

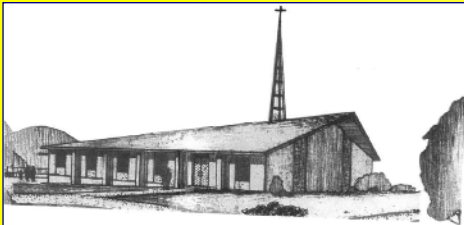
THE MESSENGER

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday School - 9:30 AM (adult & child)
NA Meeting - Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
Spirituality Group - suspended until Fall
AA Meeting - Saturdays at 10:00 AM
Soccer Shots - Saturday mornings &
Tuesday evenings (Spring-Fall)



2022 COUNCIL EXECUTIVES

President – Jason Eager
Vice President – Chelsea Karaffa
Secretary – Venus Thompson
Treasurer – John Bielewicz

2022 COUNCIL LIAISONS

Christian Education
Pastor Joe Murdy
Communications & Publications
Jason Eager
Fellowship
Members
Finance and Stewardship
John Bielewicz
Mutual Ministry
Jeff Williams
Personnel
Clay Marnich
Property
Bob Dudek, Mark Thompson
Social Ministry and Evangelism
Sharon Giza
Worship and Music
Barbara Thompson
Youth
Chelsea Karaffa, Venus Thompson
Next Council Meeting
Tuesday April 12 at 7:00 PM

Pastor's Easter Message



**Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed!
Alleluia!**

Christians are often defined by what we say and do. More importantly how what we believe is reflected in what we say and do. In other words, do our actions point to Christ or to ourselves. Let's consider the Apostles for a moment.

One could say they believed in who Jesus was before the Passover supper in the upper room. But the moment he was taken away and thrown in jail with the prospect of death by crucifixion they bailed knowing they could inevitably meet the same end. So, just a few days later they find themselves hiding behind a locked door out of fear. Once more, their faith was not reflected by their actions.

Despite their weakness in this moment Jesus appeared to them. Although the door was locked, he stood among them. From that moment there was no denying - Jesus truly is the Son of God. He was who he said he was all along. What the apostles had experienced was the power and glory of God in the triumph of the resurrection. Jesus who once was dead is alive, just as he promised. Sometimes the circumstances of life affect our attitudes and beliefs. I can't begin to imagine what the apostles must have felt when Jesus was crucified. They had put all their faith into him. All they had ever known was that when you die you stay dead - there is no coming back. But after his resurrection when Jesus appeared to his apostles, they must have known that the world would never be the same.

The story of the resurrection is one we must tell and share over and over again. This is the good news that we are called to proclaim

continued on page 2

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

Pastor Joe Murdy Jeff Williams Chelsea Karaffa

Mount Calvary Cemetery is a 19th century cemetery located at 1715 Middletown Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136, in Allegheny County, approximately 3 miles outside of Pittsburgh. It originally was named Clever Cemetery and was part of the Clever family farm property in Robinson Township, although changes in municipal jurisdictions now find the property straddling McKees Rocks Borough and Kennedy Township. In May 1852, Mr. Martin Clever, Sr. "kindly donated one acre (valued \$110) for the site and burial ground of an Evangelical Lutheran Church." On Sunday, February 27, 1853, the first service of the church was conducted by Rev. Henry Reck of Birmingham (now the South Side of Pittsburgh) in the home of Martin Clever. A week later in the same home, Monday evening, March 7, 1853, Rev. William A. Passavant of Pittsburgh conducted a similar service in which Ephraim J. Brooks, Martin Clever, Jr. and Cornelius Scully were appointed as the church building committee. A fund of \$1,000 was soon raised through subscriptions "and the aid of several ladies," and John Glass of Pittsburgh was contracted to build the small frame church for that sum.

Pastor's Easter Message (continued from pg 1)

- the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In our current Eucharistic liturgy, there is a line in The Great Thanksgiving that always makes my heart flutter, "and believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast." This is where our faith meets action. We must ask ourselves, in what ways does my life bear witness to Jesus and does my life reveal to others that he will come again? There is power in faith and that faith has the power to change our lives and the lives of others.

WE are an Easter people! This means that we believe there is more to death to those who have been baptized and believe. It means our lives are changed and continually renewed through the triumph of the resurrection. It means that we have access to the grace, love and mercy of God through the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are an Easter people which means we see things differently than most. In believing the witness of the resurrection we commit our lives to the proclamation of this profound truth - Jesus lives and will come again!

My dear friends in Christ, it is my prayer that your lives and faith will be renewed this Easter season and that you see the empty tomb with fresh eyes. *Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!* Share the good news. On behalf of the staff and my family, I wish each of you a very blessed Easter!

In Christ+

Pastor Joe

“JESUS who once was
dead is ALIVE – just
as He promised.”

~ PJ

FAMILY WORSHIP

Family-style Worship At Ascension!

Saturday, April 30th at 4 p.m.

Welcome to the Family Table . . .

If you are a parent, you understand there are moments in church when it's hard to focus and participate. We can sometimes be overwhelmed by the giggles and wiggles our kiddos bring and worry that it may bother others (I assure you it does not).

*I would like to offer an extra opportunity to worship as a family - which I hope will reduce stress, provide fellowship with other families and give parents and kids a way of worshipping together. I promise, this service will have something for *everyone*!*

Family Table worship is a service designed for the family with kids (of course anyone is welcome). Our time together will include family interaction, communion, creativity, pray n' play, singing and a *brief* word to encourage our faith. We will gather in the fellowship hall around the tables and following worship will be a time of fellowship and food!

God put the wiggles and giggles in our kids and here they will be encouraged to be themselves and parents will be encouraged to come as they are to worship in the grace of God.

~ PJ



"SOUP & SERVICE"

Thursdays 6:00-7:30 p.m.

April 7

SOUP at 6:00pm; SERVICE at 7:00pm

**SIGN UP in church to provide and share
Soup * Bread * Salad**



Ascension's YARD SALE has returned!

SATURDAY JUNE 4, 2022

8:00 AM to NOON

\$10 per area (approximately 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 at (412) 859-3711
or by e-mailing**

Ascensionyardsale@gmail.com

Now you've heard, so pass the word!

Best Wishes . . .

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

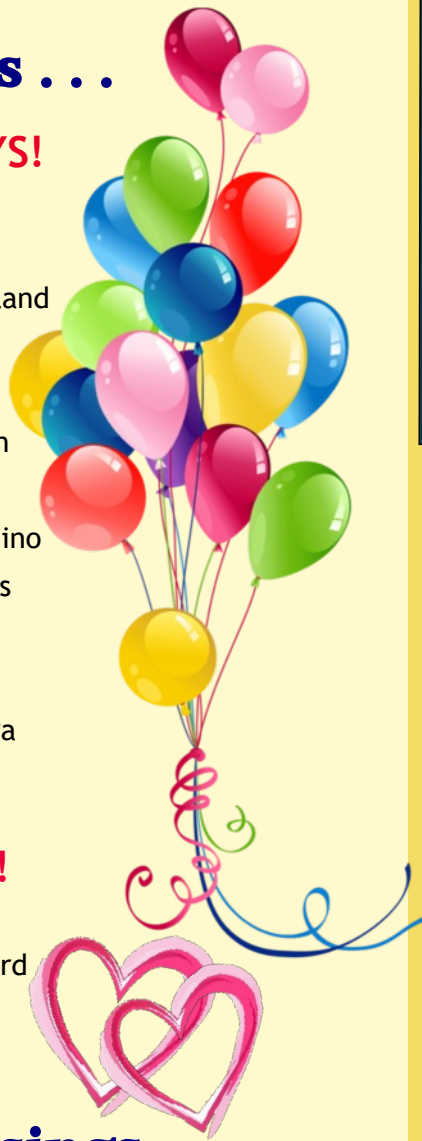
Date | Member / Friend

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

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members / Friends

- 7 Leo & Leslie Rickerd



**. . . and Blessings
to ALL!**

† Bible Study †

Come study The Greatest Story

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

How much do you feel you know
about the Bible, the greatest story?

Don't worry if the answer is
"little" or "nothing."

We are here to discover together.

Come join on Tuesdays!

at the home of

Bob & Mary Thompson

68 Kathleen Drive in Robinson.

Lunch Bunch



A monthly gathering of members and friends of Ascension Church

**Join Ascension's LUNCH BUNCH for
another delicious destination
Thursday April 21**

ALMOST HEAVEN . . .

Yes, **West Virginia** is the location of the next

Lunch Bunch adventure **Thursday April 21!**

Dee Jay's in Weirton will be the gathering place

for an outstanding lunch & friendly company
with Ascension's Lunch Bunch.

Please let Jerry Wessel (412-787-1213)
or Nancy Schreiber (412-859-3969) know
by Tuesday, April 19 if you plan to attend
so that reservations can be made.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- Jerry Wessel

YOUTH Ministry Dates!

Saturday, April 23rd 11 a.m.

Robinson Road Clean-up at Clever Park.
Caring for our community, play time & picnic.

Sunday, May 22nd Family Bowling!

Time, *TBD*

Event details will be e-mailed to our families.



Holy Week Services

Palm/Passion Sunday - April 10th
10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 14th
7 p.m.

Good Friday - April 15th
7 p.m.

Easter Vigil - Saturday, April 16th
5 p.m.



Sunday, April 17th

EASTER

The Resurrection
of our Lord

Easter Sunday
Services:

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.



ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council meeting was held Tuesday March 8, 2022

- Mt. Calvary Cemetery report –Topics included new items such as salt spreader, sharpening the tractor blades, new security cameras, along with windows discussed in pastors report.
- Motion to have the next special project be to replace the boiler, estimate from Beverly HVAC for \$22,799 projected to completed before fall of 2022. Discussion on moving entrance to basement to the side of the building and filling in current stairwell. All in favor.
- Motion to bring the expenditure of \$4,500 to the congregation to cover the cost of a building expansion estimate. Nine approve, one reject.
- Important dates: June 4 will be Yard Sale.

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 @ 7pm

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting was held Sunday March 27, 2022

- Discussed long-range vision and planning, dialogue to be continued this summer.
- Motion to approve spending \$4,500 from general fund towards building expansion estimate and professional drawings. All in favor.
- Motion to lock in price of boiler replacement by putting \$7,500 down. All in favor.

got NEWS?

If you have pictures, articles, or ideas to submit for the MAY 2022 Newsletter, please contact the office or Pastor, or email office@alcpgh.com.

**CEMETERY BOARD MEETING
SUNDAY MAY 1
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

Pysanky: symbols of new life

a meaningful and honored tradition

Pysanky are Easter eggs, decorated with traditional folk art using a wax-resist method. *Pysanka* (PUH-san-ka) is the singular, and *pysanky* (puh-san-KUH) is the plural form. Common to many Slavic traditions, particularly those of the Ukrainian people, *pysanky*, derived from the Ukrainian word “*pysaty*,” literally means “to write.” Traditional *pysanky* designs written by a number of anonymous artists are featured on this page. Each beautiful design with its vibrant colors and meaningful symbols is a unique illustration of the beauty of Creation. Likened to the tomb from which Our Lord arose on the third day, *pysanky* are faith-filled symbols of Pascha (Easter) and new life in Christ.

The designs on a *pysanka* are created with a *kistka*, a special hollow stylus that holds liquid beeswax, melted over a flame, usually a blessed candle. The wax is applied to the egg, skillfully overwriting the artist's chosen pattern which has been lightly sketched in pencil, sealing that area from the dye and keeping it white. The egg then is dyed in a permanent dye solution in the desired color, and more wax is applied to areas which the writer wishes to remain that color. This process is repeated, progressing from light to dark-colored dyes. Finally, the wax is removed by carefully heating the egg over the candle flame and gently wiping off the melted wax. Once all of the wax is removed, a shellac is used to cover the egg to preserve its beauty and give it a lustrous finish.



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 defended the office of bishop and later became one.

April 21 Anselm **Bishop of Canterbury d. 1109**

This eleventh- and twelfth-century Benedictine 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.*

Contact Us
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

