

# THE MESSENGER

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 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

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 Kruse

Treasurer – Bob Thompson

### 2024 COUNCIL LIAISONS

Christian Education

Jason Eager

Communications & Publications

Jason Eager

Finance & Stewardship

(open)

Mutual Ministry

Jeff Williams

Personnel

Thom Kruse

Property

Phil Spano

Fellowship, Social Ministry

& Evangelism

Sharon Giza

Worship & Music

Thom Kruse

Youth

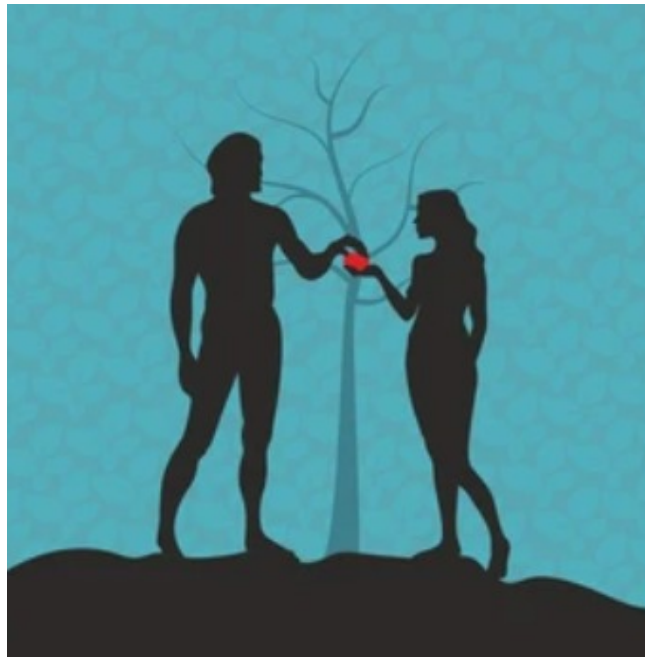
(open)

Kelly Bryan, council member

### Next Council Meeting

Tuesday July 9 at 7:00 PM

## Identity theft: At risk every day



*A message from*

*Interim Pastor Clagg*

*Dear friends in Christ,*

Genesis 3: the snake steals the identity of Adam and Eve, corrupting the relationship between The Divine and humanity. It is perhaps the first occasion of identity theft.

- Well over 75% of us worry about having our identity stolen, day to day.

- Over 30% of Identity theft victims find it difficult or impossible to buy things online.

- It takes about 600 hours to resolve an identity theft case.

Whenever the source of a pop-up or any message (email, text, phone number) is at all questionable:

- Do not even engage with the serpent.

- Delete immediately.

- Call the person directly if you are in any doubt.

We understand that the enemy is ever present since the Garden of Eden, sowing deception and discord to steal our identity as God's beloved children in Christ.

Peace to the good people of Ascension!

*Rev. Gregory Clagg*

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

## INDEPENDENCE Day

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the thirteen colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by the Committee of Five, which asked Thomas Jefferson to author its first draft.

While Jefferson consulted extensively with the other four members of the Committee of Five, he largely wrote the Declaration of Independence in isolation over 17 days between June 11, 1776, and June 28, 1776, from the second floor he was

*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



## ALC Council Meeting Highlights

**Council meeting was held Tuesday June 11, 2024**

**Call to order: 7:03 pm**

**Review minutes of May meeting; minutes approved.**

- Discussion of intern opportunity – Motion made to deny the opportunity of an intern. 5 for, 1 against, 1 abstain. Motion passes.
- Homebound Team visited three shut-ins his month.
- Motion to approve up to \$2000 to fix the air conditioning system (recharge & fixing of leak), \$450 of which is from the revenues of Yard Sale vendor spots. Passed unanimously.

### **Fellowship, Social Ministry and Evangelism:**

- Graduates celebration on Sunday 7/14.

**Adjournment: 8:46 pm**

**Next meeting: Tuesday July 9 at 7 pm**

## INDEPENDENCE Day (continued from pg 1)

renting in a three-story private home at 700 Market Street in Philadelphia, now known as the Declaration House, and within walking distance of Independence Hall.

Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, removing Jefferson's vigorous denunciation of King George III for importing the slave trade, finally approving it two days later on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail:

*The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.*

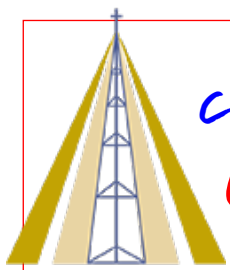
Adams' prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether members of Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed.

By a remarkable coincidence, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signatories of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as presidents of the United States, both died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, James Monroe, another Founding Father who was elected president, also died on July 4, 1831, making him the third President who died on the anniversary of independence. The only U.S. president to have been born on Independence Day was Calvin Coolidge, who was born on July 4, 1872.

source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)





## Council President's **CORNER**

### PRAYER LIST

Now included in our monthly newsletter is the "Please keep in your prayers" list. Our shut-ins especially appreciate having that feature in the newsletter to help them stay in touch and in the know about their friends and their fellow members' families and friends who have requested prayers for their particular intentions.

### CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee has met on June 26<sup>th</sup> with the bishop's assistant Pastor Peter Asplin for training on call process forms. We pray that this process will be fruitful soon.

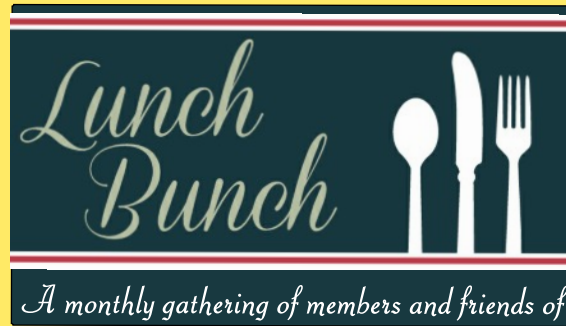
### THANK YOU PR. CLAGG!

Our interim pastor Rev. Gregory Clagg has been very gracious in the blessing of our elements at Grace Lutheran Church in Rochester for distribution during our Sunday services when we elect to have communion more often.

### HOMEBOUND VISITATION

If anyone would like to help in reaching out to our shut-ins, please let Deb or Jeff Williams know. Any availability is appreciated.

~ Jeff Williams



**JOIN US  
THURSDAY  
JULY 18!**

The Ascension Lunch Bunch's June trip to the Log Cabin Inn bordered on the historic, as the "head count" was twenty-two (unless you also include the buffalo, elk and two reindeer heads on the walls in our vicinity, then the count was twenty-six). Either way, it was a modern-era (within the last two years) record for the Bunch! The food and service were great, as were the conversations and ambience (if you like huge animal heads perched on the walls) – it truly was an interesting place to visit!

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, the Bunch will return to a favorite stop – La Cucina, located at 200 Three Springs Drive in Weirton, W.Va. (not quite heaven) The cuisine has always been great there and the desserts always look super (I may just have to do a dessert this time).

If you would like to be included in the July get-together (please consider it!), be sure to call Jerry Wessel (412-787-1213) or Nancy Schreiber (412-859-3969) by Tuesday July 16 to get on the "save me a seat" roster.

The drive to La Cucina is about 35 minutes from church, so for those who are setting up car pools, plan your departure accordingly in order to meet at the restaurant at 11:30am. We've been told that "La Cucina" means "The Kitchen" in Italian, but we all know that in English it translates to "really good food!" See you there!

~ Jerry Wessel

## ASCENSION WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE - JULY 7-14-21-28 & AUG 4 -11

Date	Supply	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Lector	Usher	Acolyte	Sunday (or special)	color	Council Update
July 7	TBA	Jennifer Burkholder	Amy Kruse	Sharon Giza	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 7	green	Jason Eager
July 14	TBA	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Gib Palmgren	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 8	green	Sharon Giza
July 21	TBA	Jeff Williams	Jerry Wessel	Rich Mussman	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 9	green	Jeff Williams
July 28	TBA	Jerry Wessel	Bob Dudek	Jason Eager	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 10	green	Bob Thompson
Aug. 4	TBA	Jennifer Burkholder	Jerry Wessel	Melissa DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 11	green	Kelly Bryan
Aug. 11	TBA	Jeff Williams	Al Morrow	Jeff Williams	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 12	green	Phil Spano

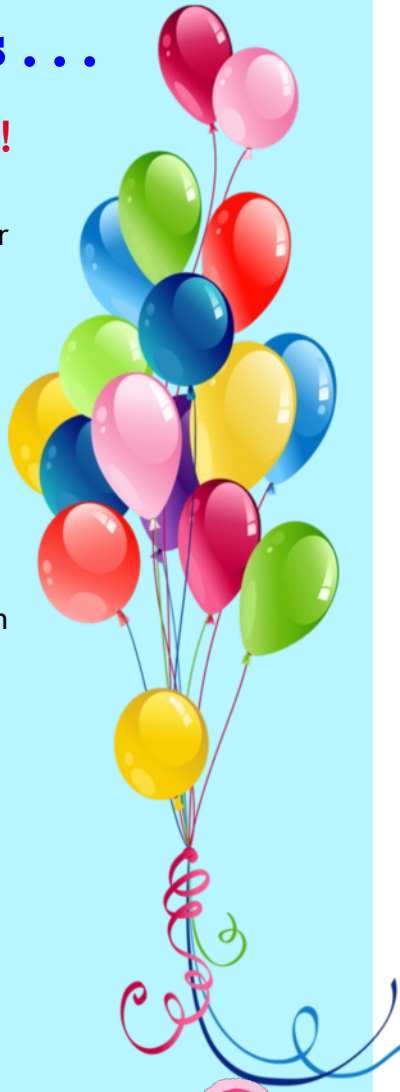


## Best Wishes . . .

### JULY BIRTHDAYS!

Date | Member/Friend

- 1 Jennifer Burkholder  
Megan Ganley
- 2 Greg Thompson  
Camryn Endes
- 3 Brian Tomchak
- 7 Diane Bayer
- 12 Venus Thompson
- 14 Jane Gregory  
Giovanni Thompson
- 17 Amanda Derbish
- 18 Bob Stathers
- 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

- 25 Mike & Lynn Neilson



## ... and Blessings to ALL!

## READ ALL ABOUT IT!

## GO NEWS?

If you have pictures, articles, or ideas to submit for the **AUGUST 2023** Newsletter, please contact the office or Pastor, or email [office@alcpgh.com](mailto:office@alcpgh.com).

CONGRATULATIONS to Ascension's

# Class of 2024 GRADUATES:

**Arianne Marnich & Brielle Marnich**

*Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School*

**Charlie McMahon** – *Montour High School*

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

A CELEBRATION WILL BE HELD

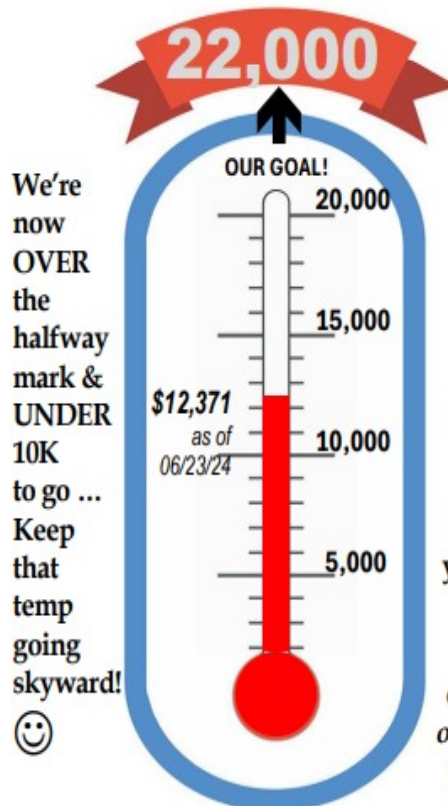
## SUNDAY JULY 14

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

PLEASE JOIN US

TO WISH OUR GRADS GOOD LUCK!

## OVER HALF-WAY THERE . . . !



Thank You for helping to fund this new Special Project by directing a portion of your Sunday offering to "OTHER" on your giving envelope or write "e-Sign" on your pew envelope offering.

Thank you for your support!

# CREATIVE (AND HELPING) HANDS

Hand-crafted items were sent from Ascension's 'Creative Hands' ministry on 6/19/24 to various organizations which provide goods and services for children and adults. The group made ponchos, blankets, hats and more, including various Pittsburgh sports teams themed items.

Also benefiting from the work of Creative Hands member Darlene Witt are organizations such as Hope 4 Women International (Dress a Girl Around the World, pictured below) and St. Joseph's Indian School. They have gratefully accepted her handiwork on behalf of the little girls for whom she sews dresses crafted from materials such as sheets, pillowcases and curtains, giving them a new life and purpose.



## **Please keep in your prayers:**

- JoAnne Erwin, Dee Gratzmiller, Mary Honath, Norma Kohnen, Lottie Lodge, Jean Marion, Betty Simpson – *shut-ins*
- Mary Jane McGinnis – *health concerns*
- Cole Powers, son of Amy Reckner's co-worker – *health concerns*
- Bob Thompson – *health concerns*
- Mary Miller, friend of Sharon Giza – *multiple medical issues*
- Janis McKinney, sister of Jeff Williams – *GI surgery*
- Rachel Potts – *36-yr-old mother of 3 with terminal cancer*
- Thad Ritter – *health concerns*
- Family of Dolly Morrow – *upon her passing May 17, 2024*
- Family of Kay Braisted – *upon her passing May 29, 2024*
- Nancy Jacobs – *recovering AT HOME! Thank you for continued prayers.*







# THANKS!

Our 2024 YARD SALE / BAKE SALE was a fine success! Picture-perfect weather on Saturday June 8 greeted vendors, volunteers and patrons who came to Ascension to enjoy a morning full of treasures and some really good food and refreshments.

**Thanks, everyone!**



Photos by  
Sharon Giza  
and Jeff Williams





# 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.



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

**Contact Us**  
(412) 859-3711

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)

*Ascension Lutheran Church*  
1290 Silver Lane  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

