



Ascension
Lutheran
Church

Ascension Lutheran Church // March 2022

Ascension News

One church, One Body, One Spirit, Serving all People.
Una Iglesia, Un Cuerpo, Un Espíritu, Viviendo a todo los personas.
Ib Lub Tuamtsev, Ib Lub Cev, Ib Tug Ntsujplig Ua Num Rua.

Greetings from Pastor Bill

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are almost into Lent, and already I feel like it's going to be a long season. Easter feels SO far off! It feels so far off because it is still far off. Easter doesn't happen until the middle of April. Between then and now, we still have all the Sundays in Lent, 1 Sunday of Palm/Passion, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday services to fit in.

When I'm feeling like this, I remember the original meaning behind the phrase "the light at the end of the tunnel." No, I'm not talking about the light being a freight train heading right at us. I'm talking about the sense of hope one has at knowing the journey has an ending, and soon we will be walking in the light again.

In a way, that's what Lent and Easter are all about. Lent is not just a time of repentance and renewal. It's also a time of reflection, a time to remember what struggles the people outside of a faith relationship with God in Jesus Christ had in knowing they were loved by God. Isaiah described them as "the people who walked in darkness," but didn't finish there. He went on to say that they have now seen a great light, promising them that the Light of God would come.

In the gospel by Matthew, the writer tells us that prophecy has come true and makes a direct connection between the Light of God and Jesus Christ. In Jesus' death, the price of our sin has been paid. In Jesus' resurrection, we see the stamp of God's approval and the promise that the forgiveness of Good Friday leads to the joy and resurrection of Easter for us all.

Jesus is the light at the end of the tunnel! He is our anticipation and our joy! Knowing this, we know that Lent really isn't all that long and Easter isn't that far away. May God bless your Lenten journey with the hope and joy of Christ, our Easter light!

Yours in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill



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Worship schedule

English: 9:00 am

Spanish: 10:15 am

Hmong: 11:30 am

Food Pantry

On the first and third Thursday mornings of each month, dedicated Ascension volunteers pack and give out sacks of nourishing food to dozens of families. The sacks, of course, have been partially prepared days ahead, so that the Thursday morning schedule goes smoothly. Frozen pizzas, some meats and eggs picked up from Feeding America are added. Fresh fruits and vegetables (also from Feeding America) are separated, sorted and bagged. I've had the pleasure of doing this with fun and cheerful members who are happy to help.

During winter months, I've finally learned to wear warmer clothes, because our gym is COLD! But volunteers who grab food bags and place them lovingly into cars that drive up get much colder, and they are dressed for it.

If I'm a little 'down' on a given Thursday, I always come away with a smile on my face, reflecting the gratitude of those who receive the food, and the cheer coming from the volunteers.

It's often asked what are the best supplies to donate to our food pantry. At the present time, the best answer is monetary donations. Checks can be made out to Ascension; please put on the memo line "food pantry". That way, those working at the pantry can get deals and replenish what items are low in stock.

Come visit on any 1st or 3rd Thursday from 9 am – 11 am and experience the joy of this much-needed ministry in which we can all share!

Member, Gail Brodersen-Heins

From Ascension Building Team

The recent loss of the Street Angels' van along with other parking lot concerns has the building team exploring improvements in security around the exterior of the building. The team is seeking quotes to improve the lighting in the parking lot and the installation of active security cameras.

We are grateful for the leadership of José Guerrero, who gathered a group of volunteers to paint and freshen the Chapel conference room. New blinds will be installed to complete the room for Ascension's use.



Food Pantry Leadership Update

David DeHayes, Food Pantry Coordinator, has announced his intention to retire from the leadership he has given to the collection and distribution of food for Ascension's Food Pantry. We are grateful for the years of work he and his family have given to this important outreach and service to neighborhood families. His departure at the end of March presents an opportunity for someone to carry on this important ministry. Our Food Pantry distributes food on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings of the month. General responsibilities include:

- Collect food from local food donation organizations
- Store collected food at Ascension
- Supervise food pantry volunteers in the packing and distribution of food

This part-time position requires physical strength to lift food crates and a vehicle capable of transporting large boxes of food materials. It is subsidized with an hourly wage and a mileage allowance.

This service has meant a great deal to area families that have suffered through the pandemic. There is a dedicated corps of volunteers who have been assisting in this ministry. We pray for a leader to come forward and continue this work.



Streaming Worship Instructions

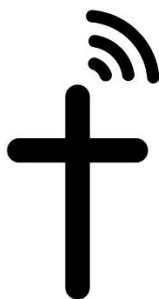
As we are now regularly streaming our services online, there may be confusion about accessing them. Hopefully, these two explanations help!

With a Facebook Account:

1. A few minutes before the start of the worship service, log into your Facebook account, and search for “Ascension Lutheran Church” in the search bar. For computer/laptop users, this is located in the top left-hand corner of your Facebook window. For mobile users, tap the magnifying glass (top right).
2. Once on Ascension’s Facebook page, scroll down the page to locate the streamed service. It will have the date posted above the video link.
3. Once you have found the live streamed service, feel free to click or tap on the service and begin watching!

Without a Facebook Account:

1. Log onto your computer, and open your internet browser and go to <https://www.facebook.com/ascensionmilwaukee/>
2. Once you are at Ascension Facebook page, follow steps 2 and 3 listed above.



If you are having trouble hearing audio, please make sure the video's sound (in the lower right-hand corner of the livestream) is turned on. If the audio on the livestream is turned on, please make sure the audio on your device is turned on.

If further difficulties persist, please try repeating the steps, or leave a comment in the comment field so the issues may be addressed.

Attention Thrivent Members...

Thrivent members who are eligible for Choice Dollars have until March 31 to designate the church or charitable organization to receive their 2021 Choice Dollars. To determine your eligibility and to direct your Choice Dollars, you can email Thrivent at Thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836 Monday through Friday, 7 am – 6 pm.

Please consider designating your Choice Dollars to Ascension-Milwaukee. Choice Dollars received help to support AMIS (Ascension in Mission) projects both locally and internationally.

Do you have questions about Thrivent products and services? Ascension member Jerry Vang is a Thrivent representative and financial associate and can be contacted by calling 414-477-2997.

Milwaukee COVID Testing Sites

Free COVID-19 PCR testing is available for anyone 12 months and older, regardless of symptoms. PCR test results are expected within 24-48 business hours.

For updated information:

<https://city.milwaukee.gov/CoronavirusResources/COVID-19-Testing>

Northwest Health Center, 7630 W. Mill Road

Drive-thru garage – Enter at Mill Road Library, 6431 N. 76th St.

- Monday & Friday:
9 am – 3 pm
- Tuesday & Thursday:
12 pm – 6 pm
- Saturday: 9 am – 1 pm

Southside Health Center, 1639 S. 23rd St.

Drive-thru heated tent in North parking lot - Enter on 24th St.

- Monday & Friday:
9 am – 3 pm
- Tuesday & Thursday:
12 pm – 6 pm
- Saturday: 9 am – 1 pm

Menomonee Valley Site, 2401 W. St. Paul Ave.

Drive-thru garage

- Monday, Wednesday, Fridays:
12 pm – 6 pm
- Tuesday & Thursday:
9 am – 3 pm



From Palm Sunday to Good Friday



Ascension Contact information

Phone: 414-645-2933

Regular office hours: Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4:30 pm

Pastor Bill Mains (interim pastor)

Pastor Germán Novelli Machado

Chuck Ellingson (office manager)

A Lenten Prayer

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Watch for updated Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter worship schedules from the church.

Get it on the Calendar!

Contact Bonny Lopez in the church office with any church-related meetings, even if held virtually, or in a non-church location. Let's keep each other informed of our sacred work!

Bonny Lopez,
ascension53215milw@gmail.com

Next Ascension News

April 1

Articles are due by Noon on **Friday, March 18th**

Please email your group's content to:

Cindy Jackson, lead - cindy_jaxn@yahoo.com

Gail Brodersen-Heins, community - grheins@hotmail.com

Jacob Guerrero, Latino ministry - jakeishere1122@gmail.com

Charlie Kudy, Ascension teams - kudy826@gmail.com

Ar Lee, Hmong ministry - lisab070520@gmail.com

If you know someone who would like a printed copy of this newsletter, contact Jan Fox at 262-782-5680.

