

THE MESSENGER

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2024

WEEKLY CAMPUS EVENTS

- Sunday Worship - 10:30 AM
- Sunday School - 9:30 AM (adult & child)
- Drum Class - Mondays 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 - Saturday mornings &
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
John Bielewicz
- Mutual Ministry
Jeff Williams
- Personnel
John Bielewicz, Thom Kruse
- Property
Phil Spano
- Fellowship, Social Ministry
& Evangelism
Sharon Giza
- Worship & Music
Thom Kruse
- Youth
(open)

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday April 9 at 7:00 PM

Bishop Eaton's Easter Message



“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid.”

That's where the Gospel of Mark originally ended. And it just seems so odd to me. It's so abrupt. I mean, the women had seen the angel. He'd announced that Jesus was raised from the dead, and then he tells them all this good news and wants them to go on their way. And they just are not going to say a single word.

There are three words in that passage that really stand out for me, especially in the Greek. One is fear — *phobos*. We get phobia from that. The other one is amazement — *ekstasis*. We get ecstasy from that. And the other one has to do with being seized. It actually means “being possessed.” So we take a look at these women, and they've had this miraculous appearance by an angel. They've heard the good news that Jesus has raised from the dead, and they're too afraid to do anything about it, and they just are going to be silent. It seems that nothing changed. They came to take care of Jesus' dead body because on the Sabbath they could not work. But on the first day of the week, they were there. They have this announcement, and then it's all the same.

Sometimes I think we feel like nothing's changed. Sometimes I think that the events in our country, in our church, around the world are just so terrifying and so overwhelming that it seems like the Resurrection really didn't make a difference. But these three words really say something about the women, and I think about us and, most especially, about Easter. When they said that they were filled with amazement — this is this ecstasy, *ekstasis* — they were really standing. It means literally standing in a different place. So though they were still in the tomb and they hadn't reacted yet, nevertheless, everything had changed. And because of the Resurrection, we, all of us, are standing in a different place. The whole of creation is standing in a different place. And the word for fear, *phobos*, phobia we get from that. But it's really a sense of trembling in the presence of God, of awe that they were actually filled with awe — not paralyzed by fear but filled with awe. And I hope this Eastertide and all year round, we have a sense of the presence of God that fills us with awe.

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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
Jason Eager • George C Kasich • Joyce Leister

CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

10:00 am SATURDAY APRIL 6
CEMETERY CHAPEL

New paintings installed

Our two new paintings - one of Christ the Good Shepherd and the other of The Ascension - were installed on Easter Sunday March 31, 2024.

Created by artist Pr. Scott Bryte, both artworks are intended to commemorate our 2021 merger and to memorialize those who now rest in the Kingdom. It is our continued hope that these paintings will celebrate our story and be a testament to what God has done in our lives.



Bishop Eaton's Easter Message *(continued from pg 1)*

And it also says that they were seized with fear. Well, the word means “possessed.” And yes, we believe that in baptism because of the resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and we now are all Spirit-possessed.

When things seem to be staying the same, when things seem to be happening and coming at us so quickly, I think it's very important to take time to be a little amazed, to be standing in a different place, to have a sense of this awe and trembling before the Lord, and to allow ourselves to be possessed by the Spirit, who will give us power and courage in these times.

My favorite hymn is “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song.” It's ELW 808. And the last verse goes like this: “I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey; but courage will come with the sound of his steps by my side. And with all of the family Jesus saved by his love, we'll sing to his dawn at the end of our journey.”

Be well, dear church. Happy Easter!



Rev. Elizabeth Eaton is the ELCA's fourth presiding bishop. First elected at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, she was reelected to serve a second six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

LIBRARY

PJ's LITTLE FREE



Thanks to Phil Spano and installation crew for giving the Little Free Library some legs! It's ready for some give & take so check it out soon!

Social Ministry & Evangelism

S.A.L.T. - Serving As Lutherans Together

APRIL

- April 20: Church/roadway spring clean up
- April 21: Autism awareness talk

MAY

- Veterans clothing collection

JUNE

Please mark your calendars for the
YARD SALE on June 8, 2024!

If anyone has any connections for good community advertising, please let the SALT committee know. (Also, feel free to post this event on community groups/forums on our behalf!) SALT member Jamie Cropper is looking into getting a sign made to hang over Silver Lane that can be used for future years.

Upcoming SALT meetings for 2024:

- April 28 •July 21 •Sept 22

Please reach out to Sharon Giza (Fellowship, Social Ministry & Evangelism liaison) to join these essential efforts in the life of our church.



Time for **Spring Clean-Up!**

SATURDAY APRIL 20th at NOON

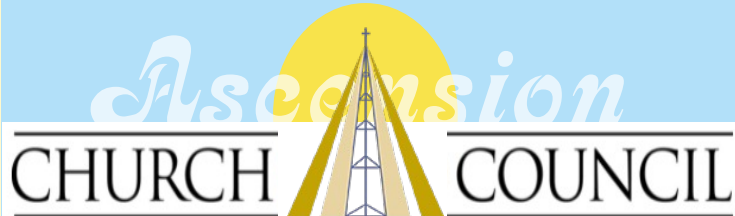
Help needed for polishing up the church inside and sprucing up outside! Drop in for a little or come at noon and stay til we're done. Just be ready to dig in and make our church shine!

THANK YOU for making GIVING a part of your Lenten journey!

A HUGE thank-you for your donations of toiletry items and paper products given during Lent to the

Inter-Church Food Bank in McKees Rocks.

All items were delivered Monday March 25. Coordinator Donna Pollard always expresses her sincere gratitude to Ascension Church for our continued support. She related that 120 families (approximately 250 persons) are serviced twice a month at this location, whose outreach includes McKees Rocks, and the townships of Stowe, Kennedy and Robinson.



ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council meeting was held Tuesday March 12, 2024

- **Call to order:** Jeff W. called to order 7:02 pm
- **Secretary:** Thom Kruse - Motion by Thom to create a committee to explore options to hire a pastor outside the ELCA and partner with other Lutheran church networks, second by Jason. Five Yes, One No, One Abstain. Motion passes.
- **Fellowship, Social Ministry & Evangelism:**
 - We had a successful welcome event for the Bishop and new members last week.
 - Motion to mount the [Ascension and Good Shepherd] paintings in the front of the church by Jeff, Jason second. Passed Unanimously.
- **Worship & Music:** Two new choir members!
- **Personnel:** Annual review process discussed
- **Important dates:**
 - April 9th – Next Meeting
- **Adjournment:** Motion by Thom, second by Phil. 8:50 pm.

Stay c-o-n-n-e-c-t-e-d and join the **PRAYER CHAIN!**

If interested, please contact
Amy Kruse 412-398-6588
or Debbie Williams 412-445-9197

**TWO Ascension Church reps needed
to attend the 2024**

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Friday-Saturday June 14-15

Cal. U / PennWest - California, PA

Interested? See Jeff Williams or any Council member.

Best Wishes . . .

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

Date | Member/Friend

- 5 Dee Gratzmiller
- 6 Karen Houseman
- 7 Judy Bryan
Jennifer Palmgren
- 8 Leo Rickerd
- 12 Christopher Paladino
- 15 Samantha Siemons
- 19 Kristin Bryan
- 23 Mike Lescallete
- 27 Julia Wessel
- 30 Mary Ann Groskova



APRIL ANNIVERSARY!

Date | Members/Friends
7 Leo & Leslie Rickerd

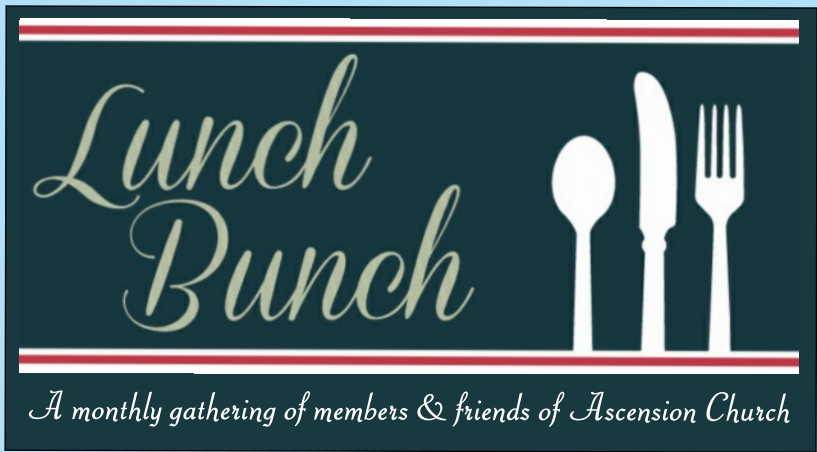


. . . and Blessings to ALL!

APRIL is AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH!

An upcoming Autism Awareness event is happening on Sunday, April 21st at Ascension Church. **Jacob Lescallete** will share his journey with autism during worship, and an informal reception will follow worship with updated information, giveaways, treats, and an opportunity to donate to

Autism Speaks, an organization dedicated to promoting solutions across the spectrum and throughout the life span. Pittsburgh's **Autism Speaks Walk** is scheduled for Fall 2024.



Join Ascension's LUNCH BUNCH April 18

In March, eighteen Ascension Lunch Bunchers visited Jabby Joe's next to the Fleming Park Bridge on route 51 in McKees Rocks for lunch. There was definitely a lot of jabbering and the food was excellent, as was the weather. If you missed it, you missed an enjoyable and very filling time.

Now, here's your opportunity to fill up at a NEW venue ... On April 18, the Lunch Bunch will travel to Frank G's place, 500 Market Street, Beaver PA. (The place actually is in Bridgewater next to the river). Although the name "Frankie's" may lead some to imagine a guy from the New York Mafia, we have been assured that the owner is from a Pittsburgh area family! Attire is casual, however, carrying in a violin case and wearing a fedora is discouraged, unless you want to sleep with the fishes in the Beaver River rather than *eating* fish for lunch. As is our custom, we will meet at the restaurant at 11:30 AM and ask that you let Jerry Wessel 412-787-1213 or Nancy Schreiber 412-859-3969 know by Tuesday, April 16 if you plan to attend so that enough places can be reserved. If your calendar is empty on April 19, give it a try!

~ Jerry Wessel



Registration for the **LUTHERLYN** summer of 2024 is now open!

Campships are available for all who wish to participate but need assistance.

Call 724-865-2161 or email registrar@lutherlyn.com for a campship application. Brochures & info available in the narthex or visit <https://www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp/>

Eventful Days!

Bishop Kusserow's Visit (3/10), Easter Sunday (3/31) were March 2024 events to remember!





Easter Sunday worship 2024
with Pastor Peter Asplin



Young Ascension members on
the hunt for Easter eggs!

Temperature's still on the rise . . .

We're still nearing that half-way mark to our goal... keep that temp on the rise! 😊

22,000
OUR GOAL!

20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000

\$9,880
as of
03/31/24

You can greatly help to fund this new Special Project by directing a portion of your Sunday offering to "OTHER" on your giving envelope or write "e-Sign" on your pew envelope offering.

Thank you for your support!

Ascension Church
YARD SALE
SATURDAY JUNE 8, 2024
8:00 AM to NOON

Bake Sale and refreshments also available!

- ◆ \$10 per area (approx 10'x10')
- ◆ You keep all of the \$\$\$ from what you sell!
- ◆ We provide the space, you provide your own table/set-up and treasures to sell.
- ◆ Register by calling the church office (412) 859-3711 or by e-mailing Ascensionyardsale@gmail.com

Ascension Lutheran Church | 1290 Silver Lane
Robinson Township PA 15136 | 412-859-3711

LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

April 4 Benedict the African *Confessor d. 1589*

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict first lived as a hermit and labored as a plowman after he was freed. When the bishop of Rome ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a religious community, Benedict joined the Franciscans, where he served as a cook. Although he was illiterate, his fame as a confessor brought many visitors to the humble and holy cook, and he was eventually named superior of the community. A patron saint of African Americans, Benedict is remembered for his patience and understanding when confronted with racial prejudice and taunts.

April 6 Albrecht Dürer, d. 1528; Matthias Grünewald, d. 1529; Lucas Cranach, d. 1553 *Artists*

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

April 9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer *Theologian, d. 1945*

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

April 10 Mikael Agricola *Bishop of Turku, d. 1557*

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

April 19 Olavus Petri, *priest, d.1552*; Laurentius Petri, *Bishop of Uppsala, d.1573*; *Renewers of the church*

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who de-fended the office of bishop and later became one.

April 21 Anselm *Bishop of Canterbury d. 1109*

This eleventh- and twelfth-century Benedictine This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

April 23 Toyohiko Kagawa *Renewer of society d. 1960*

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

April 25 Mark *Evangelist*

Though Mark himself was not an apostle, it is likely that he was a member of one of the early Christian communities. It is possible that he is the John Mark of Acts 12 whose mother owned the house where the apostles gathered. The gospel attributed to him is brief and direct. It is considered by many to be the earliest gospel.

April 29 Catherine of Siena *Theologian d. 1380*

A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Catherine was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title Doctor of the Church. She was a contemplative and is known for her mystical visions of Jesus. Catherine was a humanitarian who worked to alleviate the suffering of the poor and imprisoned. She was also a renewer of church and society.



*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

