



Ascension Lutheran Church

PO Box, 846, 502 E. Second St. | Pratt, KS 67124

December 2020

NEWSLETTER 3

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME (Psalm 100:5)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAISE HIM!

Ascension Lutheran is grateful, blessed,
humbled, and excited to announce
the initial results of the
For Generations to Come campaign.

MORE THAN \$344,000 HAS BEEN PLEDGED over the
next three years in support of the present and future
ministry of Ascension Lutheran in Pratt, Kansas—
over and above regular tithes and offerings.

The goal is for 100% participation of the congregation
in the ***For Generations to Come*** campaign. Whether
you commit to one, two, or all three points as shown
below, ***WE THANK YOU!***



WHAT'S NEXT?

The Management Team and the Building Commission met Sunday evening to begin the process of adjusting and prioritizing the renovation plans to align with the pledges received. A bridge loan application — for no more than the amount pledged — will be finalized soon through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund; the Voters' Assembly will approve this as a special meeting.

In response to the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and "FOR GENERATIONS TO COME" – I / we:

- ☐ Dedicate my/our work to the Mission Pillars of Ascension Lutheran: Connect, Grow, and Serve.
- ☐ Support the Ministry Expansion of Ascension Lutheran Church in prayer and service.
- ☐ Commit to give above regular tithes and offerings toward the goal of \$500,000.



MAIL your Commitment Card to:

Ascension Lutheran Church, PO BOX 846, Pratt, KS 67124
or, **TAKE your Commitment Card** to the church during office hours.
Commitment Cards are available at the church if you need an additional card.

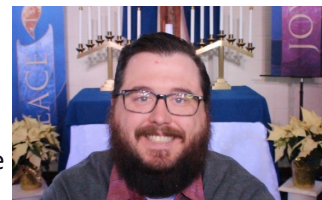
For more information about the *For Generations to Come* campaign and to access the documents, go to the church website at <https://www.prattascension.org/for-generations-to-come>

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR

PASTOR DAN CHRISMER | ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH, PRATT, KANSAS

Advent Greetings,

I love a good story. Ever since I was a kid, getting lost in a good book or even an engaging TV series has been one of my favorite parts of life. The Harry Potter series started coming out when I was in elementary school. Each book in the series was progressively longer than the preceding installment. I couldn't put those books down. I would start reading on a Saturday morning and be awake until I had finished.



When I get into a good story, I can't stop reading or listening to an audiobook. In my opinion, a good story is one that you can hear over and over again and not grow tired of it. There are a few book series out there that check this box for me. However, there's one story that I never tire of hearing: The Christmas story. It has everything you want in a story! Drama, scandal, action, love, a chase scene, and it has the added bonus of being a **TRUE** story.

This Advent season, we have all the reason in the world to read the Christmas story with fresh eyes. Our world has been through a lot this year. Everyone is searching for a story to ground themselves in. Netflix, Hulu, Disney, and others continue releasing new series and new stories—stories for us to put ourselves into and escape from the chaos and affliction of this world. Don't get me wrong, I love watching movies, TV Shows, and reading a good book, but the Christmas story is the only one that isn't asking us to escape from the world. God comes into the world to fix what we've messed up.

We all need a story to ground our lives in. There is power in a story and a true story is particularly powerful, especially a true story that changed the world. This Christmas, I want you to remember that even amid a pandemic, your God became flesh to make all things new. That baby boy at Bethlehem came to save you from sin, death, Satan, and from yourself. The true story of Jesus is the story to ground your life in. Not only is it exciting, but it is life-altering and eternally significant. This Christmas, I want you to thank God for His Son because Jesus has changed everything.

Stand firm in Jesus.

Pastor Dan Chrismer | pastordajochris@gmail.com | 316-542-1383

CAMPAIGN FULFILLMENT — HOW DONATING TOWARD COMMITMENTS WILL WORK

First of all, **THANK YOU!** All **Glory to God** for the faithfulness of His people to the **For Generations to Come** campaign!

ACH—This is an automatic withdrawal from your checking account. There are no fees to you for this service, and you may use it at any bank. This works especially well for those who are making monthly contributions to the campaign building fund. Withdrawals are on the same day each month, the 20th, for example. **THANK YOU** to all who have already chosen this method and returned your forms.

If you have questions, please contact Shannon Bergner at 620-770-2392, and she can assist you.

If you prefer to pay by check, envelopes will be given to you for your convenience. Although envelopes are not required, they will make it easier for the financial team to sort regular offerings from commitments to the building fund. When paying by check, please note "Building Fund" on the memo line.

In-kind donations of stocks, grain, livestock, etc. are also welcome. Stocks will be transferred to a special account set up at The Peoples Bank specifically for this purpose. Grain or livestock may be sold in the name of Ascension Lutheran Church with the check to be sent to PO Box 846, Pratt, KS 67124.

Contact Brian Schrag at 620-388-1710 for assistance or to answer questions.

***Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).***

WHAT'S HAPPENING

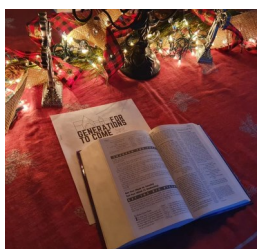
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME CAMPAIGN EVENTS AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 20	FIRST GIFTS OFFERING AND COMMITMENT DEDICATION (VIRTUAL) "First Gifts" are the initial offerings to <i>For Generations to Come</i> ; they may be mailed to the church or brought on Christmas Eve.
Sunday, Dec. 20	Children's Christmas Service (VIRTUAL) 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 p.m. — IN PERSON, masks required
Sunday, January 3 February 2021	Congregational Voters' Meeting (to approve the LCEF building loan) Trivia Night — Fundraising event for the ALC Building Fund Details will depend on COVID-19 restrictions at that time
2021 - 2023	<i>For Generations to Come</i> Fulfillment



Pray-a-thon

A booklet of the daily prayers and prayer prompts is posted at
<https://www.prattascension.org/prayer-event-and-daily-prayers>



We are thankful that so many were able to join us at the church in prayer!

If you were not able to be there, we hope you were able to pray with us from home. The Prayer Event was beautiful, but our mission is just beginning, so we will keep praying in every circumstance, wherever

we are. Let us all continue praying over the future ministry of Ascension, so that we always give the glory to God and spread His love throughout the community —

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

Thank you to all who provided cookies for the Prayer Event!

We humbly ask that everyone please continue to keep the mission of Ascension Lutheran in prayer as we seek God's will for this ministry—

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

*Your Prayer Warriors,
Lindsey, Maddie, and Emma*



Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Romans 12:12).

Dear Lord, Thank you for Your daily blessings and gracious gifts! I pray we are always devoted to each other, filled with Your love so that we daily serve You. Let us always be joyful in the hope we have in Jesus, rejoicing in Your salvation.

Teach us to be patient when we face trials and trouble, trusting in You. Help us to stay faithful in prayer, praying ceaselessly for Your ministry and that Your will to be done — **FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!** Amen.

~ CONNECT ~ GROW ~ SERVE ~

*For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations (Psalm 100:5).*



SERVING IN OUR CHURCH:

We plan to begin **WORKDAYS WEDNESDAYS** again after the first of the year—depending, of course, on COVID-19 restrictions or current recommendations. **Watch for details!**

Other renovations able to be completed by the members of Ascension will continue. These include a major facelift to the high school youth room, new faucets and garbage disposals installed in the kitchen, and other redesign plans for classroom spaces. **THANK YOU to the families** who donated the supplies and completed this volunteer work! FYI, some were funded through Thrivent Action Teams. **THANK YOU, Christy Landis**, for preparing and delivering soups during the prayer event as a gift to the building fund.

WE APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU!

SERVING IN OUR COMMUNITY:

A **Thrivent Action Team** will be purchasing items to donate to residents of the **Hillside Terrace Apartments**. Some residents have no other family members who can assist them with shopping, especially during COVID-19 restrictions. We are blessed to be this blessing to these friends and neighbors in our community! **THANK YOU!**

WinGS members participated in a “Reverse Advent” food drive for the **Pratt County Food Bank**. You may take your box to the church or directly to the food bank. **THANK YOU!**

WinGS members continue the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**.

The most recent shawl was given to a woman having surgery for cancer.

THANK YOU to this team of women who so faithfully



make and deliver these special gifts!

Contact Susan Helmke if you have questions or requests.



If you have ANY questions or suggestions, please contact any member of the Campaign Team:

Campaign Coordinator:	Amy Schrag	620-388-1394
Communications Director:	Brenda Piester	620-862-5658 or 620-546-3964
Campaign Director:	Ron Piester	620-862-5658 or 620-546-3117
Prayer Director:	Lindsey Bergner	620-388-0798
Hospitality Director:	Shannon Bergner	620-770-2392
Pastor:	Pastor Dan Chrismer	316-542-1383

— THANK YOU!