

THE MESSENGER

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2024

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship - 10:30 AM

Sunday School - 9:30 AM (*adult & child*)

Drum Class - Tuesdays 5-8 PM Apr-July

NA Meeting - Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Spirituality Group - Thursdays at 7:00 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 Kruise

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 Kruise

Property

Phil Spano

Fellowship, Social Ministry

& Evangelism

Sharon Giza

Worship & Music

Thom Kruise

Youth

(open)

Kelly Bryan, council member

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday June 11 at 7:00 PM

We love because God first loved us



⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day

*A reflection from
Pastor Clagg*

Do you remember hearing the second reading on April 28th (the 5th Sunday after Easter) from 1 John 4:7-21?

The portion of it which our living resurrected Lord keeps sharing with me is from verse 20:

**If anyone says,
I love God, and
hates a brother
or sister is a liar.
For whoever does
not love their
brother and
sister,
whom they
have seen,
cannot love
God,
whom they
have not seen.**

Jesus the
Messiah, God in
the flesh is the
only one who

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

Jason Eager Judy Henry
Bob Hughes Bette Ann Kallay
George C. Kasich Joyce Leister

1 John 4:7-21 (continued from pg 1)

of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A reflection from Pastor Clagg (continued from pg 1)

reveals perfect love to us. Jesus' self-giving love in ministry, service, suffering, and death, speaks of what kind of love is expected of Christ's Body today.

Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. (v21)



Rev. Gregory S. Clagg

Interim Pastor

Pastor Clagg also serves Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rochester, Pa.

Our heartfelt Christian sympathies are extended to the families of Ascension Church members



Dolly Morrow

November 17, 1946 - May 17, 2024

and

Kay Braisted

December 17, 1940 - May 29, 2024

As Christians, we rejoice in the promise of resurrection to eternal life. We give thanks for the life and legacy of Dolly and Kay as we fondly remember them and their families in prayer.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE - JUNE 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Lector	Usher	Acolyte	Sunday	Color	Supply	Space	Service
June 2	Jerry Wessel	n/a	Melissa DeCola	Vol.	Vol.	Pentecost 2	G	David Brauer	Indoors	Svc. of the Word
June 9	Jeff Williams	Jerry Wessel	Jeff Williams	Vol.	Vol.	Pentecost 3	G	Kathleen Howells	Indoors	Communion (special)
June 16	Jennifer Burkholder	Bob Dudek	Emilia DeCola	Vol.	Vol.	Pentecost 4 <i>Father's Day</i>	G	Kathleen Howells	Outdoors	Svc. of the Word
June 23	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Rich Mussman	Vol.	Vol.	Pentecost 5	G	TBD	Indoors	TBD
June 30	Jerry Wessel	Al Morrow	Gib Palmgren	Vol.	Vol.	Pentecost 6	G	Pr. Wil Goetze	Indoors	Communion (w/pastor)

THANK YOU!

... to all who donated to the **2024 VETERANS CLOTHING DRIVE** during the month of May.

Nolan Cropper helped his mom Jamie to load donations of clothing for local veterans into her vehicle on Friday May 31st.



Social Ministry & Evangelism

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

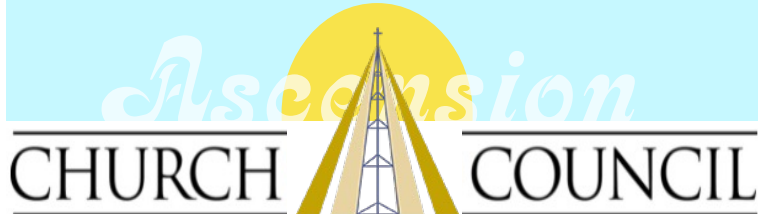
JUNE

YARD SALE June 8, 2024!

Upcoming SALT meetings for 2024:

• July 21 • Sept 22

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



ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council meeting was held Tuesday May 14, 2024

Call to order: 6:56 pm

Pastoral report: • *Transfer of Membership paperwork: Varner family requested transfer to Hope Lutheran.*

President's report:

• *Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Council input, process outline*

New Business: • **Call committee** – Next meeting: 5/23/24

• **Supply Schedule** – Bob - June

• **Yard Sale** - June 8

• **Konica-Minolta copier upgrade proposal**

• **Road Clean-up** May 25

Committee Reports:

• **Christian Education:** Last day of: Sunday School is May 19

• **Social Ministry:** Collecting clothes for VA in month of May.

• **Mutual Ministry:** Call Committee will determine potential Mutual Ministry committee members.

• **Finance & Stewardship:** Audit pending

• **Important dates:** Saturday June 8 Yard Sale

• **Next meeting:** Tuesday June 11 at 7 pm.

• **Adjournment:** 8:12 pm

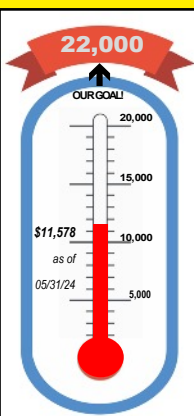
NOTICE

A special meeting of Ascension Church Council will be held on Monday June 3 at 7:00 PM. Pastor Peter Asplin, Assistant to the Bishop of the ELCA Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, will present thoughts and recommendations regarding future pastoral support for Ascension Church.

OTHER

wise . . .

We're steadily climbing **OVER** the 11K halfway mark of our e-Sign special projects fund! As of May 31st, **\$11,578** of the \$22,000 goal has been raised. Thanks, everyone ... keep that temp on the rise!



go NEWS?

If you have pictures, articles, or ideas to submit for the **JULY 2024** Newsletter, please send your items via email to: office@alcpgh.com.

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



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members/Friends

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



. . . and Blessings to ALL!

Lunch Bunch



A monthly gathering of members and friends of Ascension Church

LUNCH BUNCH: INTO THE WOODS 6/20

In May, nineteen Ascension Lunch Bunchers went to Angelo's Restaurant in "Little Washington" for meeting and eating. We were in a very nice room, had good food and fun conversations; but despite searching, found no statues nor pictures of "Little Washington." I always thought that he was a "little person" (vertically challenged) with the same last name as General and President George, but apparently he wasn't the founder of the town we visited. Hey, who knew?!

Continuing our quest for the best, on Thursday June 20th, the Bunch will travel through Penn's Woods to the **Log Cabin Inn**, 430 Perry Highway in Harmony, Pa. In spite of its rustically evocative name, we can expect no bears, no wolves, nor any hostile Indians (or "Guardians" - as the iconic Native American/Indigenous Peoples' moniker has been retired in Cleveland) along the route.

Regardless, if you would like to experience some great Log Cabin eating at its finest, please grab your phone and let Jerry Wessel (412-787-1213) or Nancy Schreiber (412-859-3969) know by Tuesday June 18th so that reservations can be made. We plan to meet at the restaurant at 11:30 am, so if you're thinking of carpooling, it's about a 35-minute drive from church. We hope to see you there!

~ Jerry Wessel

Class of 2024

CONGRATULATIONS to Ascension's

2024 GRADUATES:

Arianne Marnich – Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School

Brielle Marnich – Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School

Charlie McMahon – Montour High School

Rachael Hall – Duquesne University - B.S. in Physics

**A CELEBRATION WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY JULY 14, SO PLEASE JOIN US
TO WISH OUR GRADS GOOD LUCK!**



FLAG DAY 2024 is FRIDAY JUNE 14

Pictured above is the U.S. Flag Day poster, 1777-1917, commemorating the 140th "birthday" of the Stars and Stripes on June 14th, 1917. "Tis the Star Spangled Banner, oh, long may it wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!" The Library of Congress description: "Poster showing a man raising the American flag, with a minuteman cheering and an eagle flying above."

2024 marks the 247th "birthday" of our flag.

Ascension Church

2024

Yard
Sale



AND



BAKE
SALE

Saturday June 8

8 AM to NOON

**Browse through table after table
of new finds &
"vintage" treasures at
Ascension's Annual Yard Sale,
and stop by the
Bake Sale pavilion
for some homemade goodies
and refreshments!**

1290 Silver Lane 15136



Pitching in...and Pitching OUT!

Ascension members make light work with many hands

A healthy crowd of helpers gathered to “hit the road” for the annual Road Clean-up on Saturday, May 25. The group enjoyed lunch in Ascension’s social hall after the work was done.

“Nice turn out,” commented ALC Council President Jeff Williams. “Got the road cleaned up in 2 hours!” Thanks are in order to Jeff, along with the Wessels, Thompsons, Lescallettes, Sharon Giza and Gib Palmgren for their hard work to make our community sparkle!



Photos courtesy of
Sharon Giza
and Jeff Williams

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.



*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

