



1105 N Washington Blvd
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Parish Notes

Welcome to Worship

December 17, 2023

Pastor Debra Jimenez
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pastordebra.ascension@gmail.com

Gathered and gifted to celebrate and share the love of Jesus

SUNDAY	9:30 am	-	Worship (Children's Sunday School during worship)
	10:30 am	-	Fellowship
	11:00 am	-	Adult Bible Study
MONDAY	9:00 am	-	Friendly Ties Quilters (1 st & 3 rd Monday's)
TUESDAY	11:00am	-	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	1:00 pm	-	Book Club
THURSDAY	1:00 pm	-	Shepherding Bible Study Group – (3 rd Thursday)
	6:30 pm	-	Church Council meeting – (2 nd Thursday)
FRIDAY	8:00 pm	-	AA and Al Anon
Saturday	10:00am	-	WELCA Ladies (4 th Saturday)

3rdnd Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8, 19-28

An Attitude of Discipleship – *Expectant*

Focus Question – *What are you expecting this Advent season?*

December Birthdays

Deanna Brown	2
Don Brown	4
Anders Denniston.	5
Aaron Butler	9
Janet Kilhefner.	13
Marc Hughes	14
Billie Petersen	19
Katie Young	19
John Fritschle	29

Upcoming Events

- Dec 17** – RIC Discussion following worship
Dec 20 – Christmas Sing-Along
Dec 21 – Shepherding Group Christmas
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service 5:30
Jan 5 – Annual Ministry Reports due to Nicole
Jan 7 - RIC Discussion following worship
Jan 14 – VDC Ultreya @ Ascension 3-5pm
Feb 4 – Annual Congregational Meeting



Thank you to the Refsdals for providing treats for coffee hour this morning.

Your Current Pledge for 2023

As we near the end of the year, if you would like to know the status of your 2023 pledge and your current giving for the year, contact Pat Refsdal at 908-625-2039. Also, see Pat if you need envelopes or have questions about your giving or other giving options.



Christmas Poinsettias This will be the last Sunday to order and give a Christmas Poinsettia to beautify our worship services in honor or memory of a loved one. The poinsettias will be used to decorate our sanctuary during worship on Christmas Eve. Each poinsettia donated costs \$10. You may pick up your donated poinsettia after the Christmas Eve worship service. Cash or checks (made out to Ascension Lutheran Church) may be given to Pat Refsdal or Arliss Zimmerman. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex – please include your name and your dedication.

The Shepherding Group will meet this Thursday for their annual Christmas potluck. Please bring a side dish or dessert, a white elephant gift, and a big smile. See you at 1:00 in the fellowship hall.



Join us Wednesday evening at 5:30 for an informal but very FUN Christmas sing-along. There will be coffee, cocoa, and cookies.



Each Sunday during the Advent Season, as we anticipate the gift of our Savior, we will bring gifts to leave at the altar. These gifts will be tangible reflections of God's love – to share with our neighbors.

If you can share in this gift-giving project, please leave your unwrapped gifts in the box at the front of the altar.

December 3rd - Canned / non-perishable food

December 10th - Hats / Gloves

December 17th - Socks / and.... A donation to purchase hospital grade pillows that will be donated to The Lantern House and Ogden Rescue Mission. Cost \$11 per pillow. {Make checks payable to Ascension Lutheran Church and on the Note line write "Pillows."}

Christmas Eve Morning - Any / all of the items listed above.

Ministry reports are due soon – if you lead a ministry or have overseen a project this year, it's time to turn in your reports, because as they say, the jobs not over until the paperwork is done. Please email your report to Nicole by January 5th so that she can put together report before our annual meeting. Her email address is nishane2020@gmail.com

Are you interested in serving on the Church Council? We have several members of council that are completing their term this year. Are you being called to serve? If you are interested or have questions, please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee; Pat Refsdal, Eric Refsdal, Linda Fallat, or Patti Hall.

How to Become Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

As we move toward voting to become a RIC congregation, we have schedule two meetings for you to share your thoughts or ask questions that you may have. We will meet today and Jan 7th following worship in the library.

These are the commitments we make as a RIC congregation:

RIC Partner Public Commitments

The purpose of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program.

To be recognized as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Partner, your faith community will:

1. Clearly state a welcome to people of "***all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions***" or "***LGBTQIA+***" and name its commitment to "***racial equity***" or "***anti-racism***" in its welcome statement.
 1. Anything in bold and quotations above must be included in your RIC Partner Welcome Statement to meet ReconcilingWorks commitments.
 2. If your faith community has its own statement of racial equity or commitment to anti-racism, be it in public community documents or social statements, polities such as by-laws or constitutions, or in its Mission, Vision, or Value statements, this can also satisfy this RIC Partner commitment and a copy of this additional statement will need to be shared with ReconcilingWorks.
2. ***Be open to calling*** an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.
 1. A Rostered Leader is any clergy/pastor or deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); this commitment extends to all areas of leadership within the life of your community.
3. Allow sanctuary/community space/ to be used for ***LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.***
 1. If your faith community is looking for resources for wedding or blessing services to be more inclusive, see the [ELCA's Marriage Resource](#) or ReconcilingWorks [Worship, Liturgy, & Scripture](#) material.
4. ***Make a meaningful contribution annually*** to support the national RIC program.
 1. A ***meaningful*** contribution is determined by your faith community, its budget, and the understanding that your generosity funds the RIC Program. Meaningful contributions vary for each RIC partner.

Please Lift Up in Prayer:

- Bridgit Sloan, mother-in-law of Cindy and Alan's daughter
- Tracie Truitt, friend of Alyson's
- Cory, Nancy Gale's son
- Pam Burbank
- Jessica Stewart, Dick Graves's daughter
- Jefferson Barrett
- Maylan Chugg, Don & Dee's granddaughter
- Chris, friend of Alyson W.
- Judy Sherman
- Henry, Nancy G's grandson
- Sean Zeller, Pastor Gene's nephew
- Cheryl, friend of Alyson
- Mark Hughes and family
- Erik Thompson
- Heidi, Diane Shultz' sister-in-law
- Dick Graves
- Bob Peterson
- Dee Brown
- Toni, Pastor Debra's Sister-in-Law
- Lynn and Carol
- Roxanne, David's sister
- Cindy C.
- Carol Reopelle
- Kim, friend of Bob
- Jack, Pastor Debra's nephew
- Suzy and her family
- Bill, Linda's brother
- Scott Chapan, friend of Dick G.
- Alice, Anastasia, and all the people affected by the war
- Brian Washburn, Kamberlynn's dad
- Bob, friend of James
- Terry, Dee Brown's brother
- Charlie Tufts

- Jean Roberts
- Kim, Kelly's sister
- Carol, Sharen Kamp's cousin
- Judy, friend of Shellie
- Mary, Sharen's daughter-in-law
- Judy Sherman
- Bob Bezyack
- Ruth Dupee, friend of Maria
- Tanya, Friend of Pastor Debra's Daughter
- Dayle Young
- Lynn & Carol Benson
- Lisa, friend of Kelly Martin
- Alan and Cindy Day
- Don Hughes
- Betsy Daley, friend of Nicole
- Sylvia Oliva, Nicole's Mom
- Carroll & Ken, Nicole's sister & BIL
- Pat Shane, Nicole's Brother-in-Law
- Diana Warkinten
- Chelsea, Nancy's neice

†Praying for Loved Ones in the Military or deployed:

- Steve Johnson
- Kaleb Tarr, Ethan Lee, Michael Connelly (deployed 13 July 17, 2021)
- Dariyan Edsinger
- Mason Bushey and his wife Ida, and family
- Brody Wilcock
- Renee Kiel
- Justin Kiel
- Kris Kiel
- Matt Malde
- Jason Chugg
- Alex Treadway

December
Ascension Ministries

 SUN	 WORSHIP ASST	 ALTAR GUILD	 USHERS	 GREETERS	 ANNOUNCEMENTS	 COUNTERS
Dec 3	Katie Young	Kim Engelby	Todd & Renee Hart	John & Diana Warkentin	Nicole Shane	Renee Hart
Dec 10	Edith Cryts	Kim Engelby	Patti Hall & Stef Rhees	Joanna Wolf	Nicole Shane	Paula DelCarlo
Dec 17	Mark Denniston	Kim Engelby	Sharen Kamp	Stefani Rhees	Nicole Shane	Mark Denniston
Dec 24	Kelly Martin	Kim Engelby	James Jimenez	CJ Jordan	Nicole Shane	CJ Jordan
Dec 31	Patti Hall	Kim Engelby	Pat Refsdal	CJ Jordan	Nicole Shane	Pat Refsdal