



Ascension News

One Church, One Body, One Spirit, Serving all People
Una Iglesia, Un Cuerpo, Un Espíritu, Sirviendo a todas las personas
Ib Lub Tuamtsev, Ib Lub Cev, Ib Tug Ntsujplig, Ua Num Rua Txhaus Tug Tuabneeg

From Pastor Aida's Desk

I never fail to be amazed at how busy the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas can be. This time that makes up the season of Advent is packed full, both personally and congregationally. There are meetings and parties to attend. There is shopping to be done and there are suppers to plan. There is decorating and baking and gift wrapping and caroling and traveling to do. And while much of that is exciting, it can also be exhausting; even celebration can be stressful.

I want to encourage you to consider how you might take on the discipline of Advent in the month that just started. Advent is a season of preparation and repentance, of hope and expectation. And to do these things requires mindfulness and intentionality. Advent calls us to reflect on where we have been, where we are, and where we're going. Advent calls us to consider how God has been with us every step of our journey, and to be confident that God will remain with us as we go forth in faith.

What does it look like to practice the discipline of Advent mindfully? Perhaps while we are making our homes ready to receive visitors, we also make our hearts ready to receive instruction from Jesus. Perhaps as we come together with others for meals, parties, caroling, and other festivities, we also come to friends and loved ones ready to make amends for harm we have done and ready to heal the wounds caused by separation. Perhaps as we gather in hope and expectation for the coming of the Christ child in a manger in Bethlehem, we also gather in hope and expectation for what the world could be like if we work together every day to live out the grace, mercy, and peace that we have received from Jesus. Dear Church, to practice Advent is to be mindfully, intentionally ready—not just for the coming of Christ, but for every opportunity to live like Jesus in the world today.

This is a busy time of year. But I hope that we can all make room for Advent as we rush headlong toward Christmas. Because there is much to make ready, much to prepare. I pray the days ahead are joyful and bright; that they fill you with excitement, with hope, and with peace. I pray that you find time to be still and know God's presence in your story thus far, in the moment right now, and on the journey that still lies ahead. And as we prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts, may we also be prepared to bear Christ into the world by our words and deeds.

May you have a blessed Advent and a merry Christmas.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Aida

In This Issue

From Pastor Aida's Desk

Welcome Paisley Athy

IN AS MUCH Sunday

Photos from Día de los Muertos

Thank You ALC Waukesha!!!

Welcome Walker's Point Youth &
Family Center to the Ascension
Campus

2025 Schedule of Events

Youth Photos

Holiday Blessings

A Pastoral Message for These
Troubled Days

Treasurer's Report

Sunday Worship Services

English: 9:00 am

Spanish: 10:15 am

Hmong: 11:30 am

10:00 am unified worship
services at least once a month

For specific dates, see the
calendar under
News & Events at
www.ascensionmke.com.

Welcome Paisley Athy

Courtney and I (Evan) wanted to extend a huge thank you to everyone at Ascension for your continued prayers for our little girl, Paisley! We truly believe there is nothing more powerful than prayer and God definitely heard you all. Paisley has beat every outcome she was predicted to face by her surgeons and doctors. She is proof God performs miracles. We still have a long road ahead, but as of now we are proud parents of a strong, brave, healthy little girl thanks to your continued prayers. Again, thank you!



With love,
The Athys

IN AS MUCH Sunday



IN AS MUCH Sunday will be on Sunday, December 14th. As has been the tradition at Ascension, we will be collecting gifts for the children of Hephatha Lutheran Church. Pastor Mary Martha has always been extremely thankful for any gifts that we, as Ascension disciples, give to the children of their congregation and neighborhood.

Toys and/or clothes are greatly appreciated. Squishmallows are STILL a child's favorite according to the parents that Pastor Mary Martha asked. As you may remember, we donated quite a few two years ago, and they are a source of comfort for many children who might need some extra TLC. Squishmallows can be found at many of the following places: Amazon, Walmart, Target, Kohl's, Costco, Pick-n-Save, ToysRUs inside of Macy's, Walgreens and Hallmark.

All gifts should be UNWRAPPED and will be delivered on Monday, December 15th. If you will not be at church on the 14th, feel free to bring gifts the week before and they will be kept in a safe place. Questions? Feel free to text/call me (Christy) at 414.235.4645 or ask Chuck or myself at church.

Blessings,
Chuck & Christy Kudy

Photos from Día de los Muertos



Thank You, ALC Waukesha!!!



Our siblings from Ascension Lutheran Church in Waukesha just donated winter hats to ALC's disciples. Please, if you are in need, talk to Pastor Aida!

Welcome Walker's Point Youth & Family Center to the Ascension Campus



Ascension Lutheran Church is excited to welcome **Walker's Point Youth & Family Center** as the newest partner to join our mission-driven campus. Their move to Ascension strengthens our shared commitment to serving vulnerable youth and families in our community with compassion, stability, and hope.

- For more than 45 years, Walker's Point Youth & Family Center has provided essential services that help young people and their families navigate

difficult situations. Their programs include:

- **Emergency Youth Shelter:** A safe, supportive, 24/7 refuge for teens experiencing crisis or homelessness.
- **Family Support Services:** Counseling, mediation, and resources that help families improve communication, resolve conflict, and build healthier relationships.
- **Transitional Living Program:** Long-term support for young adults working toward independence through education, job readiness, and life-skills development.

With the move of their administrative offices to the Ascension campus, Walker's Point Youth & Family Center will continue its tradition of providing accessible, life-changing support—now within a collaborative community of organizations dedicated to nourishing, uplifting, and empowering our neighbors.

For questions or to learn more about their services, please contact:

Kali Daugherty, Executive Director

Walker's Point Youth & Family Center
Email:

kali.daugherty@walkerspoint.org

We are grateful for this new partnership and look forward to the shared good it will bring to Milwaukee's youth and families.

Submitted by Charlie Kudy

2025 Schedule of Events

Plan now for these exciting events! *The following list of events is subject to change.*

Unified Worship Services
<p>Friday, 12/12, 5:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Lady of Guadalupe Service <p>Wednesday, 12/24, 4:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Eve Family Service
HMoob/HMong 11:30 Service
<p>Thanksgiving Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date: Sunday, 12/7 • Time: After 11:30 service • Food: Potluck • Contact: Ar Lee 414.405.9202 <p>Xyoo Tshab/Hmong New Year Celebration 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date: Sunday, 1/4/2026 • Time: 10:00 am - Unified Service • Lunch: After service • Food: Hmong Ministry • Contact: Ar Lee 414.405.9202



Youth Photos



Holiday Blessings!



The Nativity by Scott Cupstid

As we look forward to the holidays and turning over the calendar, I want to wish everyone a blessed holiday season. I pray the coming year brings you a closer relationship with your friends and family, and with God.

There will be no January newsletter.

Blessings!
Cindy Jackson, Newsletter team



A Pastoral Message for These Troubled Days

November 12, 2025



When I was installed as your presiding bishop, the preacher proclaimed that in times of division, disruption and fear, God calls us, through love, to lift up one another just as Christ lifts us up. I have taken that to heart and been alert to all the ways in which we, made into God's own beloved through word and sacrament, testify to that love in daily service and ministry. Across the ELCA, I have seen and am deeply grateful for:

- Ministries mobilizing to serve meals and distribute food amid the harm, chaos and confusion of a government shutdown and the ongoing blocking of food assistance for 42 million people in our nation.
- Congregations offering accompaniment and hope as they come alongside neighbors made vulnerable by aggressive and indiscriminate immigration enforcement.

- Leaders from Lutheran Disaster Response urging members of Congress to commit to programs that lift up those made vulnerable in disasters.
- Congregations reaching out to federal workers by supplying meals, meeting daily needs, providing gift cards and helping them find work.
- Preachers faithfully proclaiming the theology of the cross that illuminates the brokenness of sin but also the mystery of a grace that claims us, frees us and sends us to be messengers of hope in a hurting world.

As a church, we do not hold back in lifting up those whom God calls us to serve, even and especially when government abdicates its responsibilities for the common good. My installation as your presiding bishop coincided with the start of the longest government shutdown in our nation's history. In this moment, I draw strength from the writings of Martin Luther, who used the example of Mary and the words of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) to urge the rulers of his time to exercise power in ways that serve all people.

Jesus gave us an image of a vine and its branches (John 15:1) to illustrate our connectedness to him and, through him, to one another. Our rootedness in Christ sustains us with his love. His love connects us to one another. We must stay connected to face the challenges of this moment.

An end to the government shutdown will not immediately resolve food insecurity, so we will keep feeding and supporting our neighbors. The racial profiling and harm to our immigrant neighbors show no signs of diminishing, so we will heed God's call to show up alongside these neighbors in solidarity. Our broken

politics and partisan divisions will not heal by themselves, so we will show up through participation, bridge-building and advocacy.

No matter what happens next, we must continue to care for all neighbors, especially those who are marginalized. Our 1994 social message "Community Violence" tells us that "we have the responsibility to join with others to hold government accountable for protecting society and ensuring justice for all, and to seek changes in policies and practices toward these ends" (p. 4). As we do, I am confident that Christ's grace will be sufficient, freeing us to lift up others and seek justice for everyone.

I invite you to pray for and participate in ELCA ministries that support the well-being of all including by taking [*advocacy action*](#), applying for ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread Matching Grants to support your hunger ministry, and watching the recent ELCA Advocacy webinar "[*Faith Communities and the Realities of Food Assistance*](#)."

Gracious God, we pray for our public servants, that they do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Inspire them to use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life. Guide our leaders to govern in such a way that all people enjoy a peaceful and just society. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. — All Creation Sings, p. 50

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Treasurer's Report

	Through 10/31/25 Goal	10/31/25 Actual	2025 Budget
Endowment	\$83,000.00	\$112,825.96	\$100,000.00
Donations	\$170,150.00	\$158,316.23	\$205,000.00
Building Rental	\$114,279.81	\$120,620.85	\$137,686.52
Misc	\$25,522.50	\$14,037.26	\$31,250.00
Roof Donations	\$12,450.00	\$22,790.00	\$15,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$405,402.31	\$428,590.30	\$488,936.52

Administration	\$234,450.10	\$237,692.66	\$282,470.00
Ministry	\$26,062.00	\$25,715.68	\$31,400.00
Building	\$121,802.50	\$146,341.41	\$146,750.00
Utilities	\$51,086.50	\$60,482.41	\$61,550.00
Addtl Roof Prinp. Pmt	\$-	\$-	\$-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$433,401.10	\$470,232.16	\$522,170.00

Difference	\$(27,998.79)	\$(41,641.86)	\$(33,233.48)
-------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Charlie Kudy, treasurer



Get it on the calendar!

Contact Bonny or Chuck 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 López, bonnylopez@ascensionmke.com

Chuck Ellingson: officemanager@ascensionmke.com

Ascension Contact Information

Phone: 414-645-2933

Website: www.ascensionmke.com

Rev. Aida Muñiz: pastoraida@ascensionmke.com

Chuck Ellingson: officemanager@ascensionmke.com

Regular office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

If you know someone who would like a printed copy of this newsletter, please contact Jan Fox at 262-782-5680 or Chuck in the church office.

Next Ascension News

February 3rd

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, January 23rd**.

Please email your group's content to:

Cindy Jackson, lead - cindy_jaxn@yahoo.com

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

Charlie Kudy, Ascension teams/website - kudy826@gmail.com

Ar Lee, Hmong ministry - lisab070520@gmail.com

