



NEWS FROM ASCENSION - AUGUST 2023



Welcome Pastor Kayla Hopgood

Welcome Pastor Kayla Hopgood who will begin serving as our pastor on August 1! She can be reached by email at pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com or by phone at (267) 291-4344.

Service of Installation/Ordination will be September 9th at 11am. The Ordination and Installation will be led by the bishop, Patricia Davenport.

We will be hosting a reception following.

Anyone interested in helping plan the reception can contact Sheryl White at whitey61@aol.com.

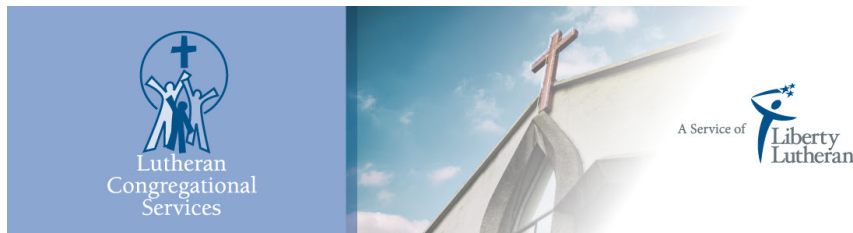
Local Flood Assistance

As we all sadly know, our neighborhood was the scene of a horrific tragedy on the evening of July 15 as torrential flood waters suddenly took the lives of six people, with a child still missing. This all took place right down the road from our church on Route 532.

For the last two weeks and into this month, Ascension is having a special collection to honor the victims and first responders. We are asking for donations to the Upper Makefield Fire Company and/or Lutheran Disaster Response of Eastern PA. <https://libertylutheran.org/giving/lutheran-disaster-response> (See the article below.)

If you can help us in this effort and if you haven't already done so, please make your check(s) payable to "Ascension Lutheran Church" and designating the recipient(s).

Thank you for your generous support in our community's time of need.
Your ALC Council,
John, Sheryl, Tom, Clark, Tony, Patty and Mark



Torrential rains over the past two weekends caused flash flooding across Berks, Bucks, and Northampton Counties.

At the Multi Agency Resource Center in Berks County, from July 13-15, Lutheran Disaster Response and our partners in PAVOAD (Pennsylvania Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) registered over 100 families in Crisis Cleanup, a tool that allows other partners agencies to contact families and help them with mucking out basements, removing appliances, cutting felled trees, and tarping roofs.

We are especially grateful for volunteers from local Lutheran and UCC Churches and even one volunteer from St. John's Lutheran Church in Slatington PA, who handed out pet food, flood buckets, and hygiene kits.

On July 15 and 16, another storm system caused flash flooding in Bucks and Northampton Counties. The storm wiped out roads and bridges and left many without functioning mechanical equipment, and sadly took the lives of five people.

What you can do:

- Join us for **Gods Work Our Hands Day on September 10, 2023**, to replenish hygiene kits and flood buckets.
- **Register** for disaster alerts at ReadyPA to stay prepared and informed.
- **Donate** to LDR-Eastern PA. Funds go towards coordination of long term recovery, and is targeted to those who face the greatest barriers to recover on their own.

Fill Backpacks for Trenton School Kids

We will be filling backpacks for Trenton School Kids again on **Sunday September 3** after worship.

Items needed are: Crayola Markers fat and skinny, crayons, pencils and composition books (any color).

Please bring your donations to church and place in donation box in the Narthex. Thank you for your always generous support!



Night at the Trenton Thunder

It was a beautiful evening for a ballgame on July 20 as ALC members gathered with over 6,000 fans at Trenton Thunder Ballpark. Everyone went home happy as the Thunder defeated the State College Spikes 13-6 in an exciting game followed by fireworks. you to Lisa for organizing a fun night for everyone!



Have your next Meeting at ALC!

If your group or a group that you know is looking for meeting space, please consider meeting at the church. Our space can accommodate any size group from 2-200. You'll have full access to wi-fi and video services, and kitchen facilities. Meetings can take place in the classroom, narthex, or in the sanctuary. Rates are very reasonable and it's a great way to support your church. For more information, please see Mark Schultz or call him at 609-685-7096.



Ascension Day at the Garden

On Saturday, August 26, ALC members and friends will gather at the 9-11 Garden of Reflection from 10:00-2:00 for a special day of service. We'll be helping to keep this sacred memorial beautiful by helping with various gardening/landscaping tasks under the guidance of Eric Stark. Eric played a leading role in the creation of the Garden and remains an active volunteer to this day. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex and please remember the words of Jane Shuster, "Come when you can, leave when you must." We hope to see you there!

ASCENSION T-SHIRTS

Ascension T-shirts are available! \$10 for Youth sizes and \$15 for Adults. Proceeds from the sale of the T-shirts will help to cover the cost for "Fun in the Sun!" See Clark Shuster to get yours!





We're looking for Greeters!

You can be part of ALC's Hospitality Ministry

Beginning August 6 – Kayla's first Sunday

Start at 9:40 a.m. until a few minutes after the service begins

Sign-up in the Narthex!

ALC Council

John Carducci - President
Sheryl White - Vice President
Tom D'Esmond - Treasurer
Clark Shuster - Secretary
Tony Eith
Patty Heinemann
Mark Schultz

Minutes of Council meetings are posted in the Narthex. If you have any questions or concerns, please see any Council member.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Caring for Friends Snack Bags



Caring for Friends provides food and friendship to homebound seniors, veterans, homeless persons and families with children in need. They provide ready-to-heat meals, caring visits and cards, and fresh/pantry staple food items that support hunger relief in the five counties of Greater Philadelphia. They need about 4,000 snack bags a day to serve hungry children and adults in between meals and for breakfast.

On May 21 we filled 670 Snack/Breakfast bags thanks to your generosity and a Thrivent Action Team grant. **We will be assembling Snack bags again on**

September 10, God's Work Our Hands Sunday. A Thrivent Action team grant has been received. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Caring for Friends is no longer requesting oatmeal, instant coffee/tea/hot chocolate packs as they are transitioning to Snack Bags only.

Items needed:

1 gallon plastic storage bags (zip loc)

6.75 oz 100% juice boxes (especially needed)

Cereal/granola/protein bars (Snack bags)

6 packs of peanut butter or cheese crackers

1 oz boxes of raisins or other dried fruit, or fruit/vegetable squeeze pouches (such as Motts or GoGoSqueeze)

Or cash donations are also welcome.

Our goal is 750 or more snack bags prepared.

Delaware Valley Food Pantry

To our generous community, please help us fill our shelves this week with the following items:

Saltine Crackers, Ritz Crackers, spaghetti, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo/conditioner, and bottled water.

You can bring donations to Ascension and leave in the baskets in the Narthex and they will be delivered to the Food Pantry.

Thank you for your constant kindness and support!

Grief Support Group

If you're grieving the loss of a loved one or anything else in your life, it helps to know you're not alone. This is a safe place to share your feelings while having the support and understanding of others who are also grieving. Participants are encouraged to bring photos and/or mementos of their loved ones to share with one another. Guests are always welcome. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 27 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. For more information, ask Clark or call him at 215-539-9185.

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL ZOOM

Are you interested in enriching both your spiritual life and your array of female friendships?



Please join us Saturday mornings at 9:30 for our Women's Devotional Zoom where we will be continuing with our focus on Gather Magazine issue July/ August 2023 with Bible Study on Salvation now.

Our material will be drawn from Gather Magazine, a publication which reflects many voices on a variety of topics in step with the Lutheran calendar. <https://www.gathermagazine.org/getgather/>

There's a new subscriber's introductory rate of \$9.95 per person, which includes both hard copy and online access. During registration, please choose Ascension Lutheran of Newtown for the purposes of this magazine subscription.

If you need any assistance with the subscription, please contact Anne Chmielewski at d.r.ski@att.net.

As always, one need not feel obligated to buy the book or magazine. Join us! We will let you know the day's topic & scripture focus ahead of time by email. Your unique perspective is always most welcome & encouraged!

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84850522590pwd=aFRnMEdxb3ZzUFNwdnZhRnFVdIJjQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 5052 2590

Passcode: 659592

Building Birdhouses at Ascension!



