



*So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:15-20)*

*A Blessed Christmas  
filled with  
Peace, Joy, and Hope*



---

# Calendar Highlights

Worship: Sundays at 10:00 am followed by Fellowship at 11:30 am  
December 3 and 10

~ Choral Choir Rehearsals 7:45 pm to 9:00 pm

December 1:

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

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

December 2: Pastor Julie's Installation Service (2:30 pm)

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

December 9:

~ Bell Choir Rings at 10:00 am Worship Service

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

~ Poinsettia Orders Due

~ Christmas Caroling Event (3:00-6:00 pm)

December 11: Council Meeting (7:00 pm)

December 16:

~ Hanging of the Greens Service (10:00 am)

~ Christmas Angels (meet at church 5:30 pm)

December 22: Luminary Assembly (9:00 am)

December 23:

~ Sunday School & Confirmation Classes provide special music  
at Worship Service (10:00 am)

~ Luminary Set-up (following worship service) (weather permitting)

December 24:

~ Luminary Lighting (5:00 pm)

~ Christmas Eve Worship Service (7:00 pm)

December 26: Luminary Clean-up (9:00 am)

January 27: Annual Congregational Meeting (11:30 am)

~ Please see Calendar on website at [ascensionlutheranchurch.org](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org) for a detailed list of events.



Orders for Christmas Poinsettias will be accepted through **Sunday, December 9**. Each plant is 7-7.5 inch diameter, available in red or white; cost is \$15.00. Each poinsettia may be given in memory or honor of a loved one. This is a beautiful Christmas tradition at Ascension.

Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Order forms are on the table in the Narthex. Please call the church office at 215-497-0447 or [admindlc@comcast.net](mailto:admindlc@comcast.net) with any questions.

---

## Annual Congregational Meeting



Important Date! Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 11:30 am**.

The inclement weather date is February 3.

Please plan to attend to attend this important church meeting.

---

## Rescue Mission of Trenton

As we go into the holiday season and the approaching winter (the surprise snowstorm the week before Thanksgiving serves as a reminder of just what might lie ahead for us this year), please remember the men and women who have no place to go for food and shelter. The Rescue Mission of Trenton helps those that are in this situation. We are still collecting gently used clothing, coats, shoes (tie together), belts, accessories (hats, scarves, and neck ties), hand bags and wallets, and linens.

Due to your generosity, donations from our overflowing box in the Narthex were picked up in November.



Please visit the mission website at [www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org](http://www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org) for more information on items such as furniture and electronics that they will come to your house to pick-up.

---



## Advent

Each year during Advent, Ascension Lutheran Church has a Giving Tree in the Narthex. Under the tree are three gift boxes for donations during the holiday season and the ELCA Good Gifts catalogs. This year we will be collecting to support our ministries of hunger to Aid For Friends and the Delaware Valley Food Pantry as well as the ELCA Disaster Response. We urge you to prayerfully consider donations to our ongoing ministries and the ministries of the ELCA this year. Thank you for your always generous support!

---

### Aid for Friends

Please join us on **Sunday, December 9 (11:30 am)** to make Breakfast Bags 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 also need the gallon size storage bags. The more who participate, the faster the work goes.



---

### Delaware Valley Food Pantry



Thanks to your donations to the Delaware Valley Food Pantry along with a \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grant we were able to supply much needed items this month. Please continue to fill the baskets in the church with items to be donated as they are greatly appreciated by the clients of the food pantry.

Sheryl's car loaded with donations for the food pantry.

---

### ELCA Disaster Response

This year Lutheran Disaster Response has provided relief to the victims of Hurricane Michael in Florida and now is giving aid to those suffering due to the wildfires in California.

For more information on the California fires please see the articles on the bulletin board in the Narthex on what Lutheran Disaster Response and The Thrivent Member Network are doing to help those affected through this difficult time.







## **Special Christmas Events**

### **Christmas Caroling**

Join us for the Ascension Family Christmas Caroling Event on Sunday, December 9 from 3:00 – 6:00 pm. We will meet at the church at 3 pm and visit people in the area and spread the joyful news of the coming of the Christ child. What a wonderful way to sing of Christ's love for all of us and to enjoy the Christmas season.

---

### **Christmas Angels**

The tradition continues this Christmas Season. Once again, The Christmas Angels will be up to their brand of "holy mischief"—*Shane Claiborne*. We will partner with Shane Claiborne and The Simple Way in this uniquely Ascension way of sharing the love and joy of Christmas with those less fortunate than we. The bus will leave the church at 5:30 pm on December 16.

Stay tuned for announcements at worship in the coming weeks for the details on how you can participate in this outreach ministry. Donations are accepted at any time. Cash is always welcome. Checks can be made out to Ascension designated for Christmas Angels, and need to be received in the church office by December 9.



*Thank you in advance for the amazing support you continue to show for this ministry!*

---

### **Special Music from Ascension's Children and Youth**

On December 23, at the 10:00 am morning worship service, the children of the Sunday School and Confirmation classes will be providing the special music. They will be singing an original carol, "Follow the Star", composed by Peter de Mets, our Director of Music. The song, composed in 1997 was the second in a series of original carols written for the youth choir, Revelation, at Forest Grove Presbyterian Church.



"Follow the Star" has been re-imagined for the children of Ascension. Originally composed as a lyric lullaby, this new version of the song really rocks. Peter newly arranged the piece because joining the children will be two special guests, Dan and Pat Hutt on drums and bass guitar. Dan and Pat (and Peter) will also be providing some jazzy pieces during worship to help celebrate the fourth Sunday in Advent and the coming of Emmanuel.

---

## Christmas Eve Luminaries



Last year the luminaries at ALC shined brightly. Please help us continue this tradition and light the way to Ascension on Christmas Eve.

The luminary assembly will be on Saturday, December 22 at 9:00 am. Outdoor set up will be on Sunday, December 23 following the worship service, weather permitting. Lighting will take place on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm. Luminary take down will be on Wednesday, December 26 at 9:00 am.



Members are asked to donate canned food items which will be placed inside the luminary bags to hold them in place. After Christmas, the food items will be given to the Delaware Valley Food Pantry which will help to feed those in need during the winter months ahead.

Everyone is invited to participate! Please dress for the weather. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex.



---

## Pastor Julie's Meeting with Bishop Davenport



New Southeast Pennsylvania Synod Rostered leaders Julie Peterson, Lauren Heywood, Justin Nickel, Joshua Sullivan, and Scott Staub having lunch with Bishop Patricia Davenport. The Bishop shared this message with Pastor Julie and the others: "Love God, reflect Christ, and serve people with gratitude and generosity!"

---

## **Ascension Notes**

### **We're Opening our Doors to the Community!**

In early fall, our church received a call from a local Cub Scout troop who was looking for new space to hold their meetings, to see if they could meet twice a month at Ascension. The Congregational Council decided that we would try hosting this group as a pilot, and it has gone very well. How wonderful to know that twice a month we have 12-15 Cub Scouts and their leaders gathering within our building! We extend a special thanks to the all our members who have opened and closed the church for them during this time. Beginning in January we will also be opening our doors once a month to a Daisy Troop! Let us be grateful that our church is being seen as a partner with our neighbors in the community!

---

### **Harvest Sunday**

Harvest Sunday took place on October 28 and what a blessing it was! Along with wonderful food, a fantastic hayride and honoring Pete Hills for his generous support to Ascension over the years, we also “harvested” our stewardship pledges. The Stewardship Committee is so pleased to announce that this year we have seen a 30% increase in dollars pledged, and a 41% in the number of pledges received from the previous year. We are so grateful for everyone who has pledged their support for your generosity. That being said, there is still some shortfall in looking towards the 2019 budget. It is never too late to “harvest” your pledge, and we ask that each of you prayerfully consider what is possible for next year. You can pick up a pledge card at church and return it by mail or in the offering plate. Thank you!

---

### **ALC Staff Update**

Over this past year, Jeanne Carey, our church administrator, has been such a blessing to Ascension. Behind the scenes of a Sunday morning, there are so many tasks that need to be done for the church during the week. Jeanne has organized and managed so many of them with patience and grace. Last month, Jeanne decided that she is “retiring from her retirement job” to spend more time with her family. She will be with us for her usual hours until December 6<sup>th</sup>, and then she will continue on a part-time basis focused primarily on producing the weekly worship bulletin. Pastor Julie and the Council are having discussions about what the next steps should be in filling this position recognizing that this is an important role for the functioning of our church. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Julie. Stay tuned for opportunities to show our gratitude to Jeanne for her work with us.