



Ascension Lutheran Church

Experiencing God's Grace ~ Sharing God's Gifts



Pastor's Corner

September 2018

*Seek first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Matthew 6.33

Dear Ascension Church,

Thank you all for the warm welcome to Ascension these past few weeks! I am abundantly grateful for the call to be your pastor. I want to extend my thanks again to the Call Committee, the Church Council, and to the dedicated leaders who have been shepherding this congregation through quite the transition across many months. I give thanks to God for your devotion to this church family and for the ways you care for one another.

I have thoroughly enjoyed beginning to get to know many of you during fellowship on Sundays, as you come by the church throughout the week, and as I begin to make visits. I look forward to connecting with all of you! Please know my door is open during the week for spontaneous (or planned!) chats in my office, and I anticipate with joy creating opportunities to gather over coffee or a meal so we may come to know one another more deeply.

I will also be seeking out ways to extend Ascension's roots and reach into the broader community. As I begin this work, any introduction to gatherings of local civic or community organizations would be most welcome.

As I look to the coming days and weeks of the fall season, I am filled with hope for all tasks ahead. And I am thankful for the patterns of discipleship that sustain our community life together: we gather together, we pray together, we share in the fellowship of Christ's table. We are challenged to spread the Word to our neighbors and friends, to the strangers among us, to our communities and beyond. We are called to spread love, compassion, and justice through the work of our hands and the journeys of our feet. We know that Jesus is preparing us for whatever may come, and he will be with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Julie

Welcome Pastor Julie Peterson



Pastor Julie Peterson and her husband Andrew joined the members of Ascension on Saturday evening, August 11 for a “Meet and Greet”. She was the presiding minister for the service on August 12 and following worship, the ALC congregation voted for Pastor Julie to be called as the new pastor of Ascension.



Thank you

Pastor Frank Sayford’s ministry was a blessing to ALC members on many Sundays throughout the past seven months. Following his final service, President Kirsten Braley and Vice President Jane Shuster presented him with an ALC shirt as a small token of our appreciation!



Calendar

September 1: Women's Breakfast at Corner Bakery (8:00 am)

September 4: Women of Ascension (10:00 am)

September 8:

~ Men's Breakfast at Ascension (8:00 am)

~ Highway Cleanup (8:00 am to 10:00 am)

September 9: God's Work. Our Hands.

~ Breakfast Bag Assembly for Aid for Friends (11:30 am)

September 10:

~ Bell Choir Practice resumes (Mondays 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm)

~ Choral Choir Practice resumes (Mondays 7:45 pm to 9:00 pm)

September 11: Council Meeting (7:00 pm)

September 16: Back to Church Sunday (Choir makes seasonal debut)

~ Homecoming Picnic (11:30 am)



Highway Cleanup – Saturday, September 8

ALC members will pick up trash and treasures along Washington Crossing Road between the church and the bridge in Washington Crossing. Approximately 4 to 8 people are needed. Refreshments, gloves, and vests will be provided. For more information, please contact David Chmielewski.



Women of Ascension

The Women of Ascension will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 4th at 10:00 am. Meetings will be the 1st Tuesday of every month. All women are welcome.

Mission Ministry

Aid for Friends



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Please join Ascension on Sunday, September 9th after the 10 am worship service as we prepare the Breakfast Bags for **Aid for Friends** as our way of participating in the *God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday.* Congregations throughout the ELCA will be doing projects in which God's work is done through our hands. The food we prepare for the homebound clients of this organization is greatly needed and appreciated. During the month of August, Ascension delivered 16 meals and 6 soups for Aid for Friends.

The Breakfast Bags are supplemented with a grant from Thrivent Financial and we welcome donations of items for the bags (which contain an instant oatmeal packet, box of raisins, packet of peanut butter or cheese crackers, a juice box, a packet of instant coffee or a tea bag); or money to be used to buy supplies. We especially need 150 packs of oatmeal; 120 juice boxes; and 50 packs of raisins (6 boxes in each pack). We also need the gallon size storage bags. Please see Sheryl White, if you have any questions.

The more who participate in this project, the faster the work goes. All help is greatly appreciated. Our goal is to make 500 bags.



Lambertville Food Pantry

Collections for the Lambertville Food Pantry are ongoing.

We are currently collecting the following needed items:

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| Cereal | Black Beans | Shampoo |
| Canned Corn | Pancake Mix | Toothpaste |
| Soup | Pasta | Tooth Brushes |
| Chili | Crackers | Diapers |
| Baked Beans | Fruit Juice | Depends |
| Chicken Broth | Used Plastic Bags | Hand soap |
| Tuna | | |

Thank you for your generous and continuous support of the food pantry.



Mission Ministry



The Rescue Mission of Trenton offers a safe, clean, warm refuge for the homeless, the hungry, the transient and the addicted. The Mission provides services and counseling to encourage individuals to reach their greatest potential; it creates an environment where one can live with dignity, build self-esteem, and experience love, responsibility and hope.



We are still collecting gently used clothing, shoes, accessories and linens. For further information on items such as usable furniture and electronics collected by the Rescue Mission (they will even come to your home for pick-up), please visit their website at www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org

Thrivent Responds to California Wildfires

Blazing wildfires continue to burn across California causing devastation, destruction and incredible hardships throughout the state. When disasters like this occur, Thrivent members open their hearts to help those in need. If you are interested in finding out how you can help, please visit their website at PennsylvaniaTMN@thrivent.com and see the bulletin board in the Narthex for further information.



Back to Church Sunday, September 16 Homecoming Picnic



On September 16, Ascension and churches across the country will celebrate Back to Church Sunday with special activities to invite friends and neighbors back to church.

At Ascension, a “Homecoming Picnic” will be held immediately following worship. Games, fun, fellowship and food will be in abundance. This is a great time to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to experience fellowship at Ascension.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please see the signup sheets in the Narthex to bring appetizers/salads (last name A-L) and desserts (last name M-Z).



An added attraction will be our renowned Ascension choir makes its seasonal debut during the worship service.


Good Bye Summer

