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# Parish Notes

## Welcome to Worship

### January 3, 2021

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To be determined

*Gathered and gifted to celebrate and share the love of Jesus*

### A New Year's Message from Pastor Debra

December 30, 2020

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this message, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude and joy at spending this first Christmas with our new Ascension family. I can honestly say with the most heartfelt love and joy what a blessing it is to have the opportunity to serve here in this place.

Thank you to each and every one who gave of their time and talents to beautify the sanctuary. You helped create a physical and digital space for gathering in new ways that were somehow familiar, comforting, and inspiring. I offer my sincere gratitude to those who joined with us in sharing the joy of Christ's birth.

It has been a privilege to meet many of you these first weeks of our time together. In the coming weeks, I look forward to the opportunity for us to get to know one another better. It is certainly a challenge during a pandemic, but not impossible.

My schedule is not yet firmly fixed; however, I will plan to be available with an open door each Wednesday and Thursday between 10 and noon. Most days I will be working from my office at Ascension and will be happy to schedule an appointment with you. For those not comfortable or able to meet in person, I'm available by phone. My days for family and rest are Saturdays and Mondays; I can't promise that I will check or respond to emails on those days. In case of pastoral emergencies, such as hospitalization or death, please don't hesitate to text or call me at 770.841.7610.

Whether 2020 brought you success, fulfillment, and joy or you faced grief, setbacks, and struggle, God invites us to look ahead to 2021 with hope. We look ahead in hope and live in the promise that Emmanuel has come unto us and we are not alone. And now, as we prepare to say farewell to 2020 and welcome the new year, I offer my prayer for you:

God of grace and love, I give thanks for the people of Ascension Lutheran Church and all those you call us to serve here in this place. Open wide our minds and hearts that we will brightly shine your light of hope for the world.

God of wisdom, you know the needs of your people even before we speak a word. Be with us now. Where there are hearts filled with sorrow send your Spirit of comfort and peace. Where there is illness of body, mind, or spirit, send your Spirit of healing power.

God of peace where there is brokenness in our world, we pray you will bring wholeness. Give us eyes to see one another through your eyes of love and grace. Give us courage to be peacemakers in a world so desperate for peace and hope. Grant that we are bold in our love for you and all that you've created. Amen

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Debra



## Sunday of Epiphany

Matthew 2: 1-12

Alleluia. We have observed his star at its rising and have come to worship him.

Alleluia.

(Matt. 2:2)

### Ascension's Recorded Worship Service

The Ascension Lutheran Church recorded worship service is now available for public viewing on YouTube. You can search for "Ascension Lutheran Ogden" or "Ascension Ogden" on your Smart TV, Apple TV, ROKU, Amazon Prime or however you access YouTube on your TV. You can still click on the link to view on your computer.

Poinsettias are available to take home, contact Pat Refsdal, 908-625-2039

## January Birthdays

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Anne Engelby   | 20 |
| Pat Refsdal    | 22 |
| Chase Rhees    | 24 |
| Peter Gorsline | 26 |
| Robby Cornell  | 30 |



## 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting and Council Vacancies

As a reminder, our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 31, 2021 after the worship service at 10:30 AM. We anticipate three Council vacancies, so please consider serving on your Church Council. We will approve the 2016 and 2019 updates to our constitution, approve the 2021 budget and have available the 2020 Ascension Annual Report. Ministry Leads, just a reminder that End-of-Year Ministry Final Reports will be due January 4, 2021. In the next few weeks, we will provide more meeting information regarding online access and in-person gathering following the worship service.

## Confirmation Begins Soon

Confirmation classes will begin soon. We will have a parent/student meeting on Wednesday, January 13 @6:30pm. If you are the parent/grandparent of a confirmation age student (grade 7 or above), please contact Kelly Martin or Pr. Debra for more information.

## PPP Loan Forgiveness

As mentioned on Christmas Eve, the Small Business Administration (SBA) informed us that our Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness was approved in full. The loan of \$13,100 has been fully forgiven by both Zions Bank and the SBA. As we look at end-of-year finances and the requirements for 2021 PPP loans, council will determine whether we come back to the congregation with a proposal to apply for another PPP loan. More information to follow.

## "Together for Joy" Stewardship Results

| 2020                       | 2021                      |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| # of Pledges - 28          | # of Pledges - 16         |
| Amount Pledged - \$120,560 | Amount Pledged - \$86,640 |



We'll set up for Family Promise today right after worship. Thanks in advance for all the help in the upcoming week.

†Please Lift Up in Prayer:

- Family of Barbara Edisinger Brenton
- Family of Mildred Tolle
- Lillian Hughes & Family
- Tracie Truitt, friend of Alyson's
- Kristy - Shari Morosky's daughter
- Joan Marlow
- Stephanie, niece of Gloria
- Cory, Nancy Byrne's son
- Pam Burbank
- Jessica Stewart, Dick Graves daughter
- Dan Harkin, Lillian Hughes cousin
- Delilah Sell, Lillian Hughes cousin
- Rebecca Rens and the Eyre Families
- Patti, Shari Morosky's sister
- Roy Zimmerman
- Randy and Janie Karas
- Jefferson Barrett
- Kyle and Kristen - friends of Kelly
- Karla and Lynn Davis
- Maylan Chugg, Don & Dee's granddaughter
- Julie Jensen, Mike Williams' sister
- Heather Nolting, wife of Arliss' nephew
- Holly & Libby, friends of Kim Engelby
- Gloria Mike
- Chris, friend of Alyson W.
- Judy Sherman

- Sean Zeller, Pastor Gene's nephew
- Cheryl, friend of Alyson
- Mark Hughes and family
- Richard, Shari Morosky's husband
- Harold and Mary VanDehey, friends of Leo Seeber
- Shelley, Diana Warkentin's friend
- Ardis, Elaine Shelburne's sister
- Jason Shepherd, Nancy Byrne's nephew
- Heidi, Diane Shultz' sister-in-law
- Don Hughes
- Dick Graves
- Jim Johnson, Sharen's brother-in-law
- Karen O.
- Marijka, Grace and Dallas
- Paula and Dave Stuart and Paula's Dad
- Steve Morlan
- Ruth Ann Hudspeth, friend of Dick G.
- Butch and Lou, Pastor Lisa's parents
- Charles , Arliss' brother

†Praying for Loved Ones in the Military:

- Kaleb Tarr
- Dariyan Edsinger
- Mason Bushey and his wife Ida, and family
- Brody Wilcock
- Renee Kiel
- Justin Kiel
- Kris Kiel
- Matt Malde
- Jason Chugg

