



THE MESSENGER

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2025

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship - 11:00 AM
Sunday School - 10:00 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 &
Wednesday evenings (Spring-Fall)



2025 COUNCIL

President – Sharon Giza
Vice President – Deb Whitfield
Treasurer – Bob Stathers
Secretary – Jason Eager
2025 COUNCIL LIAISONS
Christian Education
Jason Eager
Communications & Publications
Sharon Giza
Finance & Stewardship
open
Mutual Ministry
Bob Stathers
Personnel
Kelly Bryan
Property
Bob Thompson
Fellowship, Social Ministry
and Evangelism;
Worship & Music
Jeff Williams
Youth
Debbie Whitfield
Call Committee
Sharon Giza
Council Member: Bill Whitfield

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday October 14th at 7:00 PM

Advancing the kingdom

from the desk of Pastor Ryan Kobert

The following devotion was written by Glenn Boland, a member of St. Paul's in Sewickley, and was used to open a mutual ministry meeting. His words, reflecting on this passage from Romans, reminds all of us that our diverse gifts from God work for the building up of God's kingdom here and now. My only edit was to change the congregation's name so that it addresses us here at Ascension. May this devotion strengthen your resolve to use God's gifts with humility and grace to build up this community. Peace, Pastor Ryan Kobert

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:4-5

“For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We gather today, a community of diverse gifts and callings, to engage in the important work of mutual ministry. When we think of “ministry,” our minds often go to the pastor and paid staff. And while they have a special and God-given role, this passage from Romans reminds us that ministry is not a solitary endeavor. We are all members of one body, and we all have a function.

Each of us is called to ministry, to use the gifts God has given us for the building up of this body, (Ascension Lutheran Church of Robinson Township). Each part, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, is vital to the health and function of the whole. In the same way, your unique contributions, whether visible or behind the scenes, are essential to the life of our church.

**We are members
of ONE body . . .**

Perhaps your gift is prayer, faithfully lifting up our church and its members. Maybe it's hospitality, making sure every person who walks through our doors feels seen and welcomed. It could be administration, using your organizational skills to keep things running smoothly. Or perhaps it's a listening ear, offering comfort to someone in need. No one person can do it all, and no one person is called to do nothing. We are members of one another. We need each other to fully reflect the body of Christ in our community.

As we go about our work today, let us remember this truth. Let us celebrate the diversity of gifts among us, trusting that God has equipped each of us for the task at hand. Let us approach our discussions with humility and grace, remembering that we are on the same team, serving the same Lord. Our goal is not to prove ourselves right, but to serve Christ and one another, so that our ministry may be a true and living witness to the Gospel.

continued on page 4

MOUNT CALVARY CEMETERY

1715 Middletown Road | McKees Rocks, PA

Robert J. Dudek, Supervisor
mtcalvarycem@alcpgh.com

Mount Calvary Cemetery Board Members

Judy Henry • Bob Hughes • Bette Ann Kallay

George C. Kasich • Joyce Leister

Pastor Ryan Kobert • Deb Whitfield



ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council meeting was held Tuesday September 9, 2025

President Report: Sharon – Pastor Asplin to meet once the updated model constitution is actually released. Cemetery had 5 funerals; a small section for a pet cemetery was approved. Cropper family requested removal from Ascension logs.

Old Business: New locks / cameras purchase, plan to install by end of October.

New Business: Council Nominations in October - Deadline to submit is October 26th. Three (3) 3-year terms; One (1) 2-year term; One (1) Cemetery Board position

Council Nominations - Voting November 9th

Annual Congregational Meeting to approve Budget for 2026 will occur on Sunday December 7th

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Jason – Children's Sunday School will run weekly; Adult Sunday School meets the 2nd/4th Sunday of each month.

Personnel: Kelly – Met with Darlene to update list of employees/volunteers who will need to complete background/compliance clearance documents.

Property: Bob T. – Discussed having a cleaning day & picnic. Date will be Saturday October 25th.

Next meeting: Tuesday October 14 at 7 pm



Council President's **CORNER**

It's hard to believe that Fall is upon us and time is moving quickly. As we approach the end of the year, it is time to elect Church Council and Cemetery board members for open positions. On church council there will be four (4) open positions and for Mount Calvary Cemetery there will be one (1) open board position. Nominations will be accepted until October 26th, 2025 to allow time to reach out to those individuals who have been nominated. Nomination inserts will be available in the bulletin each Sunday in October or you can email the church office with a nomination.

We especially would like to thank Jason Eager whose second consecutive term on church council ends on December 31, 2025. Voting for Church Council and Cemetery Board members will take place after worship on Sunday, November 9, 2025.

We are still looking for a few more volunteers for Assistant Minister responsibilities. Currently we only have 3 and a few more volunteers would increase the rotation to approximately every 5 weeks. We promise it is rewarding and not that difficult to do!!! If you can assist please let me or Pastor Ryan know!!

Sharon Giza

Ascension Church Council president

• DATES to REMEMBER •

OCTOBER 2025

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 11 | Creative Hands Quilts display help |
| 12 | Quilts blessing & packing |
| 12 | Campfire Fellowship 6:00 pm |
| 14 | Council Meeting |
| 26 | Reformation Sunday |
| | Pumpkin Painting & Pizza |

NOVEMBER 2024

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 4 | Election Day |
| 11 | Veterans' Day |
| 11 | Council Meeting |
| 27 | Thanksgiving |

QUILT HELP!

Our Creative Hands group have met the challenge of reaching their goal of 100 quilts (the most ever) this year! The quilts will be shipped all over the world, where needed - including the United States - by Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you to our group of tirelessly working women and men: Jennifer Burkholder, Lynn Kinney, Judy Henry, Amy Kruise, Helen Weir and Darlene Witt; also, Thom Kruise and Bob Thompson for helping to carry things and put them away.

The quilts will be displayed on Sunday Oct. 12 for Blessing by Pastor Kobert. **Creative Hands will need help on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 11:00 am** to lay the quilts out for display. On Oct. 12, after worship, help will be needed to box them up for transport (on Monday Oct. 13) to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Zelienople by Bob Dudek and Frank McQuillan from Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Creative Hands are always in need of sheets and pillowcases. And most importantly needed are **extra hands!** Even if you can't make the meetings on Wednesdays at 11:00 am, you can help by cutting squares at home. Creative Hands will provide you with the material and a template. Every little bit helps!

For more information, contact Judy Henry at 724-290-1869.

~Judy Henry

Photos of this year's quilts will appear in November's newsletter!



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

Sunday October 12, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

All ages are welcome! Bring your family, friends,
and a heart ready for community.



We need you!

**We are in need of additional Lectors,
Worship Assistants and Acolytes
to help during Sunday worship.
If interested and willing to serve,
please email Sharon Giza at
oneone2@verizon.net**

REVISED SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS - OCTOBER 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Supply</u>	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Communion Assistant</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Sunday (or special)</u>	<u>color</u>	<u>Council Update</u>
Oct 5	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jeff Williams	Avis Ritter	Jeff Williams	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 17	GREEN	Sharon Giza
Oct 12	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jennifer Burkholder	Dan Giza	Melissa DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 18	GREEN	Bob Stathers
Oct 19	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Dan Giza	Amy Kruise	Jason Eager	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 19	GREEN	Deb Whitfield
Oct 26	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Mary Thompson	Al Morrow	Dan Giza	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 20 & Reformation Sun.	GREEN or RED	Jeff Williams
Nov 2	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jeff Williams	Bob Thompson	Sharon Giza	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 21 & All Saints Sun.	GREEN or WHITE	Bob Thompson

Best Wishes . . .

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

Date | Member/Friend

- 7 Suzie Bryan
- 8 Cayley Hughes
- 9 Rich Mussman
- 10 Callie Derbish
Rachael Hall
- 13 Jerry Wessel
- 20 Dave Walenchok
- 23 Myrtle Cairns
- 26 Thad Ritter



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members/Friends

- 4 Brian & Jeannette Tomchak
- 7 Mike & Jill Lescalette
- 12 Bob & Mary Hughes
- 15 Travis & Candace McEwen



. . . and Blessings to ALL!



Please keep in your prayers:

- JoAnne Erwin, Dee Gratzmiller, Norma Kohnen,
Lottie Lodge, Jean Marion, Betty Simpson,
Rose Rahner, Betty Borden – shut-ins
- Mary Jane McGinnis – health concerns
- Thad Ritter – health concerns
- Bill McEwen – multiple health concerns
- Linda Younkers, mother of Kathleen Howells – stage 4 cancer
- Hogan Moody, friend of Cy & Kathleen Howells – cancer
- Pastor Joe Murdy as he serves his tour of duty in Kuwait
- Norma Kohnen – hospitalization for pneumonia
- Rev. Tom Moog – undergoing cancer treatments
- Tom Walenchok – brother-in-law of Deb W. – lung & brain cancer
- Amy – friend of Deb Walenchok – rare form of cancer
- Linda Siemons – recovery from emergency surgery



**THURSDAY
OCT. 16
Shakespeare's
Castle**

In September, eleven Lunch Bunch associates traveled to Angelo's Restaurant in Washington, Pa. The food was great and too much for many, resulting in some "take home bags." (I was going to write "doggie bags," but being that most of the attendees don't have dogs, we all know who the leftovers were *really* for). The service, atmosphere and camaraderie were also great - if you missed it, be sure to give the Bunch a try next time.

The Bunch's trip in October (Thursday the 16th) will be the usual fall jaunt to **Shakespeare's Castle** at 1495 Mercer Road, Ellwood City, PA. The changing leaves and driving through the Christmas tree farm makes the 45-minute trip, with an arrival time of 11:30 AM, well worth it. The food is always great, with the seasonal pumpkin bisque being a favorite. The atmosphere and service are always great also, as are the conversations with the other Bunchers. If you haven't been to Shakespeare's Castle, give it a try - and if you have been, give it a re-try since you know it IS worth the trip.

Please let organizers Jerry Wessel, (412) 787-1213 or George Kasich (412) 726-1645 know by Tuesday Oct. 14th if you plan to attend to ensure needed spaces at the table are prepared. A knowledge of Shakespeare's plays is not required nor is Elizabethan dress, but if anyone would like to do a scene from one of the Bard's plays, I'm sure that the group would greatly enjoy it and not send you to the Tower. Hope to see you then!

~Jerry Wessel

Advancing the kingdom continued from page 1

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for bringing us together as one body in Christ. We pray for a spirit of unity and love as we meet today. Help us to see and value the gifts you have placed in each of us. Guide our hearts and minds so that all we do is for your glory and the good of your people. Strengthen us to be faithful servants to one another, so that your kingdom may be advanced here on earth. We ask all this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

~~~ Glenn Boland, St. Paul's Mutual Ministry Team

Pastor Kobert also serves St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sewickley, Pa. in addition to serving as Interim Pastor at Ascension Church.



Saturday October 25th Ascension Autumn Cleanup & Soup/Sandwich Fellowship

CLEANING Time: 12:30-4:30pm
(see below left for list of tasks)

Fellowship LUNCH Time: 4:30pm - ??
Soup, Sandwiches & Drinks

Important Note!

Please RSVP to Bob Thompson*
if you'll attend on Oct. 25th and list which
task(s) you prefer to work on so that
all assignments may be filled.

Bob's email: bob.thompson72@outlook.com
or **TEXT him at 412-389-1869**

***If you can't attend the clean-up on Oct. 25, but
wish to help beautify God's house, please email Bob
and note which task(s) you'd like to work on at
another date/time which is more convenient for you.**

(Ascension will provide cleaning materials)

Ascension Property Cleaning Tasks for Autumn 2025

1. Power wash trailer ramp and pavilion.
2. Paint/stain playground and pavilion.
3. Scrape and paint red doors and front door frames.
4. Vacuum and spot clean pews
5. Clean windows in Sanctuary, offices & social hall.
6. Clean cobwebs.
7. Replace batteries in smoke detector(s).
8. Clean wood surfaces (Murphy's oil soap).
9. Damp wipe registers
10. Wash curtains in bathrooms, kitchen & social hall.
11. Clean and organize social hall storage room.
12. Clean entry steps, lights, and fix loose bricks.

Sunday School

Classes are held at 10:00 am
(before worship)

Kids' Sunday School
held every week

Adult Sunday School
held on 2nd & 4th Sundays

**The Youth and Family Committee has
planned an exciting calendar of events ahead:**

Oct 12 - Family Campfire



Oct 26 - Pumpkin Painting & Pizza



Nov - College Care Packages

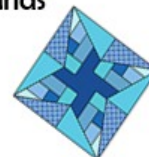


Nov - Service project w/ Creative Hands

Dec - Presents for Patients



Dec 14 - Cookie Exchange



2026

Jan 17 - Family Ice Skating



Feb 15 - Family Bowling



Mar 15 - "Lucky to be Lutheran" Family Bingo

**Apr 19 - Spring clean-up, creating planters,
Chalk the Walk**



May - Activity Bingo



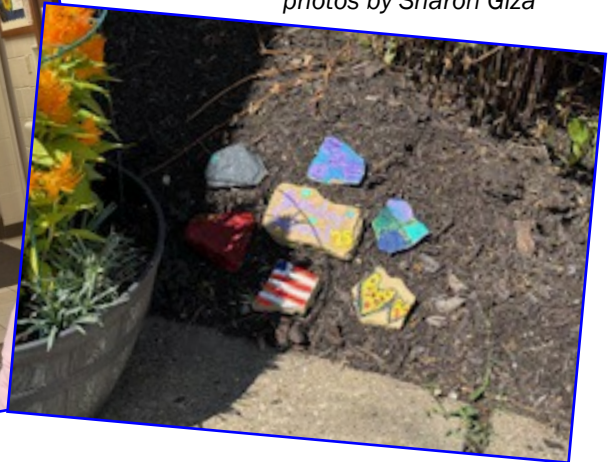
RALLY DAY 2025 WRAP-UP



RALLY DAY 2025

happened on Sunday September 7 and was a successful event, from the morning service with Blessing of Backpacks to the family gathering following worship. The 'Jesus Rocks' theme for the day was well-received as members donned their favorite rock gear to celebrate the day.

photos by Sharon Giza



😊 PUMPKINS 😊 PAINTING 😊

😊 PIZZA 😊

Please mark your calendars to join us
for our upcoming

Pumpkin Painting and Pizza event!!
held following worship
Sunday, October 26th

RSVP to Melissa at
melissadecola@hotmail.com
so that we can plan accordingly



**Hope to
see
YOU
there!**



AUTISM SPEAKS 2025 - Pittsburgh Walk was held Saturday September 20th at Acrisure Stadium. Participants walked a one-mile loop around the stadium, located on Pittsburgh's North Shore. Ascension Church was represented by team "Live Generously♥" which included members of the extended Thompson family.

OCTOBER LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

October 4

Francis of Assisi, *renewer of the church*, d. 1226

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (OFM, called Franciscans). Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Theodor Fliedner, *renewer of society*, d. 1864

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

October 6

William Tyndale, *translator, martyr*, d. 1536

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England; his life's desire was to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

October 7

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, *pastor in North America*, d. 1787

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. His liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

October 15

Teresa of Ávila, *teacher, renewer of the church*, d. 1582

Teresa of Ávila (AH-vee-la) is also known as Teresa de Jesús. She chose the life of a Carmelite nun and worked to reform her monastic community in Ávila. Her reforms asked nuns to maintain life in the monastic enclosure without leaving it and to identify with the poor by not wearing shoes.

October 17

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, *martyr*, d. ca. 115

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. The letters of Ignatius

encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine. When his own martyrdom approached, he wrote, "I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. . . . Do not stand in the way of my birth to real life."

October 18

Luke, *Evangelist*

St. Luke is identified as the author of both Luke and Acts. Some of the most loved parables, including the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, are found only in this gospel. Luke's gospel has also yielded some of its most beautiful songs, including the *Magnificat*.

October 23

James of Jerusalem, *martyr*, d. ca. 62

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

October 26

Philipp Nicolai, d. 1608; **Johann Heermann**, d. 1647; **Paul Gerhardt**, d. 1676; *hymnwriters*

These great hymnwriters all worked in 17th-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

October 28

Simon and Jude, *Apostles*

In New Testament lists of the apostles, Simon the "zealot" or Cananaean is mentioned, but he is never mentioned apart from these lists. Jude, sometimes called Thaddeus, is also mentioned in lists of the Twelve. A traditional story says that they traveled together on a missionary journey to Persia and were both martyred there.

October 31

Reformation Day

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the *Ninety-five Theses*, a summary of the abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

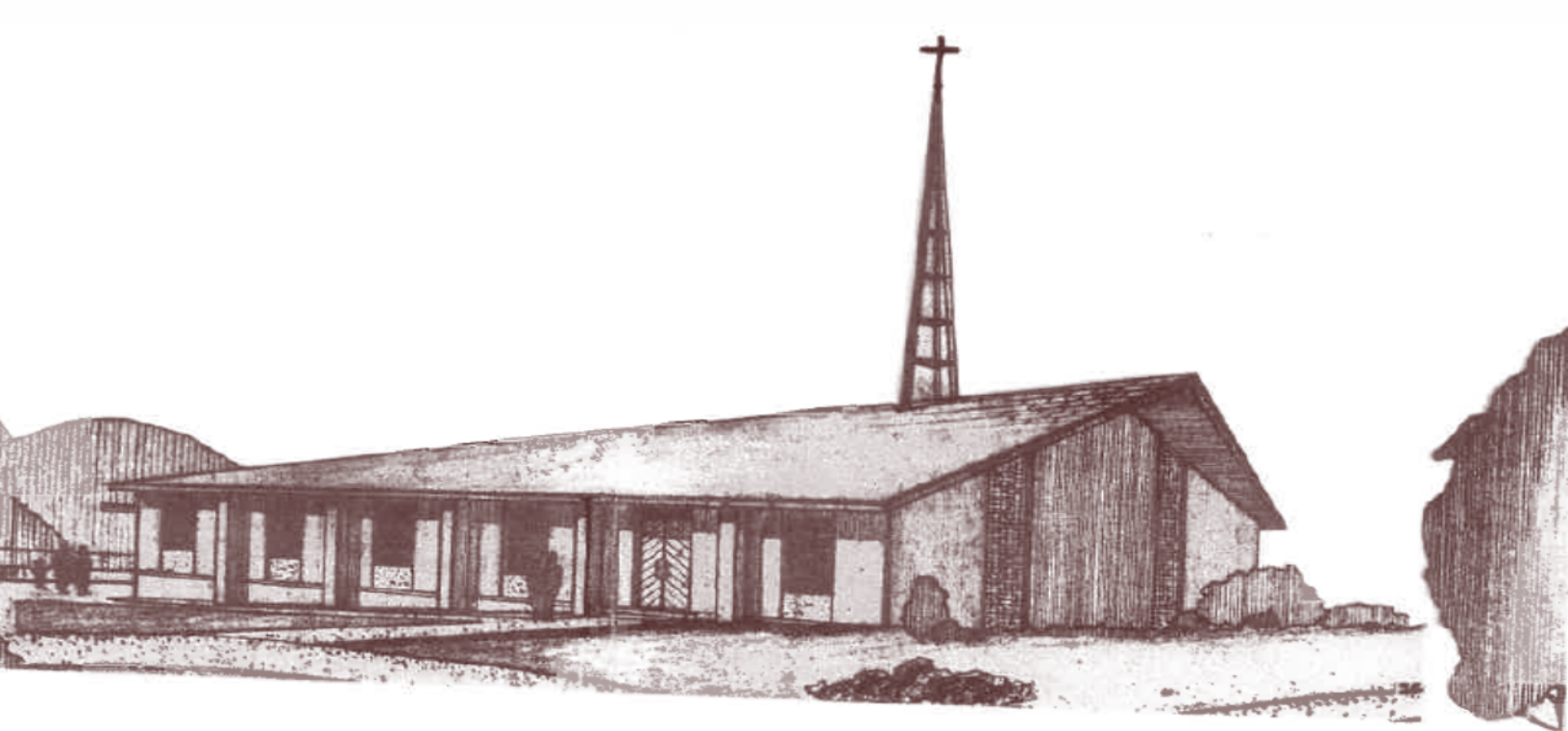
www.sundaysandseasons.com



Watch on YouTube

The Installation of the
Reverend Melissa Larsen Stoller
Office of Bishop
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

LIVE STREAM
begins at 12:30 pm
Saturday, October 18, 2025
Service at 1:00 PM online from
Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church,
Pittsburgh, PA



*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

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1290 Silver Lane
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
(Robinson Township)
Visit us on the web at
www.alcpgh.com

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

