wessel	Jerry Wessel	Volunteer	Volunteer	Advent 4	blue	Jeff Williams
Dec. 24	TBA	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Gib Palmgren	Volunteer	Volunteer	CHRISTMAS EVE	white	Bob Thompson
Dec. 29	TBA	Jerry Wessel	Al Morrow	Melissa DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	Christmas 1	white	Kelly Bryan

Best Wishes . . .

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- Date | Member / Friend
- 1 Emily Lescallette
Joel Randal
 - 2 Bill McEwen
 - 4 Andrew Burkholder
 - 6 Suzy McEwen
 - 8 Leslie Rickerd
 - 10 Darlene Ganley
 - 18 Bryce Adams
Kayleigh Adams
 - 19 Allison Bayer
 - 22 Kathleen Bowman
 - 23 Dirk Stathers
 - 25 Holden Tomchak
 - 26 Dee Lightner
Gib Palmgren
 - 29 Linda Siemons



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES!

- Date | Members / Friends
- 15 Dave & Deb Walenchok

. . . and Blessings to ALL!

SHARE SOME SNACKS

WITH OUR SHUT-INS!

We are collecting donations of
SNACKS for our shut-ins for
THANKSGIVING.

**Please bring your GOODIES
to church by November 10th.**

**Baskets will be assembled
that day and delivered to our
shut-ins by volunteers. THANKS!**

Lunch Bunch



*A monthly gathering of members and friends of
Ascension Church*

THE YARD in North Fayette awaits Lunch Bunch visit

Last month, Ascension's Lunch Bunch made their annual sojourn to Shakespeare's Castle in Ellwood City. Twelve people attended (they certainly were NOT the "Dirty Dozen" since no drinks were spilled and everyone politely showered prior to attending the event). The Pumpkin Bisque and other menu items were simply great, as was the fine October day, especially the beautiful scenic drive there and back. We even had a private room and surprisingly it wasn't in the dungeon. Once again, if you weren't there in person, you definitely missed out on a really good time! So now here's yet another chance to join in the fun . . .

In just a few short weeks, the Lunch Bunch will try out a new venue. C'mon and set aside **Thursday November 21st** to make a hop, skip and jump over to the Pointe at North Fayette for lunch at THE YARD, located at 670 Chauvet Drive, across the parking lot from Target. We don't quite know if we will be in the front yard, the back yard or the longest yard (always a possibility with us), but we do know that The Yard's menu has a lot of choices and the reviews look very encouraging. SO hey, why not give it a try with us?

If you'd like to attend this Lunch Bunch adventure, please let Nancy Schreiber (412-859-3969) or Jerry Wessel (412-787-1213) know by Tuesday Nov. 19, so that The Yard may prepare sufficient plots for us. We sure do hope to see a "bunch" of you there!

~ Jerry Wessel

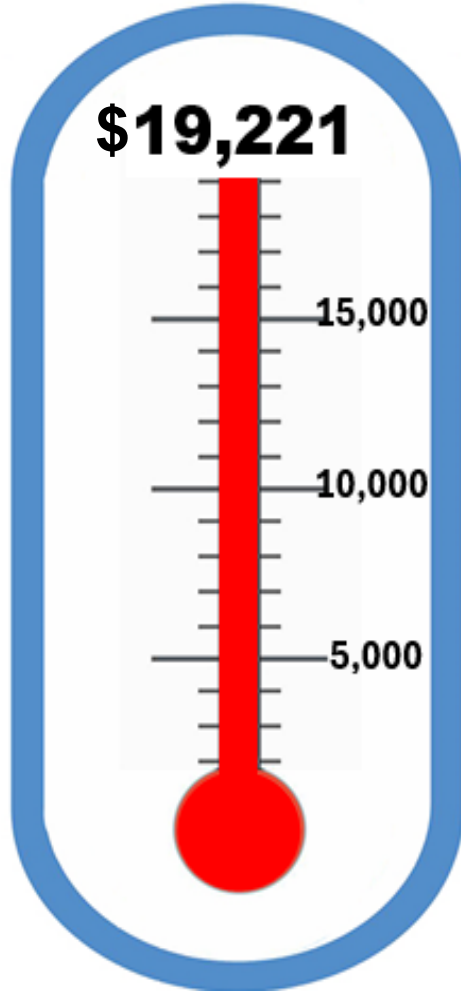
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IT'S A DONE DEAL... THANK YOU, EVERYONE



\$19,221



Thanks to a rush of generous donations during the month of October, we were able to meet the early purchase criteria and qualify for a handsome discount. Thank you everyone for helping us to meet our goal!

A BIG Thank You to ALL Ascension members and friends for helping over the past year to fund this Special Project by directing a portion of your Sunday offering - and in some cases, giving beyond the limits of generosity - to "OTHER" - a.k.a. the "e-Sign" PROJECT!

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous support!

We are now done collecting for this exciting venture, and thanks to YOUR help and support, the new sign has been ordered. We can't wait to see what it looks like!

Happy Thanksgiving! Thursday Nov. 28

**Hello,
Ascension Friends!**

After visiting with old friends and our grandchildren in West Virginia & Virginia, we are off to the Great Smoky Mountains. We miss you all, but are enjoying our trip so far.

God bless,



Cy & Kathleen Howells



**REMEMBER TO
"FALL BACK"
at 2 a.m.
November 3rd
as Daylight
Savings Time
ends!**

THANK YOU ONE & ALL!

The Creative Hands group offers thanks to everyone who pitched in to display the 70+ hand-crafted quilts which were made this year. Thanks to Pastor Gregory Clagg for blessing the quilts and to all who helped to pack them into shipping boxes. The boxes then were taken from the church pews by Mt. Calvary's Bob Dudek and Frank McQuillan who delivered them to the next stop on the way to their final destinations. Thanks, everyone!



A Night Under the Stars!



Please join us for our Annual

Fall CRAFT SHOW

SPONSORED BY THE LADIES GUILD

Saturday, November 9, 2024
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL PARISH
HOLY TRINITY CAMPUS
5720 STEUBENVILLE PIKE, MCKEES ROCKS, PA

Over 70 Crafters and Vendors
Home Decorations
50/50 Chinese
Auction - Bake
Sale and
MUCH MORE!

Free Admission and Parking

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 412-337-3190

Ascension families and friends gathered around the campfire in the cool of the evening on Saturday, October 12 for a night of fellowship, faith and fun.

photos by Sharon Giza

NOVEMBER

LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

November 1 *All Saints Day*

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

November 3 *Martín de Porres, renewer of society, d.1639*

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed black slave from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

November 7 *John Christian Frederick Heyer, d.1873*

Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, d.1719

Ludwig Nommensen, d.1918 missionaries

Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans. After teaching at Gettysburg College and Seminary he was assigned to the Andhra region of India. A worker among the Tamil people on the southeast coast of India, **Ziegenbalg** was opposed both by local Hindus and by Danish authorities. He was known for caring about the welfare of the whole person. **Nommensen** was born in northern Germany and was sent to Sumatra as a Lutheran missionary. Working among the Batak people, he translated the scriptures into their language and honored their native culture.

November 11 *Martin, Bishop of Tours, d.397*

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

November 11 *Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, d.1855*

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

November 17 *Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, d.1231*

Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

November 23 *Clement, Bishop of Rome, d.ca.100*

Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

November 23 *Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, d.1927*

Pro grew up among oppression in Mexico, where revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the rich. He was a Jesuit priest who served during a time of intense anticlericalism, and therefore carried out much of his ministry in private settings, working on behalf of the poor and homeless. Miguel and his two brothers were arrested, falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official's car and executed by firing squad. Just before the guns fired, he yelled, "¡Viva Cristo Rey!" meaning "Long live Christ the King!"

November 24 *Justus Falckner, d.1723*

Jehu Jones, d.1852; William Passavant, d.1894

pastors in North America

Not only was **Falckner** the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he also published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. **Jones** was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William **Passavant** created and nurtured a new level of organized social ministry in western Pennsylvania, now known as Lutheran Services in America. Passavant and his legacy sought to serve the poorest of the poor, providing shelter, medical, and living assistance.

November 25 *Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, d.1748*

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Isaac Watts was born in England to a family of nonconformists. He wrote about six hundred hymns, many in a two-year period beginning when he was twenty years old. Some of Watts's hymns are based on psalms, a nonconformist tradition. Ten of Watts's hymn texts are in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, including "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

November 30 *Andrew, Apostle*

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.



*To be Christ's Disciples,
nurture our faith, serve God,
welcome our neighbors,
and joyfully share in His love.*

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

