

CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of Ascension Lutheran Church
6520 Loma de Cristo Drive, El Paso, TX 79912
August 2018



“CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY TO CHRIST”

Rev. Brian R. Bestian, Pastor

Marhel Cueva, Director Ascension Preschool

Kim Bestian, Director of Children's Ministry

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WORSHIP SERVICES: Sunday Mornings @ 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.; Family Bible Hour @ 9:15 a.m.

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AUGUST-AT-A-GLANCE

August 5: PrayerTime @ 5:00 p.m.

August 6: Preschool Office opens for 2018-2019 year

August 16: Ladies Night Out @ Great American @ 6:30 p.m.

August 17: September Newsletter Article Deadline

August 23: Preschool Open House for 3 year old classes

August 24: Preschool Open House for 2 & 4 year old classes

August 25: Rally Day Meeting & Set Up @ 9:00 a.m.

August 26: ONE WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:00 a.m.!

August 27: Preschool begins!

August 26

Christian Education Sunday/Rally Day

One Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

8:45 a.m. Family Bible Hour

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Weekly Activities

Sunday: Worship @ 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.; Family Bible Hour @ 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday: Woman To Woman Bible Study will resume meeting in September

Men's Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m. will resume meeting in September.

Boy Scouts @ 6:45 p.m.

Wed: Weight Watchers Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

Thursday: Women's Bible Study will resume meeting in September

Saturday: Men's Bible Study and Breakfast @ 8:00 a.m. will resume meeting in September

What do you do when you are caught between a rock and a hard place? What do you do when you need rescuing? To who or what do you turn?

It was a frightful time for the scrawny nation. There they were—stuck between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. On one side, the Israelites faced death by drowning. On the other side, the army of their former captors was racing toward them, assuring them of a gruesome death. Israel had no chariots and horses, no spears and shields, no war plan. That's when all the grumbling and complaining started. Under God's guidance, Moses, their humble leader, stood up and encouraged them, *"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today . . . The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still"* (Exodus 14:13-14). True, they had no weapons or ammunition, but they had something far superior. They had the Lord God of Israel. He promised to protect them, rescue them, and fight their battles for them. And He did.

Frankly, you'll never find yourself between a large body of water and a charging Egyptian army. At least, not any time soon. But you can sympathize with the Israelites, can't you? As God allows challenges, difficulties, tribulations, even life-threatening ones, in your life, you know it's so easy to gripe and complain, asking Him three of the most common questions: "Why me? Why this? And why now?"

Does it ever feel like darkness or midnight has descended upon you? Do you long for a new day? If so, rest easy. The difference between midnight and a new day is just 60 seconds. Don't panic. Take a deep breath. Let the Word of God spoken through Moses slowly infiltrate your ears, slip down into your heart, and calm your soul. *"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today . . . The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."* What grand, God-given advice! As New Testament believers, St. Paul would quickly add: Place your worry, your troubles, and your pain at the feet of Jesus' cross. Trust Him. Stand firm. Because at the cross, Jesus fought—and won—the biggest battle of your life. Behold, His empty tomb! Now you get to watch Him work through your current struggle or dilemma. He will deliver you just as He has promised.

Even now God continues to be your Rescuer, your Rock, and your Refuge. He fights for you—every moment of every day. Maybe God fights for you by giving you the strength to keep going. Maybe He fights for you by giving you a complete rescue or a miraculous healing. Maybe He will fight for you by taking you home to heaven, because a temporary loss on this earth is His eternal victory.

No matter how He decides to work, God's got this. Despite illness, sin, death, Satan, and an Egyptian army, He is in control. Trust Him. Stand firm. Be still. And behold His deliverance. After all, you are a part of His story, too, and He *alone* is your Rescuer.

Just a Reminder: Pastor's sermons and Sunday morning Bible Study can be heard on the church website—ALConnect.faith.

Filled and Growing Empowered and Going!

Christian Education Sunday
Sunday School Jump Day
Rally Day Picnic

*Ascension unites to celebrate God's Word and
Christian Education opportunities!*

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Fellowship & Refreshments 8:30 a.m.

The Family Bible Hour 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School children (and their parents) & teen youth meet in the sanctuary for a presentation and to *jump up* to their next class! Adult Bible class with pastor meets in the Fellowship Hall

Worship 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Installation of Ascension preschool staff, Bible study leaders, and Sunday School teachers and helpers

Picnic – 11:15 a.m.

Christian County Fair

Potluck lunch – lemonade & corn dogs will be provided

Suggest bringing: main dish, veggies, fruit, chips/rolls.

No deserts, please. Youth will sell pie, etc.

Indoor/outdoor games & jump house 11:30 – 12:30

Youth bake sale & silent auction concludes 12:30

Children's Ministry

Kim Bestian, DCM

A big THANK YOU to all of our Sunday School teachers, helpers and substitutes from the 2017-2018 Sunday School calendar year – including our energetic summer Sunday School teachers! God's blessings to Caroline Carnahan, Pam Miller, Jan Schlak, Linda Canada, Eddie Abdou, Jean DeWitt, Nethia Kelly, Robyn Cooper, Maritza Schlak, Debbie Epperson, Tina Gardner, Cheryl Canada, Jacob Meraz, Kirsten Moravec, Rachel Witty, Jane Bannister, Melanie Gallagher, Judy Pozzerle, Jennifer Cummings, and Dava Tilley! Another big thank-you to our Sunday School Head Coordinator, Wanda Melendez, as she keeps things moving and well organized! *"Well done, thou good and faithful servants!"*

We look forward to a new year in children's Christian education at Ascension and welcome those who will lead His little ones to Him! We pray that the Lord will continue to work through His Word and those He calls to lead those so young in the faith. Please partner with us in prayer for the spiritual growth of God's precious baptized children.

The theme for this new year in Christian Education is **"Filled and Growing, Empowered and Going!"** When we are daily in God's Word, we become *filled* with the Holy Spirit who *grows* our faith! He then *empowers* us to *go* and tell others about Him through our words and by our actions. That is shining our light just like we celebrated last Christmas!

On Christian Education Sunday, our Sunday School children and their parents will have opportunity to meet in the church sanctuary for a special presentation during the Family Bible Hour. There will be announcements introducing our new Sunday School teachers and a chance for the children to *jump up* to their next class level! Following this, the children will be dismissed for a special Bible lesson on the **Saints In Heaven** from Revelation 19:1-10. Parents will remain for an informative presentation on **Gifts for Parents!** Worship time will be the highlight of the morning as we all come together for one worship service to thank God for His Word and to receive His many gifts. The Rally Day Picnic celebration is sure to be a great gathering. There will be lots of food and fun games for everyone. The picnic will have a Christian *County Fair* type flavor carried over from the summer Sunday School theme. See you there!

Ascension children's ministry offers opportunities for children to grow in God's Word, express their faith, and be helpers for Him! If you are interested in serving these areas of ministry, please feel free to talk with me (Kim Bestian) to see where your talents might be able to be used for God's glory!

Keep the joy as we continue walking together in His love for present and eternal purposes!



#Called

This last weekend, July 21-22, was spent in Ruidoso, New Mexico with twenty-one people ranging from seventh grade to college age, along with five adults. It was a Rio Grande Circuit wide youth retreat, which resulted in teenagers coming from three El Paso churches, two from Las Cruces, one from Alamogordo, and one from Ruidoso, putting us at a total of seven churches partnering to encourage youth's faith growth.

Every person in attendance had fun as we spent our afternoon at Bonita Park Camp; mini-golf, horseshoes, and sand volleyball were outside games enjoyed as we all split in-between games, then we spent an hour playing an intense game of water polo at the inside pool. Afterwards, majority of the youth and a few of the adults showed their daring side as they took their turn at the 500-foot-long zip line, indoor rock climb, and 35-foot-tall Leap of Faith.

Despite the exhaustion of a long, fun filled day, the youth were eager to continue playing together once we returned to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, where we spent the night. Games of Uno, Mafia, Hide-n-Seek, and Murder in the Dark had them all interacting with each other, making new friends, and strengthening old friendships.

Not only did these teenagers enjoy the opportunity to meet others like themselves, but they also got to delve into Scripture together. It was amazing to see them make connections between Scripture and their lives!

We kicked off our retreat with the first of three Bible study series, all connected to our theme of *#Called*. In social media, the hashtag sign has become a tool used for three different purposes -to encourage change, to follow others with similar interests, and to continuously share information. Change, follow, and share -those are three reasons why we were called out of darkness and into His wonderful light, as Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:9.

Saturday morning, we studied how we are all *#Called to Change*. Through a quick game, we were able to see in a very personal way how a world filled with temptations for us to become our own gods and focus inward on ourselves can make it a struggle to live a life dedicated to God. As children of God, we have been called to be different from what the world offers. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, we become more like Jesus and less like ourselves. We learn to be new creations through the study of God's Word.

Saturday evening, we moved on to how we are *#Called to Follow*. An awesome activity involving a blindfold, a guide, and screaming youth, we all were able to understand the difference between being a leader of the world and a follower of Christ. It was an amazing thing to see as these young people expressed their thoughts regarding following Jesus. Together, we explored the constant battle between going our own way and going the way of Christ. As His children, we understand we are called to follow Him throughout our lives by learning His voice through the study of Scripture; by doing so, we will become less likely to follow the strange voices of the enemy.

Sunday morning, we enjoyed a beautiful outside service with our Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church family, followed by affirmations and ending with our last Bible study, *#Called to Share*. Through the study of Scripture, we were able to see everything we share -from a common destiny as sinners, to a treasure of priceless worth in Jesus Christ. We learned how lives can be changed when we simply share God's love as He loved us -completely, unconditionally, and without reserve.

The weekend was an amazing time of joining and becoming a bigger family—we enjoyed every minute!

ALC Youth Happenings

August 2018

Rally



Youth

Sign up to help with games!
You can sign up for thirty minutes or an hour!

Dan

Parents



Please bring a pie (or two) for our
Slice o Pie Fundraiser!

Apple, Cherry, Peach...you make
it, we'll sell it by the slice!



Ascension Family

Please sign up to donate homemade baked goods for
The Youth Baked Goods Sale.

We'll take cakes, pies, breads, cookies, rolls...

All proceeds will go towards the Youth Mission Trip



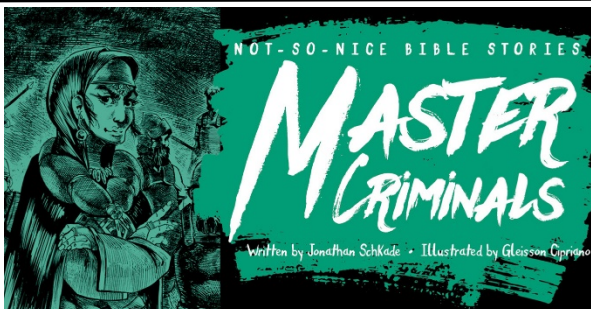
Sundays

9:15-10:15AM

New Bible Study:
Master Criminals
of the Bible

August 5 (Library)
August 12 (Library)
August 19 (Gazebo)
August 26 (8:45am;
Sanctuary)

All junior and
senior youth
will be meeting in
the **LIBRARY**
for Sunday Morning
Bible Study



New Youth Bible Study!

Join us in the Library this month to learn more about the scoundrels in the Bible! We will approach each 'case' as investigators, seeking evidence of their crimes and its impact in today's people!

On the August Docket: Jacob and Rebekah, Potiphar's Wife, and Rahab
Every Sunday during Family Bible Hour (9:15am-10:15am)

Contact Information

Luz M. Soto, DYM

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STUDYING THE WORD THROUGH BIBLE CLASS

- ♥ **Men's Saturday Breakfast and Bible Study:** the group will resume meeting in September.
- ♥ **Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study:** will continue their study on the book of James. This group meets at the church @ 6:30 p.m.
- ♥ **Ladies' Bible Study:**
 - **Woman To Woman Bible Study:** This group will break for the summer and resume meeting in September.
 - **Tuesday Evening Bible Study:** will break for the summer and resume meeting in September.
 - **Thursday Morning Bible Study Group:** this group will break for the summer and resume meeting in September.
- ♥ Another resource available to you can be found at www.lhm.org. You will find the Lutheran Hour daily devotions at this website.

MINISTRY & BOARD REPORTS

ALTAR CARE COMMITTEE

NEW TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED!

Looking for a way to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a meaningful way?

Being a part of the Altar Care Committee is very rewarding. We insure that the Altar is prepared for all services so that our Lord is glorified by a proper Altar setting.

In signing up for Altar Care, you will be given instructions both personally and given a handout. You may sign up to work with someone already dedicated to the month, either 8:00 a.m. service or the 10:30 a.m. service. We hope you will consider being a part of this wonderful group.

Assistance is needed for the 10:30 a.m. service in April, August, and September!

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

RALLY DAY SILENT AUCTION!

Silent Auction: During "Rally Day" on August 26, the BOCE will hold a Silent Auction, and the proceeds will be split between the **Church Workers Scholarship Fund** and the **Youth Mission Trip**. We're asking members and friends of Ascension to donate items of value for the auction.

Kitchen items, books, tools, vases, costume jewelry, hand crafted items, and tickets to events are just some examples of items for our auction. Please see guideline #5, pertaining to large items. Items should be new or gently used (please, no clothing items).

Guidelines:

1. A table is set up in the Narthex for members to place and sign in their donated item. Please place a suggested value of the item on the sign in sheet.
2. If you wish, place a suggested starting price (even dollar amounts) on the item.
3. Donated items will be stored in the church basement until August 26.
4. During the auction, purchases can be made with cash or checks, no credit cards.
5. Instead of bringing large donated items (such as furniture) to the church, members can simply take a photo of the item and write a short description of the item. Only the photo and description will be displayed.
6. The auction will be held during lunch from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm on Sunday, August 26. The last person who signs the sheet with the highest bid will have the opportunity to purchase the item.
7. If an item does not sell, it will be returned to the donor.

We look forward to a meaningful and fun time together!

The Board of Christian Service will **collect non perishable food products for Ysleta Lutheran Mission through August!** Paper towels, paper plates, napkins, toilet paper are also appreciated by Ysleta Lutheran Mission—please be generous!

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP**CHIHUAHUA GAME ON AUGUST 1!**

Mark your calendars! Meet at Southwest University Park for a night of fellowship and fun on Wednesday, August 1 at 7:00 p.m.—Pastor Richard Schlak will throw out the first pitch! Tickets are \$10 each (they also have a coupon on the back worth \$2.00 at the team store or at the concession stands), and those 60 years of age and older will receive a free hot dog and drink (go to the promotions booth in section 112 for your meal voucher—located in front of home plate!). Please see Steve Meitler for your ticket!



BOARD OF PRESCHOOL

A Well-Deserved Vacation – Our students and teachers are currently on vacation and hopefully enjoying their time off! Our school year ended well and we are looking forward to the new school year. As of the end of June we have 65 students registered for the 2018-2019 school year. We anticipate the full capacity of 75 children will be reached before the start of school.

Teachers will return on August 20th to prepare for the arrival of eager little children. Students will begin on August 27th. Open House is as follows: Thursday, August 23rd for 3 year-old classes and Friday, August 24th for 2 year-old and 4 year old classes.

The Board of Preschool are grateful to Kent Switzer and Elliott Werner for their time and effort in making necessary repairs to the classrooms during the summer months.

And last but not least – Barbara Lewis would like to thank the Preschool Board for all the seemingly endless hours spent over the last few months in preparing for the new school year. We've worked hard to interview and hire new staff, finalize a budget, and make physical changes in the classrooms. Thanks to "teamwork", it's going to be a great year!

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**STEWARD BUILDERS NEWSLETTER**

Tithing—Is It for You?

Let us first clarify what tithing is. Perhaps you understand it to mean the giving of one tenth of your income to the Lord. That's true. We receive a different and truer perspective, however, when we think of it as follows: It is the returning to the Lord one tenth of all you have received from Him. When our focus is on what we have received from God rather than what we're required to give Him, joy and gratitude replace that sense of obligation.

When we tithe, our thinking gets straightened around. We begin to put God in first place, then ourselves and our families, our needs and wants, fall into place behind the first priority.

When we place our tithes into the offering plate as an act of worship, we are not just giving money; we are witnessing to our faith in God. We are agreeing with God that He can take care of us, that He won't let us flounder on our own, but that He will always be with us to provide for our needs.

We are saying to our fellow believers that we join with them in supplying the financial needs of our congregations so that the Word of God might be proclaimed, so that our church workers might be supported, so that those in need can receive help, so that our souls might be fed and nurtured, and so that the lost may hear the Gospel message.

When the tithe is practiced, a desire for even greater generosity fills us, for God doesn't have just the tithe, He now has the tither as well.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Approved Council Minutes are sent to Ascension members with the Friday E-mail when received by the Church Office. Please call 833-1009 to request an electronic or paper copy of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: 2018 Income & Expense Statement [June]

Income:	Offerings	\$23,655.56	YTD	\$142,357.26	Budget \$158,799.00
	Other Income	\$4,923.05	YTD	\$28,199.20	\$24,848.46
	Total	\$28,578.61	YTD	\$170,556.46	\$183,647.46
Expense:		\$33,489.64	YTD	\$183,661.77	\$196,083.62
Net Income		\$(4,911.03)	YTD	\$(13,105.31)	
Raise The Roof					
June Donations		\$4,415.00	YTD	\$64,673.00	
Total Donations				\$98,378.00	

From your Financial Secretary, Anita Werner:

Did you know??? If you utilize online bill pay through your financial institution you can also send your donations to Ascension via your online bill pay. Simply set up Ascension Lutheran Church as one of your accounts to pay; enter our address (6520 Loma de Cristo Drive, El Paso, TX 79912) and most importantly enter your envelope number as the 'account number' to ensure your donations are properly credited. Your financial institution will then mail the church a check whenever you direct them to do so.

Offering Reminder—don't let your giving go on vacation when you go on vacation!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE DEADLINE for the September 2018 Newsletter is **Friday, August 17.**



ALTAR CARE FOR AUGUST: 8:00 a.m.: Mariann Porter/Lyda Garrett 10:30 a.m.: Barb Spott/Peggy Bartel

Members who assist with Altar Care are necessary and valuable servants of the congregation. Anyone who would like to serve the Lord in this capacity may contact the Church Office @ 833-1009.



MERCY MEALS OF ASCENSION consists of volunteers who bring meals to families of Ascension. The church office will get in touch with the group's leader (marked by an *) when they hear of a home that needs assistance. If you have a need, please call the church office at 833-1009.

Mercy Meals for August are: *B.J. Schwab, Paula Warnock, Linda Canada, Cheryl Canada, C.J. Moore

Volunteers Needed! Mercy Meals service is looking for new volunteers. **What is this service?** When a need of a congregational member for a meal is identified by the church office or pastor, the Mercy Meals group for that month is notified. The group then plans a meal and each member of the specific month brings part of the meal to the family/member in need. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please let the church office know and you will be assigned to a specific month.



SAY! DID YOU KNOW? There is a service for members and friends of Ascension who need transportation to church, doctors' appointments, shopping etc. If you have a need for this service, call the church office and you will then be put in touch with someone who will drive you to and from your appointments or errands.



A RESOURCE FOR MEN: Men, the Lutheran Hour Ministries has a website specifically for you! The website has specific devotions, Bible studies, discussion groups, etc. for men. Check this out at www.lhmmen.com. You will need to register and create a password; there are no fees to be a part of this resource.



PRAYERTIME: takes place on Sunday, **August 5** at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



DO YOU HAVE A NEED for temporary use of Durable Medical Equipment? Check the list in the Church Office of equipment available for your medical needs.



PRAYER CHAIN OF ASCENSION is composed of congregational members who have agreed to pray for members and non-members concerns. Requests can be sent to Olga Sullivan (phone chain) or Jan Schlak (e-mail chain), and they will activate the Prayer Chain. Contact Olga or Jan to be notified of prayer requests via phone or e-mail. **If you would like your request to be spoken at the Altar on Sunday morning, please call the church office at 833-1009.**



WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS: Did you know that there is a TV program called Worship Anew? It is produced by Lutheran Ministries Media which is based on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It can be seen via satellite on DIRECTV Channel 377 Sundays at 9:30a.m. MST. That channel is the Total Christian Television (TCT); if you don't have DIRECTV, it may be on your TV Provider's listing. Check this program out when you are unable to attend our Sunday services or video tape it and view during the week.



PULL TABS for Ronald McDonald House: Please save the aluminum pull tabs from canned drinks and bring them to the kitchen area. They are used by the Ronald McDonald House to provide a home away from home for hundreds of families with seriously ill children.



YSLETA LUTHERAN THRIFT STORE: Remember that you can donate used clothing and other household items to the Mission's Thrift Store, the proceeds of which go to help the work of the Mission. You can put your donations in the container located in Library; the Ysleta Mission staff will pick up the donations.

FYI

LUTHERAN'S ENGAGE, SUMMER 2018

A Smile during Difficult Times

For Migwa Stephen Ochieng, a joint program between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) made all the difference. When Ochieng was a boy, his education nearly came to a premature end, despite the fact that he was one of the top students in the village. Ochieng's father died and his mother was unable to pay the fees to send him back to school.

The village chief heard about the family's difficulties and looked for someone who could assist them. He found that help with the ELCK, and Ochieng was enrolled in 1001 Orphans, a joint program of the ELCK and the LCMS that provided support for education and food for children in need. As students graduated from the program, they became eligible to receive an ongoing stipend to pursue higher education.

Thanks to 1001 orphans and generous donors around the Synod, Ochieng recently graduated from Kenya Medical Training College and passed his certification exam to become a registered nurse. "I want to take this opportunity to . . . thank the LCMS for the help they have given me til now. I am a graduate because of LCMS. LCMS gave me hope when I was hopeless, LCMS made me smile when I was [shedding] tears. I am now a nurse courtesy of LCMS," Ochieng wrote in an email to the LCMS field office in Nairobi, Kenya, after his graduation.

He also offered to volunteer with the LCMS and its Mercy Medical Teams "as a way of saying thanks to the Church and to everyone who made me [smile] during my difficult times in life."

Although 1001 Orphans no longer exists, the work continues and has even expanded. The Synod's Christ's Care for Children: Kenya program now matches sponsors in the United States with children at the ELCK's Project 24 boarding-school facilities, where children receive schooling, food, medical care and the Word of God in a residential setting. The cost to sponsor a child is just \$90 per month. Sponsors receive an initial packet of information on their child, as well as updates, photos and the ability to correspond with the child throughout the years.

There are currently five Project 24 sites throughout Kenya, and a sixth site is slated to open in July. The new site, Nyambiri, will be able to provide for 40 boys and 40 girls from the area. "Not only do the children receive great care and an education, but more importantly they grow in their faith in God," said Britt Odemba, an LCMS missionary in Kenya who works with Project 24. "It is wonderful to see how the local Lutheran church has answered the call to

help the children within their congregations. It is a joy to see how the Body of Christ works together and assists their own.”

Interested in sponsoring a child? Visit lcms.org/make-a-gift/christs-care-for-children-kenya or contact Jennifer Hummel at Jennifer.hummel@lcms.org or 800-248-1930, Ext. 1326.

FYI—2

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES, SUMMER 2018

You're Christ's Witness . . . Even at Amazon.com!

Are you a Prime member at Amazon.com? If so, you have access to thousands of free videos—including several from Lutheran Hour Ministries! Selections include the “A Man Named Martin” documentary trilogy, “The Puzzle Club” and other animated classics, and the “Intersection of Church and State” television special.

Prime Video is also one LHM can make Christian programming available to millions of households who don't yet know Him.

Why is this important? Choosing these videos signals to Amazon and other providers that customers value Christian entertainment. Your action affects their popularity rankings, which, in turn, helps increase their visibility in customer search results. It's a simple way to make a statement for Christ in the marketplace.

FYI—2.5

AMAZONSMILE

Now, about AmazonSmile....

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on their product detail pages.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile—smile.amazon.com—you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations.

PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED SOLDIERS



Becca Brady—Naval Boot Camp

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- The English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) was entertaining a visitor one day when the conversation turned to children. “I believe,” said the visitor, “that children should be given a free rein to think and act, and thus learn at an early age to make their own decisions. This is the only way they can grow into their full potential.”

“I would like you to see my flower garden,” Coleridge interrupted his visitor, and he led the man outside. The visitor took one look and exclaimed, “Why, this is nothing but a yard full of weeds!”

“It used to be filled with roses,” said Coleridge, “but this year I thought I would let the garden grow as it willed without my tending to it. This is the result.” --Apple Seeds, via Rev. Brian Cavanaugh

- “The people who hanged Christ never, to do them justice, accused Him of being a bore—on the contrary, they thought Him too dynamic to be safe. It has been left for later generations to muffle up that shattering personality and surround Him with an atmosphere of tedium. We have very efficiently pared the claws of the Lion of Judah, certified Him ‘meek and mild,’ and recommended Him as a fitting household pet for pale curates and pious old ladies.” --Dorothy L. Sayers
- “You want to make God laugh? Tell Him your plans.” --John Chancellor
- “The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.” --Dame Julian of Norwich
- “God cannot endure that unfestive, mirthless attitude of ours in which we eat our bread in sorrow, with pretentious, busy haste, or even with shame. Through our daily meals He is calling us to rejoice, to keep holiday in the midst of our working day.” --Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor executed by the Nazis for his opposition to Hitler

From “Holy Humor: inspirational wit and cartoons” by Cal & Rose Samra, pg. 118

BUSINESS LISTINGS

Premier Designs Jewelry

Marjory Brady, Consultant
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Join the Ascension Lutheran Church capital campaign!

Desperately needed:

- New Roof
- Air Conditioning System
- Paint Church Exterior

To this date we have raised over \$101,000, we thank you for helping us provide a safe sanctuary, gathering area, and school to establish and grow in our faith walk. Roof repairs and installation of the Air Conditioners were complete in April, 2018. The next step is to stucco and paint the outside of the church, which the Trustees are planning for September-November, 2018

Therefore, Ascension's "Raise the Roof" goal is to raise \$15,000 by September 2, 2018. This is a large goal for 3 months, but trust in the Lord and "Thy will be done." We praise God for the gifts we have already received and for the blessings we will receive.

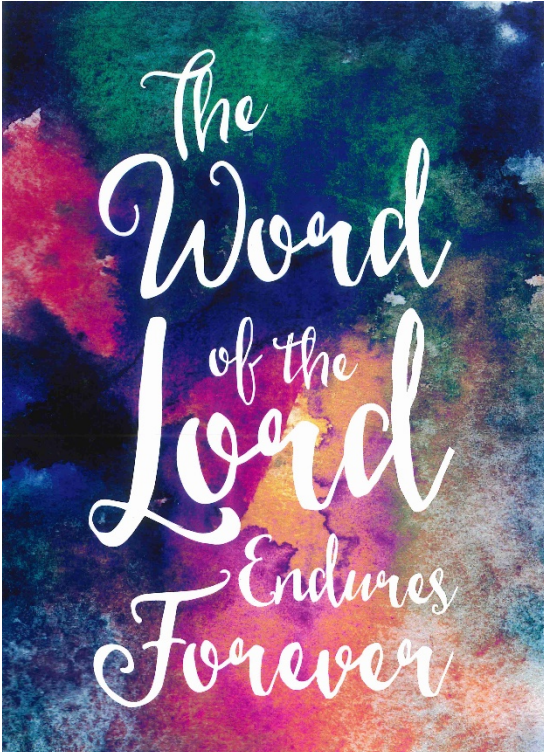
"It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)

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