



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

INVITE ■ GROW ■ SERVE

February 20-21, 2021

1 Lent



Our Country Spirit livestream online service is 6 PM Saturdays, traditional worship is at 9:30 AM Sundays and worship with Praise Alive is on Sundays at 11 AM. Go to our website to see livestreams, <https://alcto.org/ascension-lutheran-church-livestream/> or watch on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ascensionlutheranto> You do not have to have a Facebook account to view the livestreams. You *will* need a Facebook account to join in with comments and “likes,” etc. Questions or troubleshooting needs? Call or text (818) 621-3542.

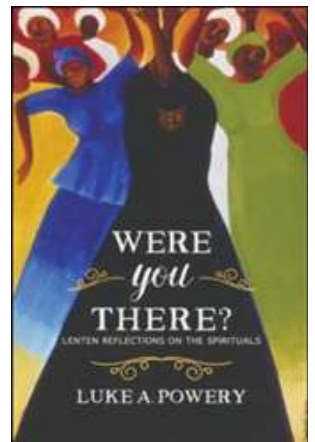
The hugs are virtual. The prayers are real.

INSIDE:

- Bricks Are Back
- Carol Bjelland/Fair Trade Celebrated
- AL School Update
- Food Drive Shopping Page
- Scholarships

LENTEN SERVICES

Holden Evening Prayer services will be livestreamed Wednesday evenings at 7 o'clock throughout Lent, beginning February 24. Chapel services are livestreamed each Wednesday at 9 AM.



This Lenten season, we are reading *Were You There? Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals* by Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery, dean of the Duke University Chapel. If you don't have a copy yet and would like to order one, here is a link: <https://www.amazon.com/Were-You-There-Reflections-Spirituals-ebook/dp/B07NBK6H2D>

If you're not already involved in a Life Group, it is not too late to join for this Lenten study. Check in with our Life Group Coordinator Sara Wallace for opportunities -- swallace@alcto.org

Pastoral Care Emergency Line
(320) 322-1945

Called to create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ

Carol Bjelland, Ascension's Fair Trade Ministry in the Spotlight

The *Equal Exchange Fairly Traded* publication has started a brand new feature – stories about “faith-based organizers around the country who are stepping up in ways that we think are truly extraordinary.” Their first profile is about our own Carol Bjelland and Ascension's Fair Trade Ministry!

Carol leads our hard-working Equal Exchange Fair Trade team, all of whom are passionate about helping the world by giving small farmers and artisans a leg up through equitable trade. In case you missed it, Ascension was ranked No. 14 among all congregations in the 13 faith groups in the organization over the last calendar year – and **No. 2 among 442 Lutheran congregations in the Women of the ELCA grouping.**

The publication hopes that by spotlighting leaders like Carol, “their stories will be helpful to those...looking for inspiration to adapt and grow your own programs.”

Carol, thank you for the inspiration.

Here is the story:

<https://blog.equalexchange.coop/engaging-the-congregation-with-fair-trade-at-ascension-lutheran/>



Carol says, “It is a privilege to be a part of Ascension's commitment to Fair Trade -- we're inspired by the stories of the farmers and artisans and the truly wonderful response of our Ascension Community.”

ALCTO Vision, for the Future and for Today

Ascension has been blessed by the decision to make top-notch video and audio systems part of our “Mission: Possible Sanctuary Refurbishment” a few years ago. It gave us the ability to adjust virtually overnight to doing livestream services when the COVID lockdown struck last year. We are so grateful.

Now, as we look forward to the day when we can move out of the season of quarantine, we believe our hybrid live-and-online situation is bound to continue. In a wonderful addition, we have developed a group of people who worship with us all over the country and even the world. So we are planning to move forward with a new vision for how we can worship both in-person and online, and are putting the word out in case anyone who is grateful for this new ministry would consider donating to this new vision. Our current equipment is beginning to show signs of wear. We would like to give our tech team new cameras with better focus and zoom capability. It is amazing how the technology has improved on these types of cameras in just 3 years.

These new cameras would give us the ability to place them in more unobtrusive locations in the sanctuary without impeding people in the pews, where -- we hope -- the majority of us can be back again before long. These 5 new cameras plus additional support equipment will cost about \$25,000.

If you are interested in donating to this fund or simply in learning more, please contact Pastor Tim – pastortim@alcto.org or Lan Merrill at lmerrill@alcto.org.



Scholarship Applications for 2021-2022

Attention Students:

Applications for Scholarships given by Ascension Lutheran Foundation are now available.

Go to: ascensionfoundation.org/request-a-scholarship/ to download an application or fill out forms online. Applications are also available in the church office. The deadline for return of completed applications is April 16.



THE BRICKS ARE BACK

Join the Legacy

New families have become part of Ascension Lutheran School and Early Childhood Center since our original One Ascension Walkway brick drive. There are new babies, too, of course! So we're adding to the walkway - and with that, offering everyone another chance to join the legacy.

This website allows you to create your own text and see how it will look.

Pay online with a major credit card or PayPal account

If you are unable to use a credit card or PayPal, you may write a check to Ascension Lutheran Church and the words "Polar Engraving" on the memo line. You will be asked to fill out an order form.

Beginning this weekend, February 20-21, we are again making it possible to order engraved bricks through the Polar Engraving company. You may simply go to our ALCTO.org website and follow the brick ordering link on the front page to go to Polar Engraving, or use this QR code, or type in our direct link: polarengraving.com/ascensionlutheranchurch.

The possibilities are endless...make your brick personal...engrave your family name, your child's name, a Bible verse, teacher's name, a quote or an inspirational message. Become part of the Legacy!

If you need help, don't hesitate to send a note to ssmith@alcto.org or call (818) 621-3542.

The deadline is April 15, 2021.

We will be having another food drive for our Ascension Food Pantry on Saturday, Feb. 27th, 9:00-11:00am, so here's a good list to help us prepare for it. During those two hours, simply drive into the church office parking lot, pop your trunk, and we'll gladly and safely receive your kind donations. Thank you for your generosity, in Jesus' name, for the well-being of our neighbors. This ministry is by our Community Concerns Team, led by Chris Clark and Jessica Placas-Hengst. Our team thanks Janet Baird for leading the blood drive last weekend.

FOOD DRIVE

WISH LIST



Non-Perishable Items - Small Sizes Preferred - Please check expiration dates - Individual serving items

Top Asks

Can Items with Pop Tops
Cup of Noodles
Ready to eat items i.e., Spaghetios, Chili
Beans with meat, Raviolis,
Boxed meals: instant potatoes, rice, i.e.
scalloped potatoes, Rice a Roni
Granola Bars
Snack items, cracker and cheese, peanuts
Mac and Cheese
Canned chicken
Canned spam- oven roasted turkey spam
Fruit- individual servings

Boxed Cereal
Pancake mix and syrup
Beverages, water, sparkling water,
Gatorade, juice boxes, shelf stable milk
Top Ramen
Toiletries: toothpaste, tooth brushes
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Hand Sanitizer
Shampoo
Kleenex

Other Pantry Items

Canned Fruits: peaches, applesauce, fruit
cocktail
Canned Vegetables: peas, carrots
Jam/jellies
Peanut butter
Pasta Sauces
Cookies

Soup
Cake mixes and frosting
Rice
Beans
Barbecue Sauce
Pop Tarts
Canned Tuna



IN NEED OF PRAYER

A name is added to this list only with the permission of the person or the person's family.

Prayers of comfort for:

The family and friends of Larry David, on his death

Prayers of healing for:

Ted Bartell, in ICU following surgery

Martha Glynn

Barbara Krum, recovering from neck surgery

Warren Rempfer, recovering from surgery

Shari Saucerman, recovering from neck surgery

Continuing prayers for:

Lara Abounayan

Esme Ash

Kyle Ayers

Ted Bartell

Maria Bartush

Gloria Benfatto

Debi Bing

Matthew Borzone

Mary Cartrett

Dominic Cavaliere

David Corra

The Crockett Family

Patrick Curran

Larry David

John Ernst

Dennis Gillette

Keira Graves

Lynette Grulke

Karen Guetschoff

Malia Hassenbein

Penny Hunter

Caleigh Jensen

Bob Kielhorn

Eli Klemp

Henry Leland

Shannon Lomeli

Grace Lugo

Judy Marshall

Ralph May

Sue May

Marilyn Meyer

Shirley Meyer

Verlon Meyer

Bill Munn

Helen Nenne

Dave Neumann

Paul and Betty Olson

Laurie Peyton

Lois Phillips

Ellie Ramseth

Karen Reeves

Mike Ricci

Dave Rosinbum

Julie Ryan

K.C. Scheum

Dorothy Scholz

Carlene Schultz

Arnold Schwarz

Karen Shepersky

Grace Sica

Lily Skinner

Jan Timmons

Darlyne Williams

Prayers for safekeeping:

Connor Braaten, USMC

Scott Clark, U.S. Navy

LCpL. Alexander Daley

Cody Davidson, US Army

Tim David, U.S. Army

CPT Kyle Farmer, US Army

Jack Ingles, USMC

ET1 Patrick Maccarone, USN

Jake Marshall, USMC

Scott Mochatel, U.S. Coast Guard

LCJG Caroline Truesdell, USCG

Prayers for our local partners in ministry:

Harbor House

Friday ministry with those who are homeless

Conejo Elementary Tutoring

Our Friday Food Pantry and Project Response

Habitat for Humanity

CASA of Ventura County

United Way of Ventura County

Lutheran Social Services

Jail Ministry

Blood drives

Manna

Many Mansions

Pi House*

Women's Interfaith Network

Caring Ones

(To learn more, ask our Community Concerns Team.)



*Opening March 1, 2021, Pi House is Harbor House's new transitional home to help young people exiting the foster care system. Some 36% of California foster youth become homeless within 18 months of aging out of the system.

Prayers for safekeeping for those on the front lines of the pandemic:

Dr. Summer Baird, who is working in hospital ICU in Santa Barbara

Kathleen Mullen's niece, Nora Cialkowski, who is an ICU nurse in Chicago working with COVID-19 patients

Linda Morrow's family members, Jason and Andrea, who are nurses at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota

Jennifur Schneider Nahan and Josh Nahan, first responders in the San Diego area

Lucy Peterson's daughter, Jill, a nurse in the San Diego area

Lucy Peterson's grandson, Anthony, a nursing assistant at a convalescent home in the San Diego area

Rich and Carlene Shultz's granddaughter, Marissa Kaul R.N., who is in Arizona

Our Koinonia Communion Groups continue! We joyfully gather in the name of our Triune God.

Two ways to sign up:

Go to <https://alcto.org/announcements/>, then click on Signup. Or, call the church office:

(805) 495-0406.





ASCENSION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

THANK YOU to our Community Heroes – Ascension Parents, Grandparents, and Extended Families! We love your children and treasure their growth. Matthew 7:17 “In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit...”

21st Century Learning & Collaboration

Highlights from our second trimester wonder “How do heroes emerge out of conflict, and how can I be the change?”

TK-2nd grades:

Students explored a variety of topics recently, from engineering using different media/materials to socio-cultural studies (people). 2nd grade explored a variety of substances and experiments to create glue, while first grade discovered that the person we are on the inside is what “glues” us together in our relationships with each other!



3rd-6th grades:

Students enjoyed hands-on lessons in every grade level, investigating many earth-bound phenomena through experiments, games, and simulations.



From the Desk of Mr. Ash February 16, 2021

“Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday. It’s also called Shrove Tuesday, Carnival Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday, depending on where the celebration is taking place.

No matter the name, it’s a day of revelry that includes parades, parties and gastronomic indulgence before the Christian fasting season of Lent [which] begins on Ash Wednesday.”



For many Christians, this is tomorrow, Feb. 17.

“The word Lent comes from the Old English word lencten, meaning spring. In the Western church, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and ends on Holy Saturday. In the Eastern church, Lent begins on the Monday of the seventh week before Easter and ends on the Friday before Palm Sunday.” Fasting and prayer are done in remembrance and reflection of Jesus Christ’s fasting in the wilderness. Lent lasts 40 days. Sundays are not counted. The observance of Lent dates back to the 4th century.” From [CNN Travel \(2-21-20\)](#) and [Lent Fast Facts \(2-15-21\)](#)

Important Dates and Events



MAP Growth Assessments, next Monday-Thursday. Remote learners will also participate.

Song Celebration Awards March 1 @9:40: “Literacy Learners”

WASC Accreditation Visit, March 7-10*

***WASC Informational Zooms with Mr. Ash Tentatively Scheduled for March 24 following our WASC Committee visit.**

See the Chatter for other important dates and events coming up...like the Fun Run (postponed for Kindergarten, new time for K TBA), Ameci’s fundraiser, Trimester 2 Ends 3/12 and early dismissal/pupil free day 3/15.

New garden space appearing out of thin air... actually, alongside of Pederson Hall (Gym), thanks to Jeff, Cam and Chuck!



21st Century Learning & Collaboration, cont.

Looking Ahead Series, Grades 2-6 Teachers presented next years’ 2nd-6th grade programs for Ascension families this past month with evening Zooms. We appreciated the excellent attendance and questions! As we continue to grow together as a learning community, more and more possibilities present themselves. Our focus on student learning drives us towards greater precision and collaboration.

I have many resources available for anyone interested in learning more about Multiple Intelligences (Howard Gardner), Creative Schools (“Sir” Ken Robinson), High Impact Strategies for Teaching and Learning (John Hattie), Growth Mindset (Carol Dweck), Professional Learning Communities (Richard and Rebecca DuFour) among others.

My professional library is yours for the taking, let me know if you are interested in a particular topic and I will be happy to share!



Looking Ahead Series, Grades K-1st will continue this week and next week via Zoom. We are excited about things happening, and things to come!

Colossians 2:16-19 ¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. (NKJV)



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

In God we trust.

Weekly live-streamed worship
Saturday 6 pm Country
Sunday 9:30 am Traditional
11 am Contemporary

Pastoral Care Emergency
Line (320) 322-1945

Called to create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ

Pericopes

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Next week

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERINGS

Through February 14, 2021 (week 33 of 52)

Budgeted: \$842,950 Received: \$885,746 Surplus/(Shortage): \$42,796

Attendance - weekend services, online views of one minute+ ; last year's in-person

	2021	closest date last year:
Feb. 13-14	321	425
Feb. 6-7	348	507
Jan. 30-31	389	426
Jan. 23-24	356	446
Jan. 16-17	384	381