

MAY 2021

Return from Exile

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Worship online with us and stay connected by visiting our website: www.ascensiongb.com
Copies of sermons and announcements are also available on our website.

*As Lutheran Christians,
we are redeemed by Christ
to be people of God, inviting all to
faith-filled worship, challenging all to
grow in faith, reaching out to all
in faithful service and witness.
(Ascension's vision statement)*

Jesus is all about resurrection to new life. Following Jesus is all about following Jesus into the new life He offers. What would following Jesus into new life look like for you? Today? In these days of struggling to regain your life from the limits and losses of COVID-19?

At Ascension we have just reopened our sanctuary to limited in-person worship. In our worship services we are learning faith lessons from the Return from Exile. The people of Israel had been conquered, taken captive, and led away in exile to a foreign land. After 70 years, they were able to return. It was for them a type of resurrection, a return to life again.

- Can you relate to being exiled from the world you once knew, from your people, and from your place of worship? I bet you can.
- What do you hope returning from this present exile will look like for you?
- If you have been away from worship, is a return to worship one of your goals? (Online worship is also still an option.)
- Have you laid out any plans for how you will help make any of your goals actually happen?

Jeremiah 31:21 gives some advice for setting yourself for a successful return. *"Set up road signs, put up guideposts, for the highway, the road you will take to return, O Israel."*

The road signs mark the steps to recovery. One road sign leads to the next, which then leads to the one after that, steps on a journey to a renewed and better life.

- What are some road signs that could help mark the steps of the journey you need to take?
- You don't have to take that journey alone. Christ is with you. We at Ascension can be part of your journey, too.

In Christ, Pastor Luther

MAY WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

In the Sanctuary, each Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

We have reopened the sanctuary to limited in-person worship and with COVID-protection protocols. As space is limited, **sign up is required** for attendance at these in-person services. See the helpful “how to” details below.

ONLINE WORSHIP

The in-person 10:30 am Sunday Service is also Live Streamed online as it happens.

Our website: <https://www.ascensiongb.com/worshipservices>

Our Vimeo channel: <https://vimeo.com/channels/1578056>

COMMUNION

Communion Sundays in May: **May 2 and May 16**. In person communion will have COVID safety protocols. For online worshippers, **drive up communion** is scheduled from **11:30 to 11:50 a.m.** in the church parking lot.

FOOD COLLECTION

Our May Food Collection Sunday for the Food Pantry will be **May 9**. Before each service (7:30-8:00 a.m. and 10:00-10:30 a.m.) there will be a collection spot in the parking lot for you to drop off food for the pantry.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES



Sign Up for In-Person Worship begins on Tuesdays each week. The link is now available on our website, or you can use this link each week to sign up.

<https://rsvp.church/r/OAllmb6Q>.

At this time, space is limited to 50 worshippers per service. *(This is in addition to the worship leaders and tech support needed in the room to conduct the service.)* To allow more members to experience in-person worship, we ask that if you attended last Sunday, please consider waiting a day or so to give others a chance, but then, yes, please feel free to sign up again for this Sunday. If you check and sign up is full, check back on Saturday in case people need to cancel and spots open up.

If you signed up and for some reason are unable to attend, please follow the instructions on your confirmation e-mail to delete/remove your sign up. This will allow another person to attend.

Should you require assistance to sign up, you can contact the church office between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM Monday – Friday. The office will be closed at 2:00 PM on Friday until Monday morning.

The 10:30 AM in-person worship service will be live-streamed on our website at <https://www.ascensiongb.com/worshipservices>. A recorded version will be available at a later date.

Assistance is needed in the coming weeks for ushering and greeting. If you would like to assist, please contact the church office, and let us know when you are available to help. valerie@ascensiongb.com

MAY ADULT EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS



Sunday Adult Bible Study

A Chronological Walk through the Bible

One story runs through it. Learn the story. Learn both the "What?" and the "So What?" In these Bible studies "Ah-ha Moments" are guaranteed!

On the Sundays of May 2 & May 9 at 9:15 a.m.

Our goal is learning how all the books of the Bible fit in the overall continuous storyline of the Bible. Once you know how it all fits together, your biblical knowledge self-confidence will grow greatly.

Sign up for the Adult Bible Study with this link:

<https://forms.gle/p96CgjqvSukU1o9f7>



Love Your Neighbor— Learning and Growing Together

There is no event planned for May, due to scheduling conflicts. Watch for information coming soon about a summer book study.

The LYN planning team

SHARE AND PRAYER TIMES

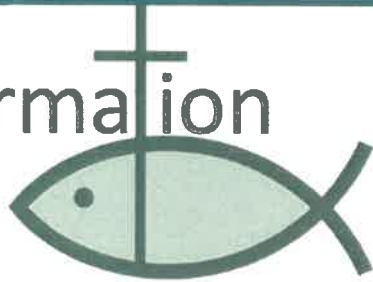
Would you like to connect with other members, just to chat and then have prayer? Sign up for a "Share & Prayer" time that Pastor Lori will lead on **Tuesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.**



1. Share & Prayer will meet outside of church; bring your own chair and mask.
2. They will last an hour or so.
3. Sign up for one time; more will be offered if there is interest.
4. Space is limited to 9 people (plus Pastor Lori); times will be filled on a "first signed up" basis.
5. To sign up, please email Pastor Lori (pastorlori@ascensiongb.com) or call her (336-3561 x. 104) and let her know which date and time you would like to come.
6. Hope to see you there!

YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Confirmation



Third Year Confirmation Students—9th Graders

We will be meeting in person once a month.

These Meet Ups are requirements.

All meetings in the Gathering Room (Door 2)

Scheduled Meet Ups:

Wednesday, May 12th at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 23 (PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Wednesday, August 25th at 7:30 p.m.

7th Grade Youth

If you planning being in Confirmation next year please take time to fill out the registration form

<https://forms.gle/ZmPRhzGrDMKwXd3HA>



Mission Trip

If you are planning on doing the Summer Mission Trip to Logan, West Virginia **please get your registration form in!** Everyone will need to fill out a new one this year. You can fill out the pdf and save it and then send it back to me.

If you need a registration form or more information, please contact Tracy.



Baccalaureate Blessing

May 23rd at 9:15 a.m.

This event has been moved to make sure all graduating families can attend.

Mission Trip Prep/Fellowship

These work and fellowship times are a time to stay connected and meet in person.

All meetings are in the Gathering Room (Door 2)

Wednesday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.

**Please text Tracy 262-391-9994
if you plan to attend.**

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

April 2021

- The council updated its previous approval of indoor, maximum of 10 participants meetings for youth to now also include adult indoor, maximum of 10 participants meetings that are led either by a pastor or paid staff member, that meet in the Gathering Room or the North Hall, and that adhere to Ascension's participation covenant for in person ministry events.
- Marilyn Quirk was approved as Ascension's lay delegate to the 2021 Synod Assembly, with appreciation for her willingness to participate.
- Approval was given to the Property Mission Team for the expenditure of funds from the 2021 BEMI budget to cover the costs of exterior caulking and parking lot repair and maintenance.

STEWARDSHIP

WE HAVE A STORY TO TELL

One goal of your stewardship mission team is to be connected to you year round in a variety of ways. In the past we have encouraged members to share their personal Faith stories during services. We received positive feedback and those who shared their stories found it a blessing as well.

In May, and once monthly thereafter, Stewardship team members will be telling their own individual Stewardship stories. You may relate to some of these stories; in some you may discover something new. We hope you will find these meaningful in your faith journey and be moved to reflect on your personal Stewardship story; perhaps, even consider sharing it with the congregation as we learn from each other.

Your Stewardship Mission Team

CHRISTIAN SERVICE



A Ministry of:
Ascension Lutheran Church
2911 Libal Street
Green Bay, WI 54301

| | |
|---|--|
| Questions about Home Sweet Home? Contact: | |
| Wendy Gilley | HSH Coordinator |
| 920-660-6146 | wengilley@gmail.com |

Home Sweet Home Mission Statement:

HSH is an outreach ministry of Ascension that helps those formerly homeless transition to a new home/apartment by providing, for free, basic home furnishings and supplies.

HSH Update

With the safety and wellness of our volunteers and the recipients we serve in mind, some changes have been made to the HSH approach and scope.

- Deliveries are made once a month, on the 2nd Saturday of the month.
- Donation pick ups are made once a month, on the 4th Saturday of the month.
- Volunteers must wear a mask.
- Deliveries and donation picks are contactless – volunteers do not go inside the homes.
- We are not accepting soft goods donations at this time.

Our furniture inventory has been scaled back to include only the following:

- Twin or full size beds (mattress, box spring, frame)
- Dresser
- Night stand
- Living room chair/rocker/recliner
- End tables
- Lamps

KNITTING MINISTRY

Our final knitting drop off/pick up before summer break is
Wednesday, May 5, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Please stop by Door #2 (that goes into the gathering area) at church to restock your supply for the summer. We will not have another meeting until September. Enjoy the summer and hopefully by fall we can return to our normal knitting hour.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

NEW Community Shelter Meal

On Sunday, April 18th, we served/prepared the lunch meal for the NEW Community Shelter. 105 residents and guests enjoyed the meal of ham, au gratin potatoes, salad, fruit, buns and home baked cookies and bars.

Thank you to our meal prep and servers:

Nancy Hess
Laura & Jake Phillips
Corny & Lynn Roemaat



...and to our Cookie & Bar Bakers

Rita Krempin
Collette Seidl
Sherri Schneider*
Diane Robishaw*
Jenny Bargender
Sarah Gauger

**new members to Ascension &
the baking team*

Our next meal is SATURDAY, MAY 15th.

If you are interested in serving or baking cookies, please contact the church office to find out which coordinator is working that month. It is helpful when members let us know if they can help!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!!

A big thank you to **Micki Geis** for her over 14 years of leadership and ministry for the NEW Community Shelter Meals. Another big thank you to **Lynn and Corny Roemaat** who are also stepping down from their role with the NEW Community Shelter Meals since serving in this ministry since 2009. We appreciate their commitment and service to this needed ministry in our community.

If you are interested in becoming a coordinator in this ministry please contact Kristin Lampe at kllampe@yahoo.com or (920) 883-1744.



SUNDAY, MAY 9 FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION FOR RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The food pantry team thanks you for your dedication and continued food donations throughout this difficult time.

As we transition to in-person worship, we will continue to collect non-perishable food items monthly, with slight adjustments. In May our collection date will be **May 9th**. **In June we will resume the first Sunday food collection on June 6th**. **There will be no inbuilding drop off at this time.**

We will have a collection vehicle stationed in the east parking lot close to door #1, (the one with a canopy), 30 minutes before the start of each service for anyone who has food donations. On Sunday, May 9th we will be collecting from 7:30-8:00 a.m. and 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Thanks again for your continued support of the food pantry.

Blessings,
The Pantry team

NEWS AND THANK YOUS RECEIVED FOR THE ASCENSION CONGREGATION

From the Resurrection Lutheran Church Food Pantry:

Resurrection Lutheran Food Pantry wants to thank you for your continued support of the work we do, for your gift \$1,595.00 and for the food collection on April 18. The food received was 978 items, estimated at 727#. It is amazing to be able to collect that much food in one week! The amount of paper products and hygiene items was terrific.

Tim Williams manages our stores for the items we do not get from the Government, and he had just asked me to buy some soup because he only had a few cans left. With the food collected by Ascension and the Boy Scout food drive this week, we are again full in the storeroom. I have no doubt that God has a plan for this pantry and His will is done in His time.

As always, we are truly grateful for your support and look forward to a time when our clients can again come into the pantry to pick up their food and interact with the staff.

*~ Larry Peterson,
Resurrection Lutheran Church Food Pantry Manager*

*Ascension holds a monthly food collection for the pantry.
Ascension Volunteers also work at the pantry.*

Thank You From the NEW Community Shelter

Thank you very much for your recent donations the NEW Community Shelter - \$460.00 in March and \$2,110 in April. Together we help people from all walks of life – like Brock. Brock is a 37-year-old veteran who served 2 tours in Iraq and then became homeless. During his second tour, his vehicle was hit by an IED. Brock suffered a traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, and PTSD from the explosion. His journey eventually took him to the NEW Community Shelter. Today, Brock is now succeeding day by day and because of the Shelter, he said, “I am living the best life I’ve had in a long time and I’m happy.” Brock is just one of the many people you are helping every day.

~ Terri Refsguard, CEO

Thank you and Updates from Our Tanzania Mission Connection with the Medical Mission Work of ELCA Missionaries, Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg

Dr. Steve Friberg writes to us from Tanzania, *“Thank you, Ascension, to all who contributed to make possible the life-saving surgery of 17-year-old Maasai girl, Ndito.”*

Ndito is from the remote northern Tanzania village in which the Friberg’s live. The surgery will happen in Kenya, but COVID is complicating things there, too, so we’re still waiting.

Dr. Steve writes, *“We are very excited and thankful. The surgeon is reviewing her MRI and planning her treatment. We hope to make her surgery happen in the second half of this year, depending on COVID restrictions at the Kenya-Tanzania border. Her brother Maningo is a joy to work with and wants us to relay his appreciation to the Ascension Christians. Ndito has bright eyes and a beautiful smile but she is shy and quiet. When her brother and I took her for her MRI scan, I learned that peanut butter was such a foreign and strange taste to her, she couldn’t eat the sandwiches I shared with them. Fortunately, she liked chai and donuts. Several times now I have seen God’s intervention for Ndito’s care, including how God has moved Ascension to be involved.”*

Dr. Steve also wanted to update us on what happened with our “Tanzania Termite” project. Many Ascension members will recall our project in the early part of last year, before COVID hit, of raising funds to rescue a much-needed building at one of several clinics overseen by Dr. Friberg and located at various places in that part of Tanzania. The roof was literally falling in due to a termite infestation in the building supports. Using the funds collected by Ascension, the repair work was completed last year. Dr. Friberg has also written to thank Ascension again about this, *“Our employees at Mto wa Mbu and the builder who reroofed the staff house send their thanks and greetings. Your steel trusses finally eliminated the termite problem. Shukran and blessings, Steve.”*

Ash Bore and Ascension’s Ash Trees

Sadly, the spread of ash bore is forcing us to remove the four big ash trees along Libal street lining our church property. We thank our excellent Ascension property team for their diligent and careful work of maintaining and improving our church property.





JOB POSTINGS AT ASCENSION

Two Open Positions at Ascension – Worship Technology Director & Sunday School Director

How wonderful it has been to have such great and capable people as Eric Ludvigson as our Interim Worship Technology Director and Annika Osell as our Interim Sunday School Director. Both had said yes to these positions only on an interim basis. Ascension is now seeking to fill both positions.

Job Posting for Worship Technology Director

The Worship Technology Director oversees the congregation's ability to consistently provide all the audio, visual, and lighting technology necessary to deliver all the congregation's worship services and other events. This includes both in-person and online services. The responsibilities include working closely with the pastors and worship team in coordinating technology needs for services, oversight of all the worship technology equipment and systems, and working with Ascension volunteers who assist with audio and video duties for in-person worship, live streaming, and recording. This is a part-time position, 10-15 hours per week.

Job Posting for Sunday School Ministry Director

The Sunday School Ministry Director works together with the Learning / Children's Ministry Mission Team and leads Ascension's Sunday School Ministry. The direction and coordination of the member volunteers who teach and help with Sunday School is the key work of the position. This is a part-time position of 14 hours per week.

For additional information or to obtain a full job description of either position, please contact our Business Support Manager, Jeannine Walker. jeannine@ascensiongb.com

We encourage you to pass this information of these open staff positions on to anyone that you know that may be interested in learning more.



Tracy Bahn is celebrating her 15 year anniversary with Ascension in May. We are blessed more than words can express by Tracy's commitment and dedication to the youth of Ascension throughout these years.

Tracy has helped so many youth grow in their own faith in Jesus Christ. She has empowered our Ascension youth to serve others and share their love of God, and through doing so has helped them to discover, develop and deepen their own faith in Jesus. Tracy loves deeply, cares deeply and connects deeply with so many young people. Through Tracy's example and encouragement 1 Timothy 4:12 is demonstrated over and over again as we hear from the youth each year of the impact Tracy has made on their lives, and the impact the youth have had on others.



Feel free to send a personal card of congratulations to the church or to Tracy's home in recognition of this occasion. If you wish to contribute towards a gift from the congregation, please send your contribution to Ascension and clearly mark it "Tracy's Anniversary Gift." Thank you for your help in marking this milestone in Tracy's youth ministry at Ascension! We are hopeful we will be able to recognize Tracy in person later in the year.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Address updates will now be listed on the separate Birthday page.

Phone Numbers

Please remember to contact the church office and give a number that can be used for our church directory if you discontinue your land line. Thanks!

Weddings, Baptisms, and Funerals are allowed indoors with limited numbers and risk reduction protocol. Subject to change due to COVID conditions.

REMEMBER

Your Ascension staff are at times in the offices, and are checking e-mail and voicemails regularly.

Our website (www.ascensiongb.com) is the best way to stay in touch with what is happening.

Services are livestreamed and recorded and are available to watch on our website.

Be sure to check them out!

www.ascensiongb.com

May

Ascension Lutheran Church

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 8:00a Worship 9:00a SS/Preconfirmation (Z) 9:15a Adult Bible Study (Z) 10:30a Worship (livestreamed) 11:30-11:50a Drive Up Communion | 3 | 4 9:30a Pgm Staff Mtg (Z) 10:00a Possible Quilters 6:30p Christian Svc MT (Z) 7:00p CC (Z) (Jacobsen) | 5 11:30a Mutual Ministry (Z) 3:30p Knitting Drop Off/Pick Up 7:30p Mission Trip Prep | 6 6:30p CC (Z) (McDermott) | 7 | 8 |
| 9 <i>Mothers Day</i> Food Collection: (7:30-8:00a and 10-10:30a) 8:00a Worship 9:00a SS/Preconfirm (Z) 9:15a Adult Bible Study (Z) 10:30a Worship (livestreamed)  HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY | 10 11:45a CC (Knudsen) | 11 9:30a Staff Mtg(Z) 10:00a Possible Quilters 6:30p Council (Z) 6:30p Share & Prayer | 12 7:00p CC (Z) (Dettlaff) 7:30p Confirm (3rd Year) | 13  11:00a CC Grief Grp | 14 <i>Virtual Synod Assembly</i> | 15 10:00a Meal at NEW Community Shelter 4:00p Affirmation of vows (Kvam) |
| 16 8:00a Worship 9:00a SS/Preconfirm (Z) 10:30a Worship (livestreamed) 11:30-11:50a Drive Up Communion  | 17 | 18 9:30a Staff Mtg (Calendar/Z) 10:00a Possible Quilters 7:00p CC (Z) (Jacobsen) | 19 6:30p Stewardship MT (Z) 7:00p Mission Trip Prep | 20 6:30p CC (Z) (McDermott) 6:30p Share & Prayer | 21 <i>June Tidings Deadline: 5/21</i> | 22 |
| 23  8:00a Worship 9:00a SS (Z) 9:15a HS Senior Blessing 10:30a Worship (livestreamed) | 24 | 25 9:30a Staff Mtg(Z) 10:00a Possible Quilters | 26 7:00p CC (Z) (Dettlaff) 7:30p Mission Trip Prep | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 8:00a Worship 10:30a Worship (livestreamed)  TRINITY SUNDAY | 31  MEMORIAL DAY | KEY: CC = ChristCare HS = High School MT = Mission Team SS = Sunday School Z = Zoom | | HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR ASCENSION FAMILY MEMBERS CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY IN MAY. A separate PDF will be sent with May birthdays. | | |

ASCENSION CHURCH STAFF

*Rev. Luther Swenson, Lead Pastor: pastorluther@ascensiongb.com
 Rev. Lori Swenson, Pastor of Congregational Care: pastorlori@ascensiongb.com
 *Tracy Bahn, Youth & Confirmation Ministry Director: tracy@ascensiongb.com
 Annika Osell, Interim Sunday School Ministry Director: annika@ascensiongb.com
 Valerie VanderMeuse, Office Manager: valerie@ascensiongb.com
 Paula Wozniak, Bookkeeper: paula@ascensiongb.com
 Jeannine Walker, Business Support Manager: jeannine@ascensiongb.com
 Amanda Nelson, Member Connections: amanda@ascensiongb.com
 Connor Klavekoske, Music Director: connor@ascensiongb.com
 Brandon Rockstroh, Contemporary Service Director: bmrockstroh@gbaps.org
 Susie Brekke, Nina Schmitt, Amanda Nelson: Directors of Sunshine Singers (volunteers)
 Eric Ludvigson: Interim Worship Audio/Video Technician
 *Mike Sleeman, Custodial Maintenance Technician: mike@ascensiongb.com
 Jennifer Poley, Nursery Coordinator: nursery@ascensiongb.com
 Amy Zittlow, Jayne Pivovar: Nursery Attendants
 Mike Gilley, Spiritual Direction: mkgilley3455@gmail.com (volunteer)
 Church Office Telephone: (920)336-3561
 Check out our website: www.ascensiongb.com
 Prayer Chain Requests: ascensionprayers@gmail.com
 *Full Time **Home Sweet Home Donations:** (920)784-7092



MINISTRY LEADERS

Stuart Korshavn (stuart.korshavn@snc.edu): President
 Matt Schmitz (mbshightower@yahoo.com): Vice President
 Barb Rogaczewski (barb.rogaczewski@gmail.com): Secretary
 Bruce Bader (sbbader@sbcglobal.net): Treasurer
 Al Mueller (al75.mueller@gmail.com): Finance
 Kris Schmidt (kmschmidt@gbaps.org): Council Member
 Karin Green (kgreenmm10@gmail.com): Mutual Ministry
 Holly Keyser (4wren4@gmail.com): Christian Service
 Brenda Kilheffer (kilhefferb@yahoo.com): Life, Growth & Witness
 Hanna Engebretson (khengebretson@gmail.com) Learning Ministry
 Ted Zieman (ted@ziemanproperties.com) : Property
 Kristoffer Engebretson (kristofferengebretson34@gmail.com): Stewardship
 Ruth Rodda (rrod12@gmail.com): Worship & Music
 Pastor Lori: ChristCare Equipper
 Mike Gilley: Spiritual Direction
 Lori Prevost: Altar Guild Core Team Leader
 Janene Bartenen: Prayer Chain/e-mail ascensionprayer@gmail.com
 Sue Grunewald: Prayer Chain/phone (425-3777)
 Hanna Engebretson: SS Rotation Coordinator
 Sue Ludvigson: Worship Participants Scheduler
 Peter Daanen: Head Usher
 Tina Korshavn: Love in a Dish



Hospital Visitation

Due to HIPAA privacy laws, the church is often not informed when a person is hospitalized. Please call the church office when you would like a pastoral visit when you are in the hospital. Do not rely on the hospital to call the church office, even if they have said they will. Please call the church office directly, or have a family member do so.



Prayer Chain Requests:
 ascensionprayers@gmail.com
 or call the church office.

Ascension Lutheran Church
2911 Libal St.
Green Bay, WI 54301



Recorded and live-streamed worship
services and sermons
are available on our website:

www.ascensiongb.com

Facebook: Ascension Lutheran Church,
Green Bay

Be sure to check our website often



For I know
the plans I have
for you,
declares the LORD,
plans for welfare
and not for evil,
to give you a future
and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11