



Ascension Lutheran Church

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

December 2020

NEWSLETTER 2

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME (Psalm 100:5)



~ WELCOME ~

~ To the Lord's Table ~

We have not been in face-to-face worship recently, and to come together as the body in this place, Holy Communion will be offered in the Ascension Lutheran sanctuary during the Prayer Event on **Saturday, December 12, 9 a.m. through 9 p.m.**

As we follow Christ's command to "Do this, in remembrance of me," the Pray-a-thon is a perfect opportunity to partake of Christ's true body and true blood. This is also a time to pray over the mission and ministry of Ascension —

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

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

~ COMMITMENT SATURDAY ~

~ Saturday, December 12, 2020, 9 a.m.— 9 p.m. ~

Advent—Prepare for the birth of the Christ Child

What a perfect time for Ascension to implement the *For Generations to Come* campaign!

We, too, are looking ahead—preparing for the future. We are planning for continuing and new ministries to reach out into the community with the Good News of Jesus! We are designing a building with flexible space to meet those needs. We are training ourselves for service to Him.

Between now and "Commitment Saturday" we invite you and your family to pray over Ascension as you consider your personal commitment to the mission, ministry, and campaign—including ongoing prayers. We value your faithful stewardship and commitment to our church —

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!



MAIL your Commitment Card to arrive by December 12, to Ascension Lutheran, PO BOX 846, Pratt, KS 67124 or, **BRING your Commitment Card** to the church during the Pray-a-thon on Saturday. **Commitment Cards will be available** at the church if you need an additional card.

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR

PASTOR DAN CHRISMER | ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH, PRATT, KANSAS

Advent Blessings to you in the Name of your soon returning Savior, Jesus!

Can you believe it? It's already December. Are you having as hard a time believing that Christmas is almost here again as I am? It truly feels as if we just got done celebrating Advent and Christmas in 2019. I feel like Emma and I just took the tree down and we have already put it up again. This year has been a whirlwind, but we're nearing the end, and it has been one for the record books.

I read and shared an article on Facebook the other day about Jesus as our wonderful counselor. If you haven't read it yet, I highly recommend it. I wanted to share the encouragement I received from reading it. The author writes:

"When we go to Christ as our counselor, we expect him to respond with the tired-out wisdom of the world - a wisdom bound to what we do, how we do it, and the judgment that comes when we fail. We expect him to listen because, well, that's his job... We don't expect that as our counselor, Jesus not only listens and cares, but that he takes our place. He steps into our shoes. We aren't paying him for his time. He isn't sitting across the room, daydreaming about his next tennis match or his lunch break. And he doesn't condemn us - no matter how accurately - on account of either our most polished prayers or our desperate pleas. As a counselor, he fully knows us and loves us all the same. He understands our anxieties and our despair as his own. And in turn, he doesn't give us the right words of advice; he gives us something far better: his righteousness." [1]

I needed to hear that. *Jesus doesn't just care and listen; he takes our place.* On the days when you or I feel like we are at our wits end with the pandemic, politics, guilt, shame, faithlessness, and doubt, I want you to hear these words, *Jesus doesn't just care and listen; he takes your place.* He has taken everything that plagues you and has nailed it to the cross at Golgotha. Your despair, guilt, shame, sin, hatred, and lovelessness were buried with Christ in the tomb. Yet, unlike Jesus, all of that has remained in the grave. Jesus arose victorious over sin, death, and the power of Satan.

Jesus doesn't just care and listen; he takes your place. Did you need to hear that as much as I did? The author described the way we all try to act like we are put together, even with a counselor. However, in the presence of Christ, there is no front you can put up that He doesn't see through because Jesus has already taken your pain and struggles upon Himself. Take heart this Advent season - *Jesus doesn't just care and listen; he takes your place.* Take heart, because to us a child is born.

In Christ,



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

[1] <https://www.1517.org/articles/to-us-a-child-is-born-wonderful-counselor>



Visitation
Team

INSPIRE VISITS: We want to make sure all of your questions are answered about the campaign. Please expect a call from someone on our campaign team to set up a time to visit in person (with social distancing), over the phone, or by Zoom.
We're happy to meet in whatever way you choose!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME CAMPAIGN EVENTS AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 6	Inspire Presentation 3: Pastor Dan and Emma Chrismer
Saturday, Dec. 12	PRAY-A-THON — Contact Lindsey Bergner lindseybergner@gmail.com to sign up OR sign up HERE OR at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EAAA828A2F94-forgenerations
Saturday, Dec. 12	9 a.m. — 9 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION offered at Ascension during the PRAY-A-THON
Saturday, Dec. 12	9 a.m. — 9 p.m. COMMITMENT SATURDAY
Sunday, Dec. 13	Inspire Presentation 4: Ron and Brenda Piester “Celebrate Generations” Prime Rib Dinner, 6:30 p.m. <i>Will be rescheduled in 2021!</i>
Sunday, Dec. 20	COMMITMENT DEDICATION and FIRST GIFTS
Sunday, Dec. 20	Children’s Christmas Service (VIRTUAL) 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 24 2021-2023	Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m. <i>For Generations to Come Fulfillment</i>

Pray-a-thon

Saturday, December 12, 9 a.m. through 9 p.m.

We are hosting a “Pray-a-thon” on Saturday, December 12, starting at 9 a.m. through 9 p.m. We would love for families or individuals to sign up to pray for one hour that day. Everyone is welcome to come to the church—even if you have not signed up. We will be here, so the church will be open! Masks and social distancing will apply.

On the main floor, we will have four prayer stations set up: in the Sunday School areas, in the gathering area, and in the sanctuary. At each station, you are invited to pray over a specific part of our present and future ministry.

If you are unable to join us at the church, you may sign up for an hour and just pray from home! If that’s the case, we would love it if you sent us a picture of a written prayer or a picture of you or your family praying,

Time slots are every 30 minutes, from 9 a.m. through 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 12.

We can’t wait for you to join us all in prayer as we seek God’s will in our ministry—
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

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



New prayers are posted each day at
<https://www.facebook.com/AscensionPratt>

~ CONNECT ~ GROW ~ SERVE ~

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH — *FOR GENERATIONS TO COME*

CONNECTING to the Past:

“We were married in that church. I’m so happy to see it’s back to a church! God bless you!” — Kimberly and Mark Kettering

“The elevator was a memorial. Thank you for getting it operating again.”

— D. A. Wegele, former member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

“This makes my heart happy!” — Heather Skaggs, former member of OSLC

SERVING in the Present:

“Glad to see it being brought to life again!”

— Darrel Soeken, former member of OSLC

“I’m glad you found a place to call home for your church! Best wishes! God bless.” — Della Osner Hampton

“I am thankful for our church and Pastor Dan who are willing (and skilled!) to use technology to continue to provide worship, morning devotions, Advent services, Bible Study, the upcoming Children’s VIRTUAL Christmas Service, (and even meetings!) so that HIS WORD continues to reach others in our community with the Good News of Jesus!” — Brenda Piester, ALC Member and Teacher

“God bless all the hard work and for spreading His word. My prayers are with you in your endeavors.” — Diana J. Patrick-Dutoit

GROWING in the Future:

“I can’t believe the change. How wonderful!...I know the church will grow!” — Audrey Jenisch, relative of ALC members

“What a wonderful journey — looking forward to the future!” — Janis Honeman, current member of Ascension

“So much to do, so little time. Continue on!”

—From a poem “Sixty Years” written by Dorathe Wiltshire, member of Our Savior’s Lutheran. for the 60th Anniversary in 2004

“This is such a beautiful little church, and again I say how happy I am to learn of the building’s resurrection. I pray God blesses your work and grants your congregation a fruitful and long existence as you continue fulfilling His mission in the Pratt community.” — Beccy Oberly, former member and daughter of the Rev. Alfred A Stolte, Pastor of OSLC 1960-1975

COMMITMENT SUNDAY — 1945

A Building Fund for a new church had already been established and President Knop urged the people to purchase United States Government War Bonds for the Building Fund. They also passed the following resolution: “A group of heralds will visit every home in our congregation on Sunday afternoon following the announcement of the European Armistice and will collect cash and pledges from the members as a tangible token of their gratitude to the Lord.” This day was called the “Victory for Peace” to bring a peace thank offering.

— From the booklet *Our Savior’s*

Lutheran Church, 1944-2010, page 4.

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>

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** 636-328-1642

— **THANK YOU!**