

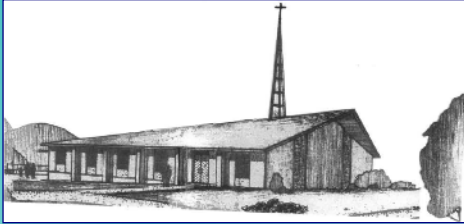
# THE MESSENGER

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 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 June 14 at 7:00 PM

## Living Thankfully



### *From Pastor's desk*

Now that the season of Easter has drawn to a close, we jump right into the feasts of Pentecost and the Holy Trinity. These two unique Sundays, as well as Ascension and the 7-week long season of Easter give us an opportunity to focus on our creeds and what we believe. Through the Easter season we recite the Nicene Creed which expresses more detail about the life of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We do this during Advent and Christmas as well. On Holy Trinity we recite the Athanasian Creed (the long one) which teaches us the most about God in three persons.

Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday. Our liturgy on this day reminds us that Pentecost is a day of promises fulfilled. The

promised Spirit of God is poured out. The baptized have become “children of God” and “joint heirs with Christ.” By the power of the Spirit we have seen the face of the Father in his only begotten Son and been saved by him.

If you ever want to know more or understand what we believe as Lutheran-Christians, you need look no further than Luther's Small or Large Catechism. The foundation of our faith is the belief that God exists as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity (Trinity Sunday just happens to be the next Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>). The Trinity is one of the greatest, most perplexing and fundamental mysteries of our faith as Christians. Believing in

*continued on page 3*

# 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



## A Heartfelt THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who helped construct the sidewalk and railing from the church to the pavilion, making the walk much safer than walking on the uneven grass! Certainly, many members and guests will be taking advantage of these improvements, so on behalf of all,

I offer this sincere thank-you  
and a wish for God's blessings.

**Rose Marie LaQuinta**  
*Creative Hands Group*



## ALC Council Meeting Highlights

*Council meeting was held Tuesday May 10, 2022*

- Motion to approve Confirmation students to be confirmed. All in favor.
- Mt. Calvary Cemetery – Frank McQuillan hired as new employee. Mr. Stanko declined to sign terms of employment, but a pleasant resignation. Also, final cement work should be complete this week on Thursday 05/12/2022.
- Parking and Lighting to become this week, for the parking lot.
- Railing has been received, will be installed.
- Forming building committee: brief and preliminary description attached. (reviewed to start conversation, possible 7 on the committee. Review and return for conversation next month. Motion to approve the building committee with edits. All in favor.
- Increase the budget, by \$499. Council not comfortable putting to vote without Pastor - Motion withdrawn.
- A new AA group would like to use our facilities on Monday's beginning in June. All in favor.
- Family Music Lessons - One day a week in the summer. All in favor.
- Bob Thompson presented initial building drawings.
- Possible new cleaning schedule in August (Sophia) leaving for school. Will begin search for new cleaner.

### **Next Council Meeting**

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm

**CEMETERY BOARD MEETING  
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**





From Pastor's desk (continued from pg 1)

the Trinity is what makes us unique from the other monotheistic (believing in ONE God) faiths, i.e. Islam and Judaism. We believe that God reveals Himself through creation and human history but most especially through the Incarnation of Christ, his death on the cross and his resurrection. Finally, God is revealed through the church as we are led and supported by the Holy Spirit.

Luther begins to teach this great mystery as a basic and fundamental belief for the church through the Apostle's Creed. Each of our three creeds have three parts (which we call articles). Article I, God the Father. Article II, God the Son. Article III, God the Holy Spirit.

*Martin Luther teaches us: "I believe that God has created me together with all that exist. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes, clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property - along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life..."*

First and foremost, we acknowledge God as our Father and Creator. The ONE who gives us life and supports that life with all that we need. Everything we have comes from God. Everything is God-given! Everything! Our sight, sense, and soul! Our clothing, property and family! Luther teaches us that God does all of this out of pure fatherly grace- in other words, just because he loves us! How do we respond to these kinds of gifts?

*"...For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him."* As Christians we must constantly and daily evaluate how we respond to God's gracious gifts to us. To live a life of thanks is to recognize life as a precious gift. How do you thank God? Do you care for others? Give of yourself? Commit your life to one of prayer? How do you praise God? Do you offer praise with your life, regular worship, or in studying scripture? How do you serve God? When you serve is it with generous hearts and hands, time and talent, treasure and trust? How do you obey God? Do you honor God in your heart - loving and serving only God? Do you put God first above all else? Do you love one another as God has loved you?

As we begin this great season of Summer, let us be mindful of our beliefs as a community of faith and how we live out those beliefs in the world around us. To believe in God is to acknowledge that we are not alone and that by ourselves we can do nothing. God gives us life and daily sustains that life with all we need.

Let us live thankfully!

Yours In Christ+

*Pastor Joe*

*"Everything is  
God-given.  
EVERYTHING!"*  
~ PJ

## Best Wishes . . . JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

Date | Member/Friend

- 1 Sharon Giza  
Rick Zoltun
- 2 Brooke Thomson
- 3 Vincent Zeiler
- 12 Blake Tomchak
- 13 Clark Rose
- 14 Brian Stanford
- 17 Mike Neilson
- 19 JoAnne Erwin
- 20 Bill Whitfield
- 21 Emily Reckner
- 22 Cora Hughes
- 23 Jean Marion
- 27 Pastor Larsen
- 28 Ryan Williams
- 29 Mike Siemons



## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members/Friends

- 3 Bob & Mary Thompson
- 9 Tom & Dee Lightner
- 22 Greg & Venus Thompson
- 30 Dale & Marion Cerar



... and Blessings  
to ALL!

## Join Ascension's **LUNCH BUNCH** Thursday June 16

### **\*\* FROM SAL'S TO SUNNY JIM'S \*\***

The Ascension Lunch Bunch had 13 members visit our gal Sal's in May (out in Chippewa) and although the service was slow for some reason, it just gave us more time to talk!

On Thursday June 16, The Bunch will take a quick trip along the old O-hi-o to **Sunny Jim's** (not to be confused with Sunny Bono,

or is it Sonny Bono? Anyway, Cher will not be singing). **Sunny Jim's Tavern** is located at 255 Camp Horne Road, Pittsburgh 15202 in case you need to plug the address into your GPS, as following the sun probably will not get you to the right place. We'll meet there at 11:30am on June 16; those folks carpooling should leave Ascension by 11:00. As usual, please let sunny Jerry Wessel (412-787-1213) or sunnier Nancy Schreiber (412-859-3969) know by Tuesday June 14 if you plan to attend so that enough space "in the sun" can be reserved.

(suntan lotion is BYOB ☺) ~ Jerry Wessel

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# Church YARD SALE

> > **AND** < <

# BAKE SALE

**Saturday June 4  
8 AM to NOON**

Ascension Church 1290 Silver Lane Robinson Twp, PA



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** (scan the QR code, left) or visit our website [www.alcpgh.com](http://www.alcpgh.com) to access a link.



# 2022 Ascension Church Summer Worship Schedule

During Covid, we offered unique opportunities to spread out and worship outdoors. There has been a blend of responses (no complaints) just a wondering if we were going to do it every Sunday or alternate weeks. I have decided to continue our **ONE service at 10:30 a.m. and worship outside in the Pavilion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.**



**Here is our Summer 2022 outdoor worship schedule:**

**June 12<sup>th</sup> (Holy Trinity Sunday) & June 26<sup>th</sup>**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> & July 24<sup>th</sup>**

**August 14<sup>th</sup> & August 28<sup>th</sup>**

You are welcome to bring a lawn chair or blanket.  
Otherwise, our benches will be available as pews!  
Dress accordingly. If it rains, we will be indoors. ~ PJ



**WELCOME**  
**New Members!**

Ascension Church bids a fine welcome to new members Cy and Kathleen Howells, who joined the church membership and were formally introduced on Sunday May 29 during the Ascension Feastday service.

**✝ 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.



# LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

## **June 1 - Justin, d.ca. 165** *martyr at Rome*

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

## **June 3 - John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, d. 1963**

When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

## **June 3 - The Martyrs of Uganda, d. 1886**

On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

## **June 5 - Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, d. 754**

*missionary to Germany, martyr*

Boniface was a native of England who became a Benedictine monk and was called to missionary work among the Vandal tribes of Germany. With fellow workers, he established churches and schools, and he also worked to reform the church.

## **June 7 - Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, d. 1866**

Noah Seattle led a coalition of tribes, and convinced them to live peacefully with encroaching white settlers. When he became a Roman Catholic, he held morning and evening prayer with his tribe. The city of Seattle is named for him.

## **June 9 - Columba, d. 597; Aidan, d. 651; Bede, d. 735**

*renewers of the church*

These three monks from the British Isles helped keep the light of learning alive during the Middle Ages. Columba founded three monasteries off the coast of Scotland. Aidan was a pastor who led people to works of charity. The Venerable Bede was a Bible translator, historian, and hymnwriter.

## **June 11 - Barnabas, Apostle**

Barnabas was not numbered among the twelve apostles, but the book of Acts gives him that title. After Paul was converted to Christianity, Barnabas welcomed him to Jerusalem, and later the two traveled together on missionary journeys.

## **June 14 - Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, d. 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, d.ca. 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, d.ca. 389; Macrina, theologian, d.ca. 379**

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

## **June 17 - The Emanuel Nine, d. 2015** *martyrs*

On June 17, 2015, nine people gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA on August 8, 2019.

## **June 21 - Onesimos Nesib, d. 1931** *translator, evangelist*

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured and taken as a slave to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

## **June 24 - John the Baptist**

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

## **June 25**

### **Philipp Melanchthon, d. 1560** *renewer of the church*

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar and popular professor, known as "the teacher of Germany."

### **Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530**

On June 25, 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Roman Emperor Charles. The Augsburg Confession, written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

## **June 27 - Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, d. 444**

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.

## **June 28 - Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, d.ca. 202**

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

## **June 29 - Peter and Paul, Apostles**

These two apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. One of the Twelve, Peter both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.



# YOUTH Ministry's Family Bowling Event!

On Sunday, May 22 our Youth and their families enjoyed a super fun outing at Paradise Lanes on Neville Island!



PENTECOST SUNDAY 2022 is June 5<sup>th</sup>  
Remember to **WEAR RED!**

We also will joyously celebrate the CONFIRMATION  
of four young Ascension members on this day.





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

**Contact Us**  
(412) 859-3711  
pastor@alcpgh.com  
office@alcpgh.com  
music@alcpgh.com  
mtcalvarycem@alcpgh.com



**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
1290 Silver Lane  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
(Robinson Township)  
Visit us on the web at  
[www.alcpgh.com](http://www.alcpgh.com)

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

