

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of December 10, 2017

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**WELCOME VISITORS!** Please fill out a blue welcome card and drop it in the offering plate so that we may further assist you.  
We're glad you chose to worship with us today and we are happy to provide you with information about our congregation.

## Helpful information:

- Participate as you are willing and able. • Bold print and portions marked with a "C" are the congregation's part. •
- Ascension is equipped with a "Hearing Loop." If your hearing aid has a "t-coil," you can turn it on and hear the service through your hearing aid. •
- For children 5 years and younger, a nursery is available where parents and guardians may supervise them. Parents and children may also enjoy the basket of children's books in the narthex (space outside of the sanctuary), where they can still see the worship service. •

## 2018 Mission Trip Is Scheduled!

The 2018 Mission Trip will be June 3 – 8. The past two mission trips have been so wonderful that we're returning to serve once more with Franciscans for the Poor, right here in Cincinnati. All youth, entering 7th grade in 2018 and older, are invited to come along. The tuition is \$275 per person.

**A deposit of \$75 is due by TODAY, December 10.** Please make checks payable to Ascension Lutheran Church. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Josh. Space is limited. Mission trips offer youth the opportunity to immerse themselves in a week of service to those in need, to grow in faith, and to grow closer to their peers. For more information, visit <http://www.franciscanministriesinc.org/franciscans-for-the-poor.html>

## December Altar Guild Sign-Up

The December Altar Guild **sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board.** Altar Guild members, please sign up for a slot at your nearest convenience — it will be good to know as soon as possible that we have all our Advent/Christmas season services taken care of. Thank you!

## The Longest Night Worship

The Longest Night Worship (formerly "Blue Worship") will be held on **Thursday, December 21 at 7 pm**, at Montgomery Presbyterian Church (9994 Zig Zag Rd., Montgomery). Held in partnership with the Montgomery Ministerial Association, the Longest Night worship service is intended for those who find the Christmas season to be difficult. It is geared especially for those who have experienced loss and grief. Take an evening away from the holiday rush and come as you are. If you know of someone who may benefit from attending, please extend an invitation. Pastor Josh will assist in leading the worship, along with other clergy from the Montgomery Ministerial Association.

## Thankoffering Sunday Today

**TODAY, December 10 is Thankoffering Sunday for the Women of the ELCA.** Please check your mailboxes for a letter explaining how the money donated is used to support the many services provided by the WELCA. Attached will be an envelope in which to make your donation. Prayerfully consider what you might be able to share to enable the continued work of the Women of the ELCA. Thank you for your support.

## Decorating Ascension for Christmas TODAY

**Join us TODAY, December 10**, following the 10:15 am worship service! The Worship and Music Committee will lead the decoration of the church for Christmas. Merry volunteers are needed! Please stay for a bit after church and help us make Ascension beautiful and bright for the season!

## Worship at Ascension

**8 am worship:** A simple, small and early worship service every week.

**10:15 am worship, through Advent:**

Advent 2, Dec 10: Liturgy Setting 4 ELW

Advent 3, Dec 17: Liturgy Setting 4 ELW

Advent 4, Dec 24: Liturgy Setting 4 ELW

## Christmas Season Worship Schedule

Join us for these worship opportunities during the Christmas season. Thanks to those who responded to the Christmas Eve worship survey. Your responses were used to shape the Christmas Eve worship schedule.

**Sunday, December 24** (Fourth Sunday of Advent): **10 am worship only** (no 8 am worship). We will begin worship by observing the fourth Sunday of Advent and conclude by giving thanks for the birth of Jesus.

**Sunday, December 24** (Christmas Eve). Celebrate the birth of Jesus at Ascension with one of these two worship services:

- **7:30 pm:** special music, children's message, Holy Communion, and candle light
- **9:30 pm:** Holy Communion and candle light

**Sunday, December 31** (First Sunday of Christmas): **10 am worship only** (no 8 am worship), "Lessons and Carols." We will sing beloved Christmas carols and listen to Scripture lessons that recount the story of Creation, the promise of a Messiah and the Incarnation, accompanied by artwork.

## Living in Grace and Gratitude

Our stewardship yearly campaign is in the pledge process. To those who have submitted pledges, thank you!

As the rest of you consider your annual pledge this year, please do so prayerfully understanding that the finance committee, church council, and ultimately you make difficult choices based on the amount pledged. Our goal is to receive pledge cards from all (100% participation). Thus, even if you don't feel like you can pledge, **PLEASE turn in a card so we know you have made a decision this year.** It is imperative that we receive the pledge cards as soon as possible so that the finance committee can begin the budgeting process for 2018. They need to know what can realistically be expected in order to produce an accurate budget.

THANK YOU for your commitment to and support of, in many ways, Ascension Lutheran Church.

God Bless,  
The Stewardship Committee

## The Mitten Tree

The Ascension Mitten Tree has "come to life" again in the narthex, ready to be decorated with mittens/gloves, hats, and scarves for children. These items will be taken to the ministry of Our Lord's Rose Garden to be distributed to children in need. The tree will remain up until **next Sunday, Dec. 17.** Help us make this year's tree the most beautiful one ever.



### Advent Calendars Available

Advent has begun! Observe Advent at home this year with a free Advent calendar from ELCA World Hunger. Plenty are available on the counter below the bulletin board. Take one!



**Wheel of Friendship  
N.E.E.D.S  
for December:  
Canned meat  
(tuna, chicken, salmon)**

### Office Hours :

**Monday-Friday 8:30-12:30**

### Activities This Week:

#### WEDNESDAY, December 13

Wheel of Friendship  
10:00 am

#### THURSDAY, December 14

Bell Choir Rehearsal  
5:45 pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm

#### SUNDAY, December 17

Worship  
8:00 am  
Children's Pageant Worship  
10:15 am

Harp of Faith  
11:30 am

### Lost & Found Items Need Claiming

Have you lost something? Perhaps it's been found. **Please check the table in the narthex**, where we have placed several coats and sweaters from our Lost & Found collection.

### N.E.E.D.S.

The pantry is in good shape with nonperishables and more donations keep coming from different organizations. Your donations, both canned goods and monetary, are always appreciated. We did have to reduce our financial assistance to \$200 from \$250 until donations improve. These monies help people with eviction notices and utility cut-offs.

### Follow us on Facebook!



Follow Ascension on Facebook to keep up with the latest pictures and information.

### Donations

#### FIRST LUTHERAN COLLECTIONS

Pants, jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts, underwear, and socks, for both men and women; towels, wash cloths, and deodorant. **(Please send only these items as storage is a problem.)**

#### EMPTY PILL BOTTLES

**Matthew 25 Ministries** needs empty pill bottles. The pill bottles are being sent to developing nations to help distribute medications. The ministry is grateful to us for this assistance and welcomes continuing contributions.

#### POP TABS

Please put your pop tabs in the basket in the Wheel of Friendship area. Proceeds to the Ronald McDonald House.

#### EMPTY ALUMINUM CANS

Please place your aluminum cans in the plastic trash can in the area near the coat racks.

### Scripture Readings

For this week, beginning December 11:

M	Isaiah 26:7-15 Acts 2:37-42 Psalm 27
T	Isaiah 4:2-6 Acts 11:1-8 Psalm 27
W	Malachi 2:10—3:1 Luke 1:5-17 Psalm 27
Th	Habakkuk 2:1-5 Philippians 3:7-11 Psalm 126
F	Habakkuk 3:2-6 Philippians 3:12-16 Psalm 126
S	Habakkuk 3:13-19 Matthew 21:28-32 Psalm 126
Su	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

### Spark Bibles for Sunday School

Many families purchased Spark Bibles for their children several years ago when we began using this curriculum. If you have a Spark Bible that your teen is no longer using, we can put them to good use in our Sunday School classrooms. Please leave them in the office if you have any to donate. Thank you for your help.

### Hurricane Collection

Ascension is collecting items on an ongoing basis to help people affected by Hurricane Harvey. Please place your donations in the bins provided in the narthex. The **items most needed** are cleaning supplies, bathroom supplies, personal hygiene products, cleaning gloves, masks, school supplies, first aid kits, and non-perishable food items.

