



# THE MESSENGER

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 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

- Mondays at 7:00 PM

**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*

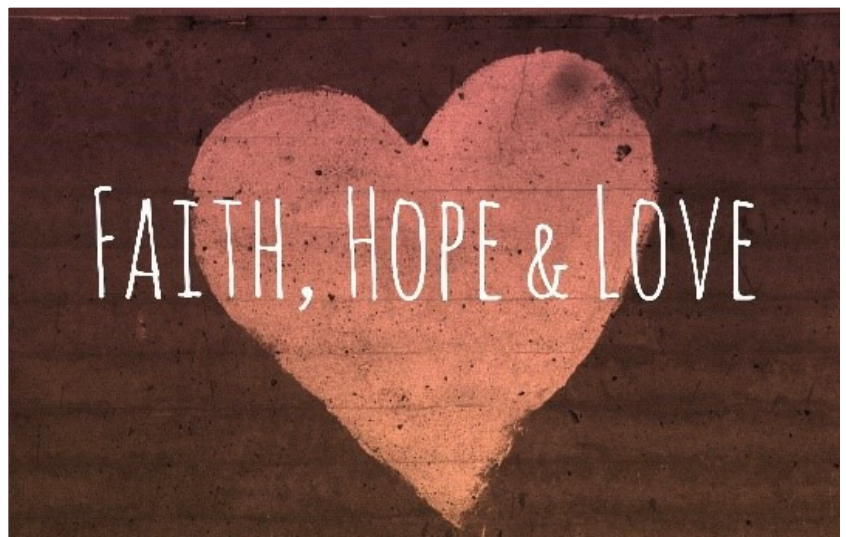
**Youth**

*Chelsea Karaffa, Venus Thompson*

### Next Council Meeting

**Tuesday August 9 at 7:00 PM**

## A Legacy of Faith and Love



### ***From Pastor's desk***

As many of you know, at the end of June my grandmother Jean, followed by her beloved, my grandfather Ed, entered the church triumphant. My heart is heavy with loss and sadness at the realization that I won't see them again in this earthly life.

But, my heart is also full of memories. In these hard moments I am assured that by the grace of God and through the redemptive sacrifice of Christ, my grandparents have received the promise of eternal life made to them at their baptism.

Shortly after my grandfather passed away, one of my cousins said to me, "I don't

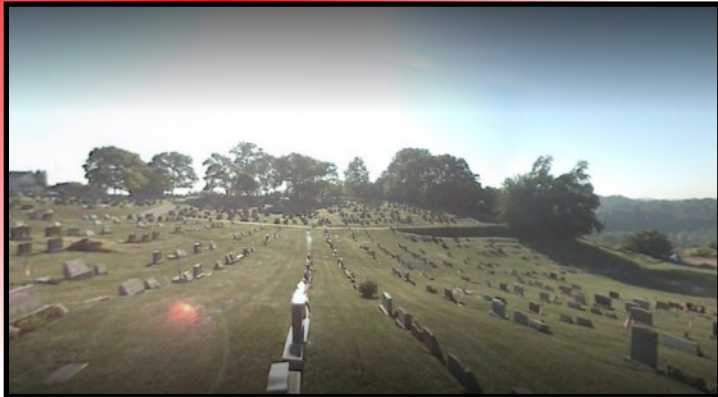
know how people without faith get through something like this?" It's a loaded and challenging question. One that might even offend someone without faith who is "getting through on their own." So, how *does* faith help us?

Faith offers assurance and certainly. In this earthly life and as many can attest to there are few things that are certain. What's that old saying, "Two things are certain: death and taxes." The book of Hebrews teaches us that "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Most people see death

*continued on page 3*

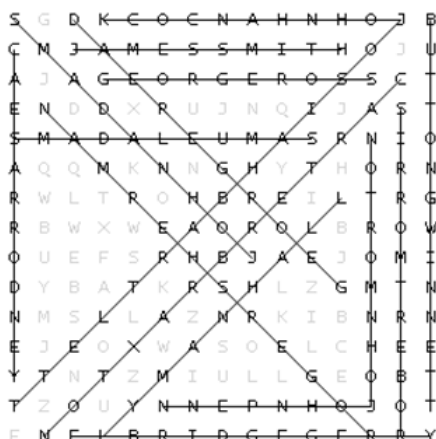
# Mount Calvary Cemetery

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

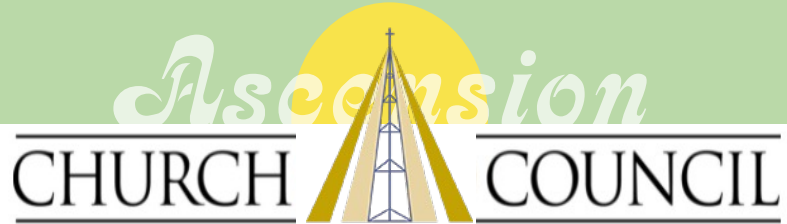


## Mount Calvary Cemetery Board

Judy Henry Bob Hughes  
Bette Ann Kallay Joyce Leister  
Pastor Joe Murdy Jeff Williams Chelsea Karaffa



Answer to  
WORDSEARCH  
on page 7



## ALC Council Meeting Highlights

*Council meeting was held Tuesday June 14, 2022*

- Motion for Pastor to have one additional Sunday off/paid. Motion passed. One No.
- Total funds from our 2022 Bake/Yard sale received was: \$1,132.25. Motion to give \$500.00 to Inter-church Food Bank and remainder to special project fund. All in Favor.
- Parking and Lighting - Poles are down, will soon be painted and rewired.
- Building Committee Vote - Motion to extend the accepted date for the nominees. One disputed the vote and wanted the initial 3 on the committee. Motion passed. One No.
- Building Committee as voted by the Council: Joyce Leister, Bob Thompson, Mark Thompson, Paula Tomchak, Jerry Wessel, Bill Whitfield, and Jeff Williams. Committee will need to appoint a chair and council liaison.
- Motion to approve \$500.00 for additional drawings/prints/new poster boards for new building display out of general funds. Yes, 5. Opposed, 4. Abstain, 1. Motion passes.
- Motion to cancel July's Scheduled Meeting. Motion passed. One No.

### Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm

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

as the end with no certainty of something beyond. As Christians we can look at death and see an empty tomb and trust in the words of Christ, "Today, you will be with me in paradise." Faith gives us the assurance that we will never be alone. Not in life. Not in death.

Faith brings us into community. This is one of the biggest reasons people come to church. To be together. To encourage and support one another. Most of all, to worship as one body of believers. In the funeral rite we begin with "We have come together ... to commend the deceased to our merciful Redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief." Our faith is the strongest when we are together. The simplest example of this is that Jesus sends disciples in pairs and never alone. Faith reminds us that we are never alone. Not in life. Not in death.

Faith points us to something beyond ourselves and beyond a single moment. Grief has a way of making us feel like we are stuck in quicksand. There is nothing wrong with grieving or crying your eyes out until it hurts. Grief is healthy and shows us our humanity. Even Jesus wept! But, when we fail to see hope, when we fail to trust in faith, and when we can't look into the future with confidence, it can feel like quicksand.

When we lose someone we love, it can be a holy work to discern the ways they have impacted your life. My blessed grandmother took me to Sunday school and taught me the love of Jesus. She showed me how to pray, how to worship, and how to trust in God's word always. My blessed grandfather, in addition to teaching me "hats off in the house," "elbows off the table," and "never open a lady's purse," he taught me how to think, me how to listen to others and how to think critically, especially when it came to religion.

Sometimes we don't know how our lives impact others. In great and small ways, we have the power to imprint on the lives of not only our family but also everyone we come in contact with. Truth is, we don't always get to see it. I am proud and pretty certain that as I grew up and through the decisions I made in life, my grandparents could see the effect they had on my life.

My friends, as Christians we have a choice to make. We have an opportunity in this life to make a difference. To point others to Jesus through our lives. To leave behind a legacy of love and faith. The choice is ours. How we choose can change not only our lives, but the lives of others.

With love and faith +

PJ

**"FAITH** reminds us  
that we are  
**NEVER** alone.  
Not in **LIFE.**  
Not in  
**Death."**  
~ PJ



# Best Wishes . . .

## JULY BIRTHDAYS!

Date | Member/Friend

- 1 Jennifer Burkholder  
Megan Ganley
- 2 Greg Thompson  
Camryn Endes
- 3 Pastor Joe Murdy  
Brian Tomchak
- 5 Zoey Murdy
- 7 Diane Bayer
- 12 Venus Thompson
- 14 Jane Gregory  
Giovanni Thompson
- 17 Amanda Derbish
- 18 Bob Stathers
- 19 Amanda Murdy
- 21 Al Morrow
- 22 Mary Thompson
- 23 Grayson DeCola
- 24 Virginia Shar
- 26 Paula Wessel
- 29 Tom Ganley
- 31 Amy Kruise



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members/Friends

- 22 Al & Dolly Morrow
- 25 Mike & Lynn Neilson



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

**go NEWS?**

If you have pictures, articles, or ideas to submit for the AUGUST 2022 Newsletter, please contact the office or Pastor, or email [office@alcpgh.com](mailto:office@alcpgh.com).

## Join Ascension's **LUNCH BUNCH**

**Thursday July 21 at**

**\*\* NAPOLI RESTAURANT \*\***

On Thursday July 21, The **Lunch Bunch** will travel south down I-79 for a *Pranzo Italiano* at  
**NAPOLI RESTAURANT**

1273 WASHINGTON Pike (PA Rte 50) Bridgeville  
a short distance off of the Kirwan Heights exit.

Napoli has a casual cozy atmosphere which they call  
"Italian grub in an unpretentious setting."

We'll meet there at 11:30am; those folks carpooling should leave Ascension by 11:00. Please let Jerry Wessel (412-787-1213) or Nancy Schreiber (412-859-3969) know by Tuesday July 19 if you plan to attend so that enough space can be reserved. ~ Jerry Wessel

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Thanks to all  
who participated in our

**✝ Bible Study ✝**

**We will resume in the fall,**

so keep a watchful eye for the dates  
of our next gathering to study and  
discuss the greatest book ever written!



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.





**THANKS TO ALL** who participated in Ascension's 2022 YARD SALE on June 4! It was a smashing success, and as the person taking pictures of the event from the church roof (no, that wasn't a drone!) will attest - the weather WAS picture-perfect.

# YARD SALE 2022



(Yes, it's your daredevil pastor.)

## 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:**  
**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



# LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

**July 1 - Catherine Winkworth, d. 1878; John Mason Neale, d. 1866; hymn translators**

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

**July 3 - Thomas, Apostle**

Though frequently remembered as “doubting Thomas,” this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as “my Lord and my God!” By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas’s celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.

**July 6 - Jan Hus, d. 1415 martyr**

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church, and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake.

**July 11 - Benedict of Nursia, d. ca. 540 Abbot of Monte Cassino**

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

**July 12 - Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, d. 1931**

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom, a Swedish theologian, also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

**July 17 - Bartolomé de Las Casas, d. 1566 missionary to the Indies**

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Granted a large estate with indigenous slaves, he freed them after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

**July 22 - Mary Magdalene, Apostle**

The gospels report Mary Magdalene was one of the women of Galilee who followed Jesus. She was present at Jesus’ crucifixion and his burial. When she went to the tomb on the first day of the week to anoint Jesus’ body, she was the first person to whom the risen Lord appeared. She returned to the disciples with the news and has been called “the apostle to the apostles” for her proclamation of the resurrection.

**July 23 - Birgitta of Sweden, d. 1373 *renewer of the church***

Birgitta (beer-GEE-tuh) was married at age thirteen and had four daughters with her husband. She was widowed at the age of thirty-eight, shortly after she and her husband had made a religious pilgrimage. Following the death of her husband the religious dreams and visions that had begun in her youth occurred more regularly. Her devotional commitments led her to give to the poor and needy all that she owned, and she began to live a more ascetic life. She founded an order of monks and nuns, the Order of the Holy Savior (Brigittines), whose superior was a woman. Today the Society of St. Birgitta is a laypersons’ society that continues her work of prayer and charity.

**July 25 - James, Apostle**

James is one of the sons of Zebedee and is counted as one of the twelve disciples. Together with his brother John they had the nickname “sons of thunder.” One of the stories in the New Testament tells of their request for Jesus to grant them places of honor in the kingdom. They are also reported to have asked Jesus for permission to send down fire on a Samaritan village that had not welcomed them. James was the first of the Twelve to suffer martyrdom and is the only apostle whose martyrdom is recorded in scripture. He is sometimes called James the Elder to distinguish him from James the Less, commemorated with Philip on May 1, and James of Jerusalem, commemorated on October 23.

**July 28 - Johann Sebastian Bach, d. 1750; Heinrich Schütz, d. 1672; George Frideric Handel, d. 1759; musicians**

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the “fifth evangelist” for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel’s great work, *Messiah*, is a musical proclamation of scriptural texts.

**July 29 - Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany**

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him — Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

**July 29 - Olaf, King of Norway, d. 1030 martyr**

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.

**John Adams \*\***  
**Samuel Adams \*\***  
**Josiah Bartlett \*\***  
**Carter Braxton \*\***  
 Charles Carroll  
 Samuel Chase  
 Abraham Clark  
 George Clymer  
 William Ellery  
 William Floyd  
 Benjamin Franklin  
**Elbridge Gerry \*\***  
**Button Gwinnett \*\***  
**Lyman Hall \*\***  
**John Hancock \*\***  
 Benjamin Harrison  
 John Hart  
 Joseph Hewes  
 Thomas Heyward Jr.  
 William Hooper  
 Stephen Hopkins  
 Francis Hopkinson  
 Samuel Huntington  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 Francis Lightfoot Lee  
 Richard Henry Lee  
 Francis Lewis  
 Philip Livingston  
 Thomas Lynch Jr.  
 Thomas McKean  
 Arthur Middleton  
 Lewis Morris  
**Robert Morris \*\***  
**John Morton \*\***  
 Thomas Nelson Jr.  
 William Paca  
 Robert Treat Paine  
**John Penn \*\***  
**George Read \*\***  
**Caesar Rodney \*\***  
**George Ross \*\***  
 Dr. Benjamin Rush  
 Edward Rutledge  
**Roger Sherman \*\***  
**James Smith \*\***  
 Richard Stockton  
 Thomas Stone  
 George Taylor  
 Matthew Thornton  
 George Walton  
 William Whipple  
 William Williams  
 James Wilson  
 John Witherspoon  
 Oliver Wolcott  
 George Wythe

# Declaration of Independence

## WORDSEARCH

There were 56 signatures to the Declaration of Independence, which was adopted on July 4, 1776. Among them were land owners, physicians, lawyers, farmers, musicians, merchants, scientists, and even ministers. The official document subsequently was engrossed on parchment and on August 2, 1776, delegates - ranging in age from 26 to 70 - began signing it. The 16 names which appear in this Wordsearch are noted in **bold** with a double asterisk\*\*. Names may appear backwards, forwards, vertically, horizontally or diagonally. Good luck!

S	G	D	K	C	O	C	N	A	H	N	H	O	J	B
C	M	J	A	M	E	S	S	M	I	T	H	O	J	U
A	J	A	G	E	O	R	G	E	R	O	S	S	C	T
E	N	D	D	X	R	U	J	N	Q	I	J	A	S	T
S	M	A	D	A	L	E	U	M	A	S	R	N	I	O
A	Q	Q	M	K	N	N	G	H	Y	T	H	O	R	N
R	W	L	T	R	O	H	B	R	E	I	L	T	R	G
R	B	W	X	W	E	A	O	R	O	L	B	R	O	W
O	U	E	F	S	R	H	B	J	A	E	J	O	M	I
D	Y	B	A	T	K	R	S	H	L	Z	G	M	T	N
N	M	S	L	L	A	Z	N	R	K	I	B	N	R	N
E	J	E	O	X	W	A	S	O	E	L	C	H	E	E
Y	T	N	T	Z	M	I	U	L	L	G	E	O	B	T
T	Z	O	U	Y	N	N	E	P	N	H	O	J	O	T
F	N	E	L	B	R	I	D	G	E	G	E	R	R	Y



*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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McKees Rocks, PA 15136

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

