

THE MESSENGER

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 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 - 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

Kelly Bryan

Mutual Ministry

Jeff Williams

Personnel

Thom Kruise

Property

Phil Spano

Fellowship, Social Ministry

& Evangelism

Sharon Giza

Worship & Music

Thom Kruise

Youth

(open)

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday September 10 at 7:00 PM

Built upon Promise Joshua 24:15

TRUST

A message from Interim Pastor Clagg

Dear friends in Christ,

God promises salvation, life forever, to God's people. Joshua faithfully attends to the things of God, while serving Moses. The one blessed by God to lead God's people from slavery to the promised land. When Joshua is summoned, devotion and obedience to God become the reflection of God's salvation promise. More so than Moses' siblings or sons, Joshua is selected by The One Sovereign Lord, to lead God's people across the Jordan, into the promised land.

God and Joshua have a relationship built upon promise and trust. The sixth book of the Bible is Joshua. Read it anew, become a student again, using eyes of faith, while answering this question:

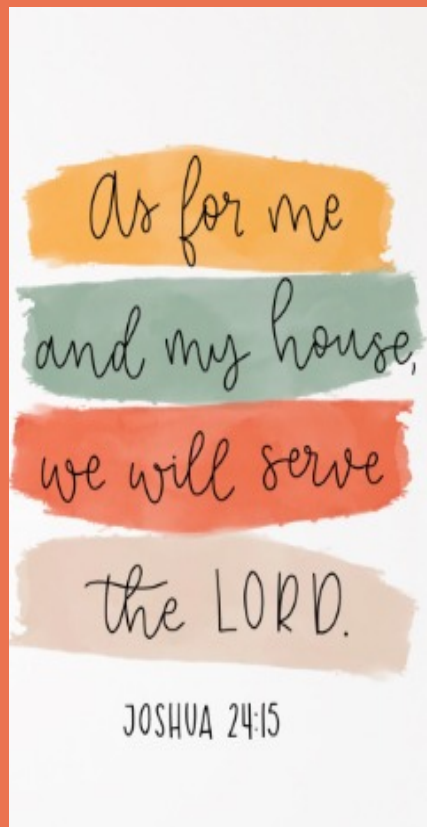
Is my life built on serving The Lord?
(Joshua 24:15)

The names of the deities and false gods change over the generations. The temptations of Egypt and Canaan are similar and different. God's word of salvation, life forever, remains the constant for the house of Joshua and all of God's people.

Lord, to whom can we go for the Word of Eternal Life?

Now and forever,
Pastor Gregory Clagg

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



Mount Calvary Cemetery

1715 Middletown Road
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Robert J. Dudek, Supervisor
mtcalvarycem@alcpgh.com

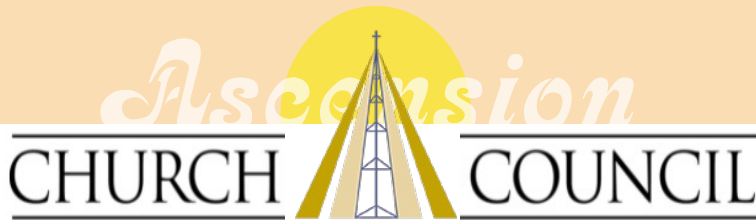


Mount Calvary Cemetery Board

Jason Eager Judy Henry

Bob Hughes Bette Ann Kallay

George C. Kasich Joyce Leister



ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council meeting was held Tuesday July 9, 2024

Call to order: 7:05 pm

Review minutes of July meeting; minutes approved.

St. Andrew update – Met with Jeff Bussard, St. Andrew Council President last week. St. Andrew Council was invited to go to Mt. Calvary Cemetery to see what our facilities have to offer.

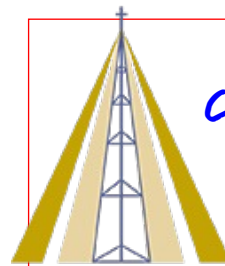
Old Business: • New AED unit – will purchase from Cintas – monthly maintenance checks will be done by council members.

New Business: • September 8 – Rally Day • Nominations ballot for October • Ballots for November • December Congregational Meeting • Ascension business cards

Call Committee, Bob Thompson: Next Meeting 8/28/24 will review five expectations or goals for the new pastor to be added to the MSP.

Adjournment: 8:16pm

Next meeting: Tuesday September 10 at 7 pm



Council President's **CORNER**

We're happy to announce that our Call Committee has finished the arduous task of filling out the Ministry Site Profile forms. This great achievement by the committee will help us in our search for a new pastor.

We look for new pastoral leadership that will bring us closer in a relationship with God, help to grow our church and help us to withstand against the winds of social change pressures that a lack biblical basis.

I would like to thank all those who visit our homebound and members in assisted living-based settings.

Also thank you to all those who keep the church functioning well! We appreciate all the little yet significant things done in service to our congregation.

Lastly, I hope our children and grandchildren have a safe start to a new school year.

Blessings to all,

Jeff Williams

• DATES to REMEMBER •

SEPTEMBER 2024

8	Rally Day & 1 st day of Sunday School
10	Council Meeting
19	Lunch Bunch at DJ's Weirton, WV

OCTOBER 2024

All Month	Veterans Clothing Collection
All Month	Creative Hands Blanket Crafting
8	Council Meeting
12	Campfire Fellowship
27	Reformation Sunday



Join us on
Sunday, September 8th
for RALLY DAY 2024!

The theme is **Steelers Football** (since there is an early game that day) and we want everyone to sport their Steelers (or favorite team) gear. We will be doing a craft with the kids during the Sunday School hour, then after worship there will be a **potluck lunch in the pavilion**. Chicken and hot dogs will be provided; a sign-up sheet to bring sides and desserts will be passed around for everyone to let us know what you'll be bringing to share. Volunteers are also needed for setup before and for clean-up after the big event.

Adult Sunday School
starts on Sunday Sept. 8.
 Classes are held at 9:30 am
 (before worship)
 We will be jumping back into
 Luke, Chapter 9.
 No Bible experience
 or knowledge required.
No homework! Open for all!

On Sunday August 11,
 Ascension's newly-formed
Women's Group
 met to talk about plans for
 upcoming events. There was a
 great turnout with great ideas,
 many of which are featured in
 this issue of The Messenger.
 Meetings for the Women's
 Group will be held on the second
 Sunday of the month
 immediately following worship.
All are welcome!

RALLY DAY † SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Please keep in your prayers:

- JoAnne Erwin, Dee Gratzmiller, Mary Honath, Norma Kohnen,
 Lottie Lodge, Jean Marion, Betty Simpson, Rose Rahner,
 Betty Borden – *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*
- Nancy Jacobs – *recovering at home! Thank you for continued prayers.*
- Ellie Sturvist, friend of Bette Kallay – *recuperating at Caring Heights*
- Frank Gillespie, friend of Amy Reckner – *diagnosed with cancer*
- Joyce Leister – *recovering from fractured foot*



Best Wishes . . .

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

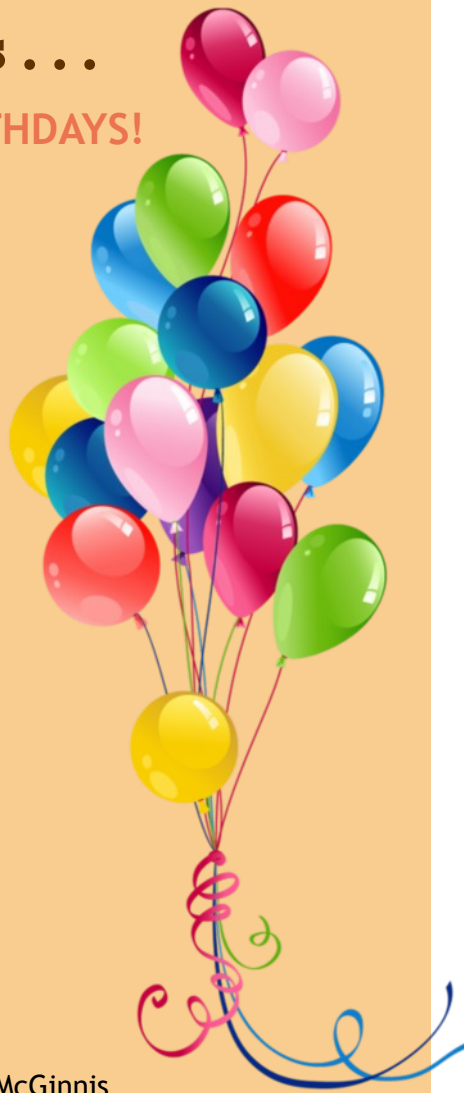
Date | Member / Friend

- 1 Deb Walenchok
- 4 Jen Marnich
- 5 Lynn Neilson
Angel Rose
- 6 Carolyn Paladino
- 7 Curtis Woods
- 10 Mary Honath
- 12 Luciana Thompson
- 14 Arianne Marnich
Brielle Marnich
Marlene Porta
- 17 Lauren Rose
- 23 Gavin Thomson
- 30 Blake Rhoads

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members / Friends

- 6 John & Mary Jane McGinnis
Chris & Emily Paladino
- 10 Paul & Paula Tomchak
- 17 Tom & Amy Lanzasotta
- 19 Rick & Janey Zoltun
- 28 Mike & Lynn Kinney



. . . and Blessings to ALL!

go NEWS?

If you have pictures, articles, or ideas to submit for the **OCTOBER 2024** Newsletter, please email your info to office@alcpgh.com.

Take a good look in the mirror . . .

A reflection by Nancy Jacobs

In one of my collections of daily devotions, I was reading 1st Samuel and how he was losing the throne because he only obeyed God in part. I wondered - *do I do that ... obey God only sometimes?* And when is that? That's easy ... when I write a check for my church offering, when I donate to the food bank, when I read my bible, when, as Pastor Jensen used to say, lust after St. Paul's teachings.

I'm a good person ... sometimes.

But how about when I'm not ... when I am critical of something or someone? I have a relative I love dearly but does not belong to a church, does no charitable giving, does no volunteer work but is very secure financially. She says that she is happy ... I wonder.

Then it occurs to me that my being critical of her - is that part of not obeying God? How about when I forget to criticize myself for forgetting to pick up my bible and read, when I forget to thank God for my food and comfort, when I forget to thank God for friends and family who look after and care for me ... or when I criticize those who throw trash in our yard or park their cars "in my spot."

Take a good look in the mirror ... is it Nancy, or is God looking at Samuel?





SOCIAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES a Special Event

Church Campfire Fellowship: A Night Under the Stars!

Join us for an evening of
faith, fun, and fellowship!

We're gathering around the campfire
for a night filled with:

- Delicious s'mores and mountain pies
- Joyful singing and laughter
- Warm conversations and new friendships

Date: Saturday October 12, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM

All ages are welcome!

Bring your family, friends,
and a heart ready for community.

#ChurchFamily #CampfireNight #FaithAndFellowship

VETERANS CLOTHING DRIVE

Cleaning out your closets? Bring them to church!
There will be a collection of new and gently used
clothing during the month of October to donate to
local veterans. Both men's and women's items:

Socks, T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants
are definitely needed.

Drop off bins will be available at church.
Thank You for your donations for our vets!



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER 2024

Date	Supply	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Lector	Usher	Acolyte	Sunday (or special)	color	Council Update
Sept. 1	Kathleen Howells	Jennifer Burkholder	Amy Kruise	Rich Mussman	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 15	green	Jeff Williams
Sept. 8	Pr. Deb Thompson	Jeff Williams	Al Morrow	Dan Giza	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 16	green	Bob Thompson
Sept. 15	Kathleen Howells	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Jerry Wessel	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 17	green	Kelly Bryan
Sept. 22	Pr. Donna Van Eck	Jerry Wessel	Jeff Williams	Melissa DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 18	green	Phil Spano
Sept. 29	TBD	Jennifer Burkholder	Jerry Wessel	Emilia DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pentecost 19	green	Jason Eager

WELL OVER HALF-WAY THERE!



**JOIN US
THURSDAY
SEPT. 19!**

A monthly gathering of members and friends of Ascension Church

In August, seventeen members of Ascension's Lunch Bunch descended upon Sunny Jim's on Camp Horne Road. We didn't see Jim, so we don't know if he was sunny side up or not. The food however, was good and the conversations great. If you missed it, read on - because another opportunity is coming!

On Thursday September 19th, the Bunch will meet in West Virginia at Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs & Grille, 380 Three Springs Drive, Weirton. It's right off of Hwy 22-30, only about 30 minutes from church. I'm not sure what Dee Jay's stands for - maybe disc jockeys, because they do spin some classic platters. One of life's mysteries!

We plan to be there at 11:30. Please let Jerry Wessel (412) 787-1213 or Nancy Schreiber (412) 859-3769 know by Tuesday the 17th if you plan to attend, so that enough spaces are reserved.



Good food, good company, give it a try!

~ Jerry Wessel

CREATIVE HANDS WANTED: VOLUNTEERS!

FUN WITH FLEECE!

During the month of October, Ascension's Creative Hands group will be looking for volunteers to make fleece blankets. No crafting experience is necessary, only cutting and tying a knot is required. This event promises to be a fun craft project, especially for families.

CREATIVE MINDS NEEDED: We are open to all great suggestions for our roadside messages!

We'd like to keep a library of inspirational and clever messages for our roadside sign, which soon will be replaced with an electronic version!

Send your suggestions to Jeff Williams at jeffctsvmanw@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

September 2

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig *bishop, renewer of the church, d. 1872*

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

September 9

Peter Claver *priest, missionary to Colombia, d. 1654*

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the slaves that arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

September 13

John Chrysostom *Bishop of Constantinople, d. 407*

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname “Chrysostom” (“golden mouth”), but it also got him into trouble. As bishop of Constantinople he preached against corruption among the royal court. The empress, who had been his supporter, sent him into exile. His preaching style emphasized the literal meaning of scripture and its practical application.

September 14

Holy Cross Day

Helena, the mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to Israel to look for Christian holy sites. She found what she believed were the sites of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, sites that modern archaeologists believe may be correct. Here Constantine built two churches. The celebration of Holy Cross Day originated with the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection in 335. Today the festival provides the church an opportunity to lift up the victory of the cross with a spirit of celebration that might be less suitable on Good Friday.

September 16

Cyprian *Bishop of Carthage, martyr, d. ca. 258*

Cyprian worked for the unity of the church and cared for his flock in North Africa during a time of great persecution. During Cyprian’s time as bishop many people had denied the faith under duress. In contrast to some who held the belief that the church should not receive these people back, Cyprian believed they should be welcomed into full communion after a period of penance. He insisted on the need for compassion in order to preserve the unity of the church. His essay *On the Unity of the Catholic Church* stressed the role of bishops in guaranteeing the visible, concrete unity of the church. Cyprian was also concerned for the physical well-being of the people under his care. He organized a program of medical care for the sick during a severe epidemic in Carthage.

September 17

Hildegard *Abbess of Bingen, d. 1179*

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard was chosen as abbess of her community, which she reformed as well as other convents. She advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She also was a musician and artist.

September 18

Dag Hammarskjöld *renewer of society, d. 1961*

Dag Hammarskjöld (HAH-mar-sheld) was a Swedish diplomat and humanitarian who served as secretary general of the United Nations. He was killed in a plane crash on this day in 1961, in what is now Zambia, while on he was his way to negotiate a cease-fire between the United Nations and the Katanga forces. His life was a combination of diplomatic service and personal spirituality, and of contemplation on the meaning of Christ in his life and action in the world.

September 21

Matthew *Apostle and Evangelist*

Matthew (“Levi” in the gospels of Mark and Luke) was a tax collector for the Roman government in Capernaum. In the gospels, tax collectors are mentioned as sinful and despised outcasts, but it was these outcasts to whom Jesus showed his love. Matthew’s name means “gift of the Lord.” Since the second century, tradition has attributed the first gospel to him.

September 29

Michael and All Angels

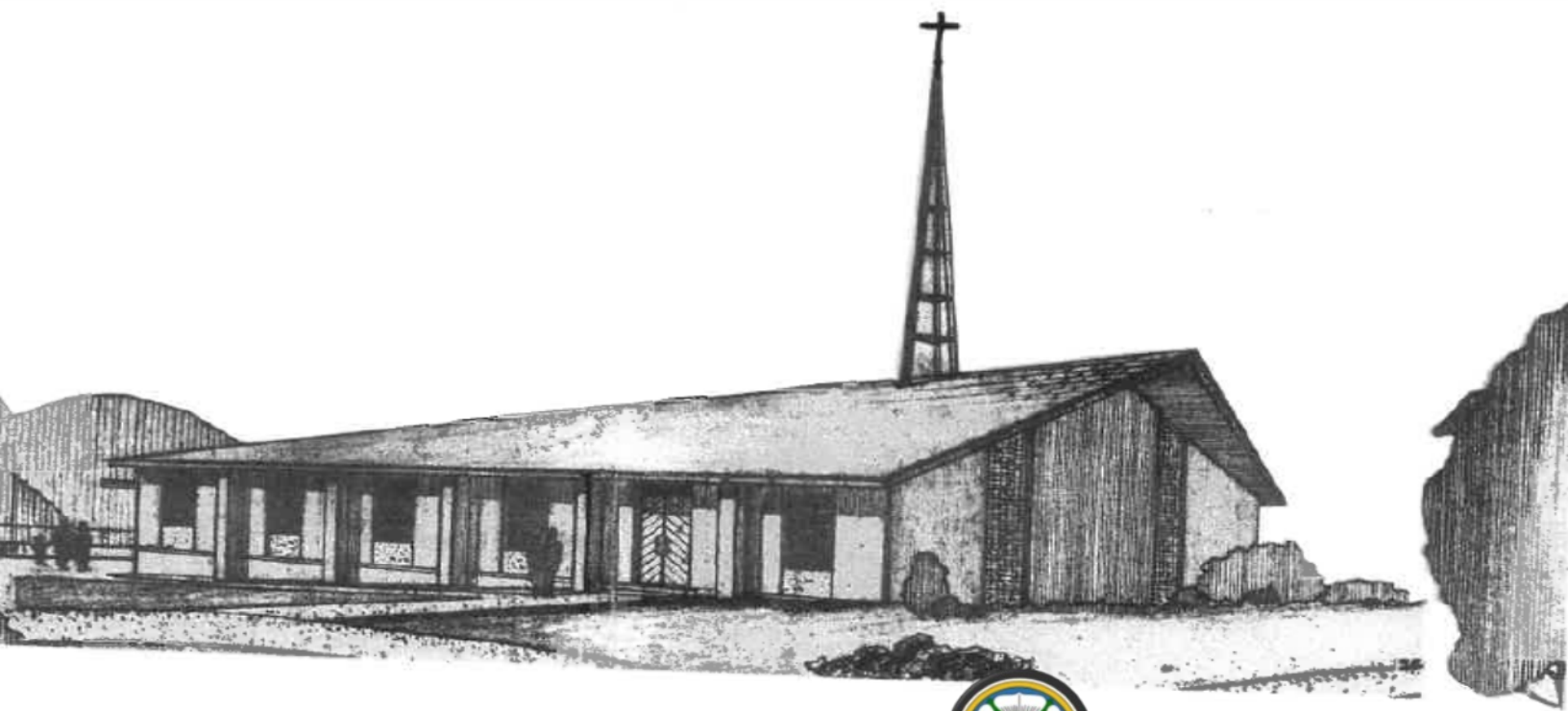
On this festival day the church ponders the richness and variety of God’s created order and the limits of human knowledge of it. The scriptures speak of angels (the word means “messengers”) who worship God in heaven, and in both testaments angels speak for God on earth. Michael is an angel whose name appears in Daniel as the heavenly being who leads the faithful dead to God’s throne on the day of resurrection. In Revelation, Michael fights in a cosmic battle against Satan.

September 30

Jerome *translator, teacher, d. 420*

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate. Thanks to the work of Jerome, many people received the word in their own language and lived lives of faith and service to those in need.

Source: www.sundaysandseasons.com



*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

