

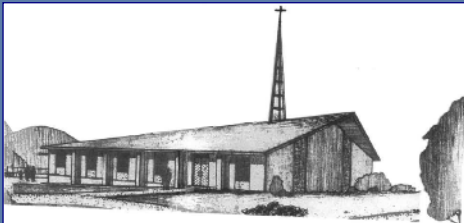
THE MESSENGER

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 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 May 10 at 7:00 PM

Serving God ... and Country



Ascension Church member LTC Jerry W. Wessel, US Army Retired administered the Oath of Office for Military Personnel to Pastor Joe Murdy on Sunday April 24.

shared the story of Jesus' sudden and unexpected appearance to his disciples. There he said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Being *sent* might bring images of missionaries and travel. Not everyone is equipped to be called to this. This was certainly true for the disciples. But, I imagine that when Jesus gave this commission to the disciples he was speaking to the church as it was in that upper room and as it is today. We are the church and the church is sent in mission and the mission is to share the gospel! Plain and simple. Sure, this happens overseas and in exotic ways. But more often than not it happens through everyday living. Even these simple moments can be a challenge for some and for others a welcomed experience.

As the baptized we are called to share the good news and to show others The Way to Jesus in big and small ways. The challenge can

From Pastor's desk

There is a saying that I'm not quite sure if I've remembered it correctly, but the sentiment is there: "If God calls you to it, God will see you through it." Oftentimes this sentiment is ill-timed and used to comfort people when they are going through a difficult time. God is not the cause of our pain but certainly supports and provides for us at every moment of our lives difficult or not.

I thought of this statement on the second Sunday of Easter, the day I took the Oath of Office for the United States Army Reserves. I remember the moment well. I was giving the children's sermon and

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Mount Calvary Cemetery

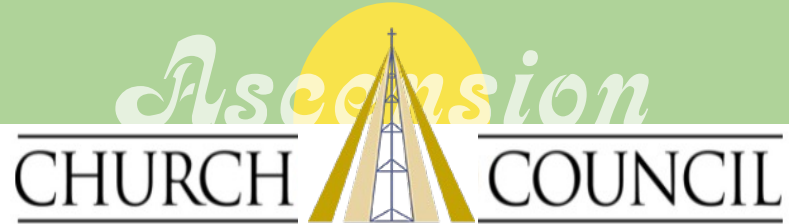
1715 Middletown Road
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Robert J. Dudek, Supervisor
mtcalvarycem@alcpgh.com



Mount Calvary Cemetery Board

Judy Henry Bob Hughes
Bette Ann Kallay 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.



ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council meeting was held Tuesday April 12, 2022

- Motion to approve Thom Kruise, Avis and Thad Ritter, Kathleen and Cy Howells as new members. All in favor.
- Mt. Calvary Cemetery – Citizens bank checking closed and monies moved to PNC. New laptop has been purchased. Road work is to begin in late April. Monies for work has been moved to checking account.
- Parking lot lights: Motion to accept Beverly Services quote for \$1,985 to fix parking lot lights. All in favor.
- Forming building expansion committee – Jason reviewed the concept of the committee for the council. This will be designated as a seven (7) member committee. Open nominations/accept volunteers that are brought forward to the June council meeting for finalizing the appointment of the committee.
- Mt. Calvary Cemetery has been added to the website.
- Spring cleaning complete along with floor scrubbing, and sanctuary.

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 @ 7pm

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

**ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS:
FINAL DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL IS
MAY 29!**



Pastor Joe's wife Amanda, along with his children Jameson and Harper (*pictured*) and McKenna and Zoey are proud of and excited for his new role as U.S. Army chaplain.

From Pastor's desk (*continued from pg 1*)

sometimes be discerning the right moment and at other times it can be an uncertainty in what to say or do. The solution to this is a quiet heart and an open mind. When we feel challenged in these moments we must listen to the Holy Spirit.

In just a few short weeks we will celebrate Pentecost and remind ourselves what it means to live and daily interact with the Holy Spirit - who is an indispensable resource in missional moments. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." This moment happens after Jesus is raised from the dead. Just a few chapters before he tells the apostles that he will send the Holy Spirit as an advocate, comforter and reminder, "but the Advocate the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

We are all called to share the good news through every moment of our lives. But it can sometimes be a challenge to know how and when. I offer myself as an example. From my very earliest memories I can remember being

drawn to the church and called to the ministry of word and sacrament. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever picture myself in a military uniform. I still can't (because I don't own one yet)! In college I thought about military chaplaincy but always in the context of serving in parish ministry. I let that idea go for a long time. Then a few years ago it came back and never left. It was a tugging at my heart that soul. This is the very definition of vocation - a calling where God calls you to share the gospel and share peace in the world. We may be tempted to feel unsettled and uncertain. But, as baptized people of God we know that we are not alone. My friends, I still don't know all that God has in store for me. I'm not always sure of what to say. I don't always know where God will call me. But I am certain that when God calls me, God will show me the way. When God calls us, God gives us all that we need. Reminds us. Inspires us. Sends us.

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

People, you are sent! Share the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead! Don't concern yourself with the details! Amen+

I want to thank you all (my church) for your support as I have discerned becoming a reserve chaplain. There is much still to be discovered but you have remained faithful in the support of your pastor - which means the world. *I love each and every one of you!* A very special thank-you to our dear Lt. Col. Jerry Wessel, whose leadership, wisdom and love has made all the difference.

In Christ+

Pastor Joe

“When God calls us,
God gives us ALL
That we NEED.”
~ PJ

Best Wishes . . . MAY BIRTHDAYS!

Date | Member/Friend

- 2 Charlotte DeCola
- 3 Rudy Marnich Jr.
- 4 Melissa DeCola
Amy Reckner
- 6 Debbie Rose
Betty Simpson
- 8 Bobby Brown
- 9 Bob Hughes
Paula Tomchak
- 10 Bob Bryan
- 14 Johnathan Endes
- 15 Abbey Rose
- 16 Megan Giza
- 17 Nathan Reckner
- 20 Dale Cerar
- 23 Janey Zoltun
- 24 Bob Thompson
- 30 Mike Kinney
Paul Tomchak
Emilia DeCola
- 31 Jill Lescalette
Jacob Lescalette



MAY ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members/Friends

- 20 Sharon & Brian Giza
- 22 Debora & William Whitfield
- 25 Cindy & Bob Stathers

YOUTH Ministry Event!

Sunday, May 22

Family Bowling!

Time TBD ...

Event details will be
e-mailed to our families.



Join Ascension's **LUNCH BUNCH** Thursday May 19 at

**** SAL'S RISTORANTE ****

Yes, **Sal's** (2764 Darlington Rd in Chippewa, a short drive down rte 51, off the Chippewa exit on rte 376) has been chosen as the next Lunch Bunch adventure for **Thursday May 19!**

Return to this fine 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, May 17 if you plan to attend so that reservations can be made. *Meet at Sal's at 11:30 - or if carpooling, meet at Ascension at 10:45.*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

✝ 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.

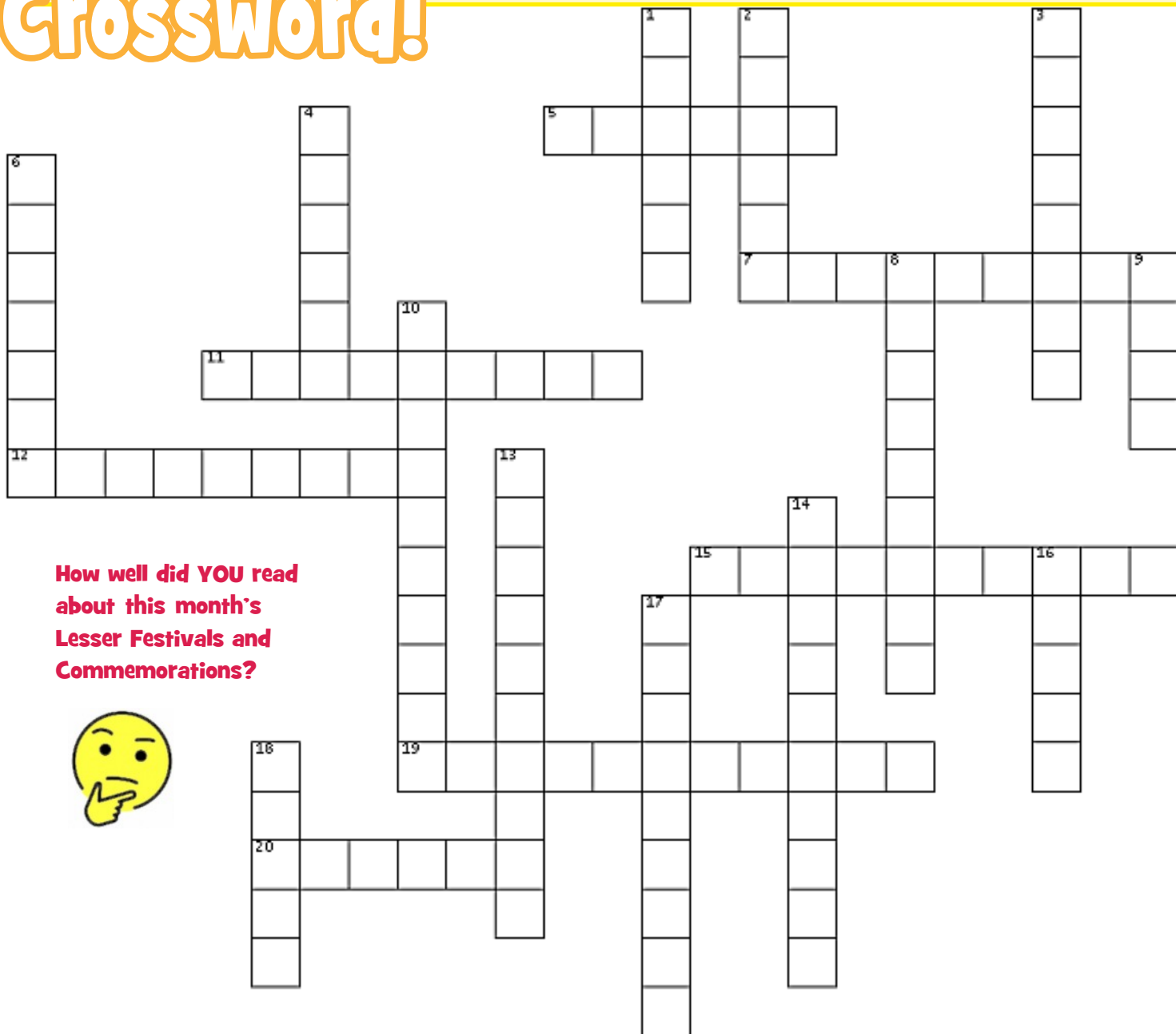


We sincerely thank YOU - our members and friends - for your continued support and generosity!

In addition to Sunday giving envelopes, we offer other ways for you to add your financial contributions.

One popular, easy and secure way is through [TITHE.LY](https://tithely.com) (scan the QR code, left) or visit our website www.alcpgh.com to access a link.

Crossword!



How well did **YOU** read
about this month's
Lesser Festivals and
Commemorations?



ACROSS

5. Father of the Reformed churches
7. Place where Helena traveled to build churches
11. Father of Slovak hymnody
12. Became one of the greatest church teachers
15. Tranovsky trained at this city's university
19. Country to which Calvin brought theocratic government
20. Mother of Augustine

DOWN

1. Wrote Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love
2. Invited Nathanael to "Come and see"
3. Apostle added to The Twelve after Judas' departure
4. Mother of Constantine
6. Place where Philip was martyred
8. Mother of John the Baptist
9. Patron saint of Sweden
10. Declared the sun as the center of our universe
13. Mary's famous Visitation song
14. Banished five times from Alexandria
16. Founder of pure mathematics
17. Moravians lived on his land
18. Son of Alphaeus

READ the MAY LESSER FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS on page 6 of this issue!

*Then, use the above clues to fill in the words in the grid.
Words can go across or down.
Letters are shared when the words intersect.*

LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

May 1 Philip and James, *Apostles*

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, who after following Jesus invited Nathanael to “come and see.” According to tradition, Philip preached in Asia Minor and died as a martyr in Phrygia. James, the son of Alphaeus, is called “the Less” (meaning “short” or “younger”) to distinguish him from another apostle named James who is commemorated July 25. Philip and James are commemorated together because the remains of these two saints were placed in the Church of the Apostles in Rome on this day in 561.

May 2 Athanasius, *Bishop of Alexandria* d.373

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his views.

May 4 Monica, *mother of Augustine* d.387

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

May 8 Julian of Norwich, *renewer of the church*, d. ca.1416

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

May 9 Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, *renewer of the church, hymnwriter* d.1760

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf’s land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

May 14 Matthias, *Apostle*

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus’ resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord’s ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias’s celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

May 18 Erik, King of Sweden, *martyr* d.1160

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

May 21 Helena, *mother of Constantine* d.ca.330

Wife of the co-regent of the West, Helena (or Helen) was mother of Constantine, who later became Roman emperor. After he was converted to Christianity, he influenced her also to become Christian. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine and building churches on the sites she believed to be where Jesus was born, where he was buried, and from which he ascended.

May 24 Nicolaus Copernicus, d.1543; Leonhard Euler, d.1783; *scientists*

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God’s universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

May 27 John Calvin, *renewer of the church* d.1564

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

May 29 Jiri Tranovský, *hymnwriter* d.1637

Considered the “Luther of the Slavs” and the father of Slovak hymnody, Tranovský trained at the University of Wittenberg in the early seventeenth century, was ordained in 1616 and spent his life preaching and teaching in Prague, Silesia, and finally Slovakia. He produced a translation of the Augsburg Confession and published his hymn collection *Cithara Sanctorum* (Lyre of the Saints).

May 31 Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

Sometime after the Annunciation, Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth. This occasion is sometimes referred to as “The Visitation.” Elizabeth greeted Mary with the words “Blessed are you among women,” and Mary responded with her famous song, the Magnificat. Luke’s gospel tells that even John the Baptist rejoiced and leapt in his mother’s womb when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting. On this festival two women are seen: one, the elder, bears the last prophet of the old covenant, and one, the younger, bears the incarnate Word and the new covenant.



ASCENSION CHURCH **YARD SALE** IS BACK!
SATURDAY JUNE 4, 2022
8:00 AM to NOON

Reserve your space to sell or Come to find treasures

\$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.

Register for your space by calling the church office
at (412) 859-3711 or by e-mailing

Ascensionyardsale@gmail.com

**** BAKERS NEEDED! ****

A great part of the success of our **Yard Sale** is the



**BAKE
SALE**

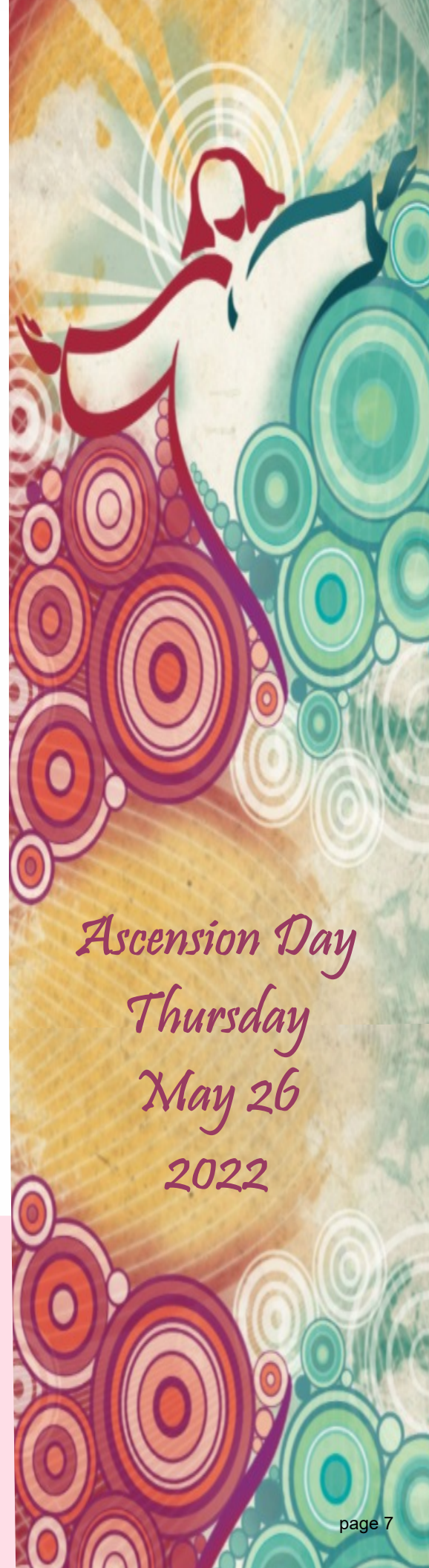
PLEASE SIGN UP (see sign-up sheet in church)
TO PROVIDE BAKED GOODS FOR THIS EVENT!

VOLUNTEERS to work at the Yard Sale
also will be needed, so please be ready
and willing to spring into action when asked!

got NEWS?

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

Let us hear from YOU !



*Ascension Day
Thursday
May 26
2022*



*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

