



THE MESSENGER

ASCENSION Lutheran Church

JUNE 2026

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
- Bible Study - Thursdays at 7:00 PM
- Soccer Shots - Saturday mornings &
Wednesday evenings (Spring-Fall)



2026 COUNCIL

- President – *Sharon Giza*
- Vice President – *Debbie Whitfield*
- Treasurer – *Bob Thompson*
- Secretary – *Katie Mercadante*

2026 COUNCIL LIAISONS

- Call Committee
Joyce Leister
- Christian Education
Jeff Williams
- Communications & Publications
Jeff Williams
- Fellowship, Social Ministry
& Evangelism
Debbie Whitfield
- Finance & Stewardship
Bob Stathers
- Mutual Ministry
Sharon Giza
- Personnel
Sharon Giza
- Property
Don Tarbert & Bill Whitfield
- Worship & Music
Katie Mercadante
- Youth
Katie Mercadante & Debbie Whitfield

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday June 9 at 7:00 PM

Reflecting on PRAYER



from Pastor Kobert's Desk

At Epiphany, I shared with you all a word to help you focus your year around. When I opened my envelope, I had to laugh because on my card was the word, "Prayer." That's something I lead every single week! What else could the Holy Spirit be moving me to understand prayer?

In reflecting on prayer, I noticed that there are many kinds of prayer. Even in worship we pray in thanksgiving, in confession, as intercession, and petition style. We pray as our Lord Jesus teaches us. Our postures for prayer differ from church to church. Some extend their arms when they pray, others kneel, and many simply bow their heads in respect. We can focus our prayers in so many ways.

Have you ever just spent time focused on prayer? I don't just mean a quick blessing of a meal before you eat, I mean a period solely devoted to lifting to God your thoughts, your concerns, your hopes, your joys, your sorrows, or your dreams. We can read and study scripture, how Jesus teaches us to pray, of how Paul prays fervently for the churches he helped to start, of the words lifted up by the prophets, the laments, the crying out, and the conversing with God throughout the Bible. Reading about *how* the children of God pray and *being* the children of God who pray are two different matters though.

It can be easy to think that we will never live up to the same level of piety that these forefathers of our faith have made it to, but what gets written in the Bible are the highlights of their lives. Think about it this way, we know about the achievements of Lemieux, Clemente, and Bradshaw, and think that we could never be like they were. What we often don't hear about these players though is their upbringing. They had to learn how to skate, hit, and throw just like any other player. They were once amateurs! These people in the Bible who went on to share these beautiful and deeply moving prayers were once amateurs too!

We all must start somewhere, and as any athlete would tell you, practice helps us to grow. We certainly practice prayer when we are worshipping on Sundays. You likely pray before meals, when you wake up, or when you prepare to sleep, but have you considered praying at other times of the day? If when we are praying, we are communicating with our God who is closer to us than our breath, and if we have faith that God is present with us constantly, could we not also live out our entire day as a form of prayer?

Continued on page 2

Mount Calvary Cemetery

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



Mount Calvary Cemetery Board Members
*Judy Henry • Bob Hughes • Bette Ann Kallay
 George C. Kasich • Pastor Kobert • Joyce Leister
 Debbie Whitfield • Jeff Williams*

From Pastor Kobert's Desk (continued from pg 1)

The practice of praying can be more than just words, prayer encompasses our entire being, how we act, how we show love, how we care for those around us, what we choose to focus our attention on. All of this communicates to the God who is near to us, our hearts and our desires. While it is good to recognize and practice living our lives as prayer, sometimes we need to verbalize what we are feeling. If there is a prayer request that seems to just be burning in you, whether it be prayer for healing, a word of mourning, or a bubbling joy, I invite you to take a moment out of your day to just pray right then and there.

May the meditations of your hearts and the prayers of your lips be heard by God, may you have the confidence to live each day as a prayer, and may you know God's presence with you always. ■

IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 2026

- Sat 06 Yard Sale/Basket Raffle**
- Tue 09 Council Meeting 7pm**
- Sun 14 ALC Graduates Party**
- Sun 21 Father's Day**

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE JUNE - JULY 2026

<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>
June 7	Carol Emch	Jennifer Burkholder	Deb Walenchok	Rich Mussman	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 2	GREEN
June 14	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jeff Williams	Al Morrow	Daniel Giza	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 3	GREEN
June 21	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Charlotte DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 4	GREEN
June 28	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jennifer Burkholder	Avis Ritter	Jeff Williams	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 5	GREEN
July 5	Lay Minister	Jeff Williams	Jennifer Burkholder	Thad Ritter	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 6	GREEN
July 12	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Gib Palmgren	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 7	GREEN
July 19	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jennifer Burkholder	Jeff Williams	Melissa DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 8	GREEN
July 26	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jeff Williams	Deb Walenchok	Sharon Giza	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 9	GREEN



Council President's **CORNER**

A message from Council President Sharon Giza

It's hard to believe that summer is already upon us. School is wrapping up, graduations are being celebrated, and vacations are on the horizon. As we all enjoy the excitement of the season, we hope you will continue to join us for Sunday worship and rejoice in the blessings of our Lord.

Our Yard Sale is almost here, and we are thrilled with the number of vendors participating, the generous basket donations for our raffle, and the volunteers who have stepped forward to help make this event a success. If you haven't signed up yet but would still like to assist, please come that morning—we will gladly find a place where your help is needed.

Throughout June, July, and August, we will hold outdoor services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, weather permitting, in the Pavilion. We will need a few extra hands to help set up and bring items back into the Sanctuary afterward. Your help is truly appreciated.

On Sunday June 14th, we will recognize our graduates and celebrate their accomplishments with an ice cream social following worship. We are so proud of each of them and look forward to honoring their hard work.

A special thank-you goes to Don Tarbert and his brother Brian for trimming the tree in front of the church, and to Bob Dudek for gathering and disposing of the branches. Your efforts keep our grounds looking beautiful.

"Let it Shine" on Ascension Lutheran Church this summer.

Sharon Giza

Ascension Lutheran Church Council President

The family of former Ascension Church member and steadfast supporter Clark J. Rose announced his passing on May 11, 2026 at the age of 89. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Condolences can be sent to Jeanne Rose at 14416 Oliver St. | Largo, FL 33774



ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council meeting was held Tues. May 12, 2026

Call to order: Sharon 7:03pm

Attendance: Don, Katie, Sharon, Bob S, Joyce, Jeff, Pastor Ryan, Deb W.

Review/Approve Minutes of May Meeting

Pastor Report, Office Administrator's Report

Old business: Special project parking lot/loan

Yard sale – lots of donations for baskets both from congregation and from area businesses

New business: Outdoor summer services 2nd, 4th Sundays June, July, August (weather/temperature permitting)

June 14th graduate celebration following worship
(Gio Thompson, Jacob Lescalette, Carolyn Paladino;
Sophia Eager - college)

July or August picnic after worship outdoors

Council Officers Reports:

- President – *Sharon Giza* Kennedy Garden Club
- Vice President – *Debbie Whitfield* Cemetery report presented.
- Treasurer – *Bob Thompson* giving & special project contributions are up
- Secretary – *Katie Mercadante* Directory has over 50 members featured.

Council Liaisons Reports:

- Christian Ed/Communications & Publications – *Jeff Williams* will follow up with homebound for directory.
- Fellowship, Social Ministry & Evangelism *Debbie Whitfield* Many events planned to promote Ascension.
- Finance & Stewardship *Bob Stathers* – Fall event Oktoberfest - look at dates after 1st weekend of October
- Property *Don Tarbert & Bill Whitfield* – Electrical is done in the office. Weed cleanup needed in parking lot, marking edges of the lot before the tar and chip proceeds
- Youth *Katie Mercadante & Debbie Whitfield* VBS registration is ready to go! Get excited.

Motion to adjourn & Closing Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday June 9th at 7 pm

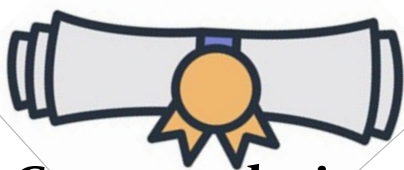
OUTDOOR WORSHIP †

Weather permitting, we will hold Sunday worship outdoors in the pavilion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays during the summer months:

JUNE: 14 & 28

JULY: 12 & 26

AUGUST: 9 & 23



Congratulations to our

2026 GRADUATES:

Jacob Lescallete

Carolyn Paladino

Gio Thompson

Sophia Eager

In celebration of their accomplishments, an **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** will be held **SUNDAY**

JUNE 14 following worship.



ROAD CLEANUP: ANOTHER SATURDAY SUCCESS



An enthusiastic crew of Ascension Church members joined together on Saturday May 16 to clean up our local roadways.

P R A Y E R

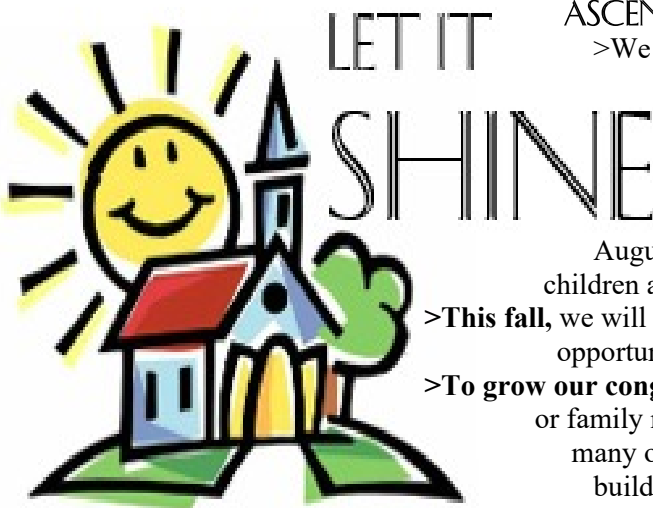
Requests

Please keep in your prayers:

- JoAnne Erwin, Dee Gratzmiller, Norma Kohnen, Lottie Lodge, Jean Marion, Betty Simpson, Rose Rahner, Betty Borden, Virginia Shar – *shut-ins*
- Mary Jane McGinnis – *health concerns*
- Thad Ritter – *health concerns*
- Bill McEwen – *multiple health concerns*
- Tom Walenchok – brother-in-law of Deb Walenchok – *lung & brain cancer*
- Deb Walenchok – *lung cancer*
- Lynn Simeoni – friend of Ascension Church – *terminal brain cancer*
- Virginia Shar – *recovery & rehab after recent fall*
- Nancy Jacobs – *prayers for better hepcoming surgery*
- Bob Thompson – *recovery from leg injury*
- Liz Eisenhauer – friend, Katie M. *childbirth complications; may need liver transplant*

 **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!** 

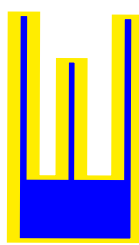
Sunday June 21, 2026



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE

>We recently participated in the **Kennedy Garden Club Spring Festival** to help spread the word about our church and the wonderful things we do for the community. Thank you to everyone who helped make our presence there meaningful.

>**Looking ahead**, we will be hosting **Vacation Bible School** in August. Please share this with family and friends — VBS is open to children ages 4 through 4th grade, and we would love to welcome new faces.
 >**This fall**, we will also have a table at the Robinson Autumn Festival as another opportunity to introduce our church to the community.
 >**To grow our congregation**, we truly need everyone's support. Invite a friend or family member to worship with us, and encourage them to join in our many outreach events throughout the year. Together, we can continue building a vibrant, welcoming church family.

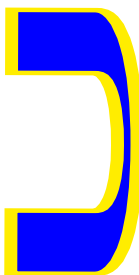


JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

Date | Member/Friend

Date | Member/Friend

- 1 Sharon Giza
- Rick Zoltun
- 2 Brooke Thomson
- 3 Vincent Zeiler
- 12 Blake Tomchak
- 19 JoAnne Erwin
- 20 Bill Whitfield
- 21 Emily Reckner
- 22 Cora Hughes
- 23 Jean Marion
- 27 Pastor Larsen
- 28 Ryan Williams



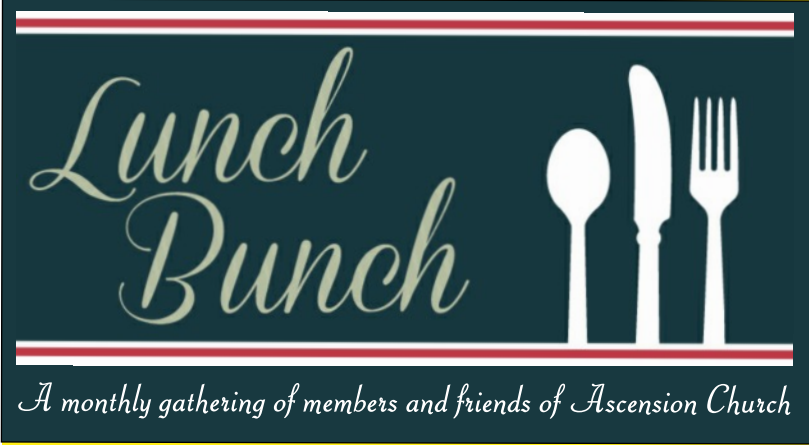
JUNE ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members/Friends

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



... **Blessings**
to ALL!



Join the Lunch Bunch Thursday JUNE 18

In May, nine hard core Lunch Bunchers made the long trek to Sal's in Chippewa. Our gal Sal (actually, I don't remember the waitress' name) took very good care of our group. The food was great and we really enjoyed each other's company.

On Thursday June 18th we will make our annual visit to the Log Cabin Inn, 430 Perry Highway, Harmony. It's an easy trip up HW 79 to the second Harmony exit, a hop over to HW 19, and then a short drive north up HW 19 - maybe 40 minutes at the most from Ascension and so well worth the trip. If you haven't been there, it's an experience you should try, and if you *have* been there, then you know it's worth a return visit. With its log walls and stuffed animal heads to enjoy, it's a good place to get stuffed yourself and enjoy the company and atmosphere while you do it. As usual, please let George Kasich (412) 726-1645 or Jerry Wessel (412) 787-1213 know by Tuesday June 16th if you plan to attend. Hope to see a "bunch" of you there! ~ Jerry Wessel

Ascension Church

ANNUAL

Yard Sale



AND

Beautiful Bountiful Baskets Raffle!



SATURDAY JUNE 6, 2026

* 8AM to NOON *

2026 Yard Sale

“Beautiful Bountiful Baskets” THANKS to ALL who donated!

This year, in place of our traditional Bake Sale, we'll host a **BASKET RAFFLE** featuring well over **THIRTY** big beautiful themed baskets donated by our members and local businesses. You gotta see and take a chance on these baskets - there's something for everyone! All proceeds will support the McKees Rocks Food Pantry. We still will offer hot dogs, chips, and refreshments during the Yard Sale, so be sure to stop by, enjoy the day, and help support a great cause. Thanks everyone for your generosity & community spirit!

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Thanks to all who have responded to our call for UPDATED directory information! The new and improved Ascension Church Directory is under construction and coming soon!

WHAT A MESS!

VBS

Ascension Lutheran Church
1290 Silver Lane
Robinson Twp.

Vacation Bible School

August 10-14 | 5:30-8pm

Campfire Celebration

August 14

Register Here



Suggested Donation:

\$5 per child

Ages 4 - 4th

Grade

must be potty trained

Questions:

ascensionvbs15136@gmail.com

VBS VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

If you're interested in volunteering to give our kids the **BEST** VBS experience ever, please email Katie M. katie.mercadante@gmail.com

NOTE: ALL volunteers will need to have clearances on file with the church. Questions? See Katie Mercadante or Katy Thompson.

Special Project Fund: Parking Lot

The Special Project Fund (“Other” on your giving envelope) will be used to repay the loan received to **repare our parking lot**. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 per year for five consecutive years to fully repay this loan.

We currently are half-way to our first-year goal.

Any offerings marked “Special Project” will go directly toward this 5-year capital campaign.

Thank you for considering a contribution to help improve the safety & accessibility of our parking lot.

Your support truly makes a difference.

Come to St. Paul's

Strawberry Festival!

SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2026 at 1:00 PM

A Potluck-themed event ... Bring “Something Strawberry!”

Hot Dogs & Refreshments provided!

616 Washington Street, Sewickley, PA

LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

June 1 - Justin, d.ca. 165 *martyr at Rome*

June 3 - John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, d. 1963

June 3 - The Martyrs of Uganda, d. 1886

June 5 - Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, d. 754
missionary to Germany, martyr

June 7 - Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, d. 1866

June 9 - Columba, d. 597; Aidan, d. 651; Bede, d. 735
renewers of the church

June 11 - Barnabas, Apostle

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

June 17 - The Emanuel Nine, d. 2015 *martyrs*

June 21 - Onesimos Nesib, d. 1931 *translator, evangelist*

June 24 - John the Baptist

June 25 - Philipp Melanchthon, d. 1560
renewer of the church
Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

June 27 - Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, d. 444

June 28 - Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, d.ca. 202

June 29 - Peter and Paul, Apostles

Source: www.sundaysandseasons.com



CONGRATULATIONS to Ascension Member Sophia Eager who married Jacob Packer on May 24, 2026.

Expert arborist Brian Tarbert (brother of Don) gives a much-needed trim to the large tree adjacent to the church parking lot.

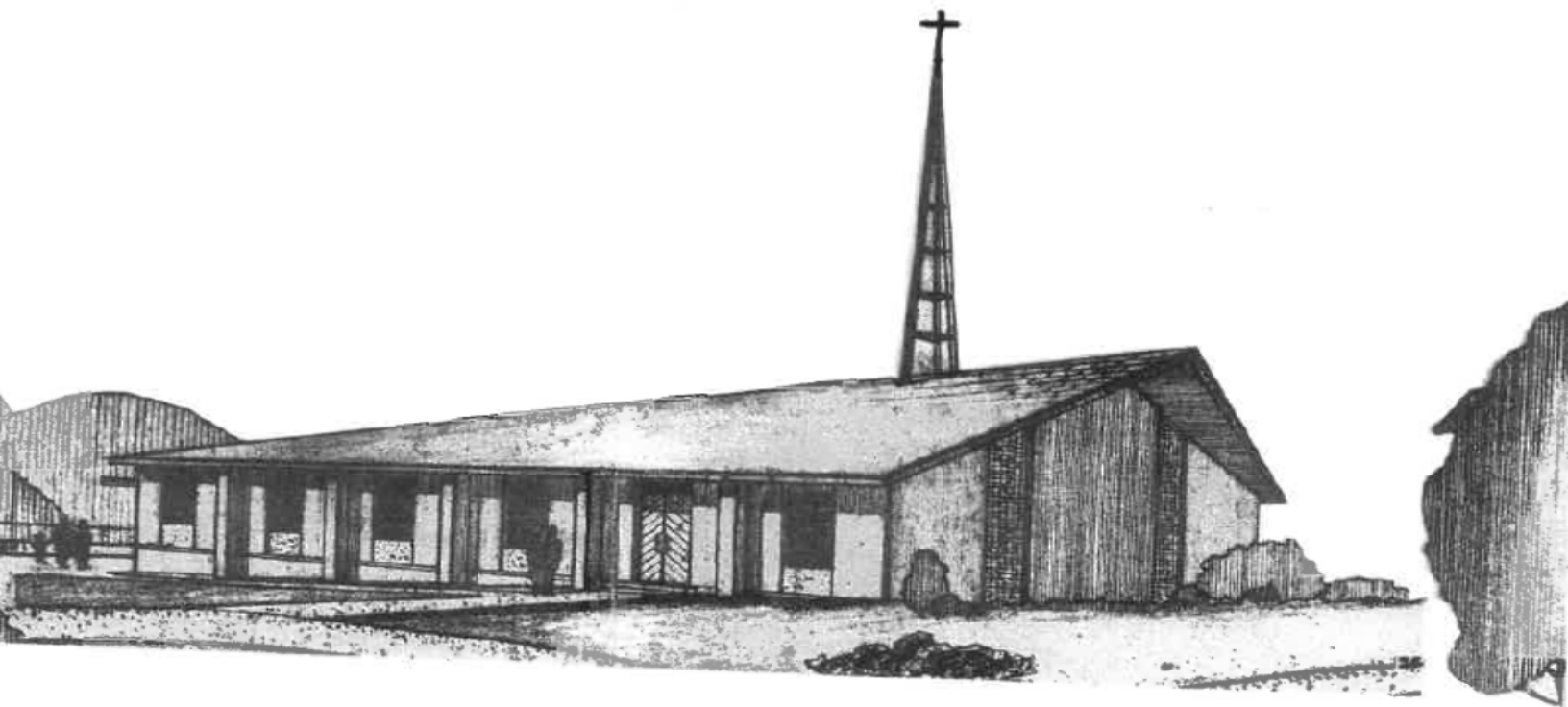


Ascension moms were treated to some very special gifts created by their special Sunday School children for Mother's Day, May 10.



Ascension Church was well-represented at the May 30 Kennedy Garden Club Spring Festival. T-shirts themed "Come Grow with Us!" were worn by Ascension reps Katy Thompson and Deb Whitfield.





*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

