

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*FOR GENERATIONS
TO COME*

CONNECT
GROW
SERVE

Brothers, Sisters, and Friends of Ascension Lutheran Church:

The ministry of Ascension began unconventionally. With the love and faith from many families in our community, the Lord paved the way for a new Lutheran church in Pratt.

Before I arrived, our congregation worshipped in various places including in members' homes and at the Pratt County Fairgrounds. When I received my call, we were worshipping at the Episcopal Church and then made a move to The Barron Theatre; we have even hosted a pandemic Easter Service in a pasture! We may be a young church, but we already have history! No matter where or when we are gathered, our mission is simply to follow Jesus by connecting people to Him, growing together in faith, and serving our community.

Since the church's unique beginning, our ministry has focused on welcoming all people to Christ. We want to tell others about God's extravagant love for all and to see his work in action through our journey. With God's love in our hearts, It is time for us to officially take the next step in our newest season of life. As God's people in this place, we are being invited to move forward, not for our own sake, but "For Generations to Come." This theme for our campaign will continue to be what drives our church forward in its mission of connecting people to the church. The theme verse, Psalm 100:5, is a wonderful reminder that God's love and faithfulness are what will bring us through. "For the Lord is good, and His love endures forever, His faithfulness continues through all generations." The Lord is calling you to be a part of that.

In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving and Christmas, you will begin hearing more and more about what God is leading this congregation toward. During that time, we're going to be inspired by how God has worked in the lives of His people in the past and how we believe He is working in our midst today.

I pray that each and every one of us will be inspired to be the church who is "For Generations to Come" and that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit would empower us in the next steps of our life together.

Under the Cross and in His Resurrection,



Pastor Dan Chrismer



***For the LORD is good;
His steadfast love endures forever;
and His faithfulness
to all generations
(Psalm 100:5).***

Key Dates

| | |
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| Sunday, Nov. 8 | Launch " <i>For Generations to Come</i> "; followed by brunch |
| Sunday, Nov. 15 | Informational Forum after worship |
| Monday, Nov. 17 | Inspire Visits begin |
| Sunday, Nov. 22 | Guest preacher; Inspire Presentation 1 |
| Sunday, Nov. 29 | Inspire Presentation 2 |
| Sunday, Dec. 6 | Inspire Presentation 3 |
| Sunday, Dec. 13 | Commitment Sunday; Inspire Presentation 4 |
| Sunday, Dec. 13 | Commitment Celebration Dinner; Evening, time TBA |
| Sunday, Dec. 20 | Commitment Dedication; First Gifts |
| Sunday, Dec. 20 | Children's Christmas Service, Evening, time TBA |
| Thursday, Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Service, time TBA |

2021-2024 – For Generations to Come Fulfillment

Ascension Lutheran Church has been given the unique opportunity to bring the love of God to the people of Pratt and the surrounding area. As our faith community has evolved and grown and new challenges have arisen, God has continued to bless us with all we need to do His important work here.

Today, as God's children, we offer compassion, community, and communion with Christ to the people of the Pratt area. This is our mission – what we do in service alongside Jesus in our community. As we live out and expand this important work, we begin the "*For Generations to Come*" Campaign. This gives us the opportunity to commit to continue to bring the love of God to the Pratt area for years to come.



OUR MISSION PILLARS:

CONNECT PEOPLE TO CHRIST

We are being called by God to commit to our future together and to invite others to learn about Jesus.

GROW IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY

We are being called by God to commit to growing in faith as followers of Christ. As the Body of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we strengthen relationships with Him and one another.

SERVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR

We are being called by God to commit to serving together. As God's chosen people in this time and place, we have been directed to go and serve.

OUR CURRENT MINISTRIES

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Gathering together is central to who we are and who we hope to be to others. Whether it is for meals, by cards of encouragement, with prayers, in service, or in community outreach, we lift each other up.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10).

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Ascension Youth Ministry is here to share God's love with youth, to tell them the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection, and to guide them as they grow in relationship with their Creator, Savior, and Lord.

FUSION (K – 8th grades) helps students learn about Jesus through hands-on, relevant Bible experiences to:

- CONNECT with friends through music, recreation, and snacks;
- GROW in faith through Bible lessons, object lesson videos, and memory work; and
- SERVE others with crafts and service projects--and much, much more!

Higher Ground (Senior High, 9th - 12th grades) focuses on discipleship, service to the community, and outreach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We offer Higher Ground on Wednesday nights, a monthly activity, service projects, fun outings, youth gatherings, summer camps, mission trips, and attend the District Youth & National Youth Gatherings.

Vacation Bible School (PreK4 - 6th) is a vital ALC outreach to the children in the Pratt community. The majority of attendees have no regular connection to Ascension.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

WORSHIP

The worship of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is central to our faith life. We gather for worship on Sunday morning, in special services, in daily devotions, and in Bible class. With Christ as the main focus, ALC worship is "come as you are" and includes liturgy and music for all ages. The Sunday Education Hour (Preschool through Adult) focuses on learning more about Jesus and how we should live for Him!

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! (Psalm 95:6)

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

WinGS (Women in God's Service) is part of Lutheran Women in Mission. They meet on the first Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. for devotions, projects, Mite offerings, light snacks, prayer, and fellowship. Meetings are held at the church.

WinGS Projects and Service Activities:

- Collect Mite Offerings to fund local, Kansas, national, and international mission grants
- Serve meals for the Pratt CIRCLES organization
- Host an annual Lenten Luncheon
- Assist with snacks for FUSION and help with the children's Christmas service
- Complete Thrivent Action Teams to provide meals for the Pratt County Fair carnival workers; provide Thanksgiving food for families in need; provide clothing, food, and personal items for residents at the Hillside Terrace apartments; donate to the Pratt County Food Bank, and purchase supplies for the Bread of Life Community Kitchen.
- Continue the prayer shawl ministry to let others know that they are praying for them.
- Gather in person or via Zoom for weekly Bible study
- Send cards of encouragement and pray for each other

Serve the LORD with Gladness! (Psalm 100:2)



OUR FUTURE MINISTRY EXPANSION

MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

To further this mission, God gifted us with a church building in December of 2019. It, too, has a rich history. Built as a mission plant in 1948 over the original Pratt City pool, it provided a church home for over six decades. Members of Ascension began worshipping here again in July of 2020.

This building is a blessing from God. With that gift comes responsibility. Proper stewardship of a facility includes making it a safe, attractive, and enjoyable place. We have begun this work, but we dream of a church that invites people in, welcomes them, and encourages them to stay to get to know us, and more importantly, to know Jesus.

Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place (2 Chronicles 7:15).

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Our congregation has always had a servant's heart. This newly renovated facility will serve both as a place to gather and also as a place to serve. We look forward to using our new classrooms to hold midweek Fusion and Higher Ground plus Sunday education classes. We envision serving meals and hosting outreach events as a means to bring joy, comfort, and Christian fellowship. And in the new sanctuary, most of all, we look forward to worshipping and praising God for the many blessings that he has showered upon us for many generations.

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).

BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Our changes will be noticeable immediately to our members and also to the community we will be serving. A brand new, handicap accessible entry way will greet guests. Although we are blessed with an elevator, our sanctuary, gathering area, classrooms, and restrooms will all be available on the first level with no stairs (or elevator) required.

A bright new entry way will lead directly into the gathering area. A coffee bar (because, well, we ARE Lutheran!), two new bathrooms, new windows, flooring, lighting, and furniture will greet you as you make your way to the sanctuary. The mission and vision of Ascension will be clearly articulated in this area. This multipurpose area will be a hub for service, fellowship, Bible study, and mission outreach.

Our new sanctuary space will take the very best of what is already there and expand it, making it a bright, spacious, and inviting place. Cushioned chairs will be set closer to the altar in a more inclusive layout to invite worshippers into the service. State of the art technology, including new lights and sound, will provide a more consistent, easily accessible worship experience.

But, we Lutherans love our traditions, too! We will save the beautiful ceiling, and we intend to rehome an altar and baptismal font that have been offered to us by another Lutheran church. We have special plans for matching balconies to provide overflow seating and further enhance the beauty of the space.

Further updates on the main floor include a new sacristy, a new Pastor's office, a nursery, and three new multi-purpose classrooms using movable dividers.

Downstairs plans include new windows, updated restrooms, new lighting, flooring, walls, and ceilings.

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain (Psalm 127:1).



OUR INVITATION

The Ascension Lutheran Church team prayerfully invites you to support the “*For Generations to Come*” campaign.

In response to the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I / we:

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

We are being called by God to take this step of faith into the future of our ministry here at Ascension in Pratt. We are so blessed to have multi-generational families worshipping together every Sunday for our older generation, for our children, and for our future generations. In a time where church attendance is dropping, we are so fortunate for children, teens, and young adults who WANT to come to church at Ascension. WE ARE BLESSED!

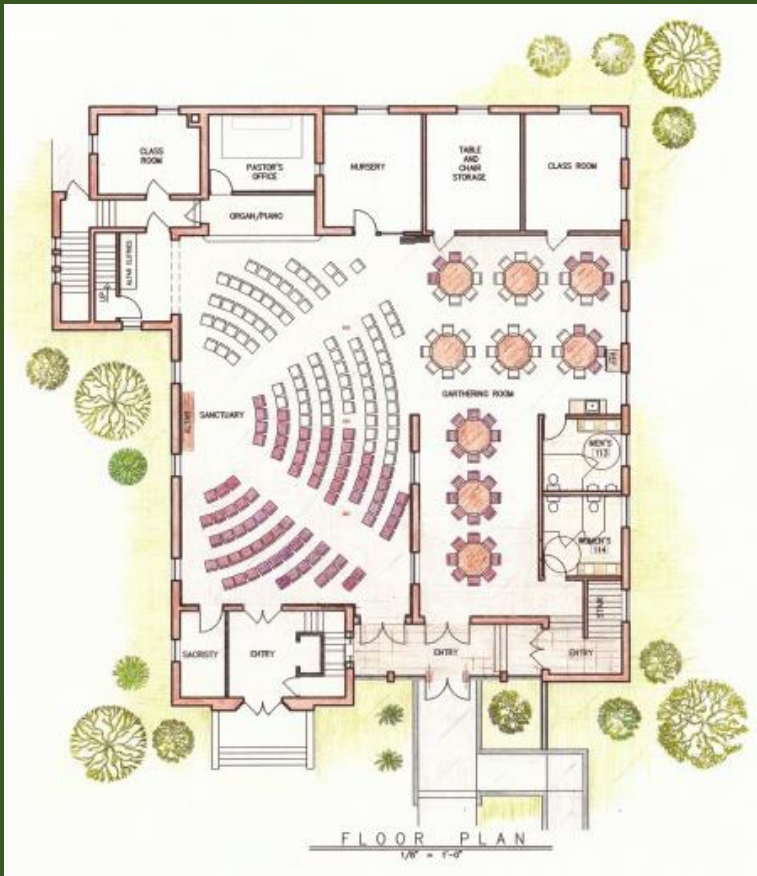
As you continue to support the ongoing ministry at Ascension through your regular tithes and offerings, we humbly ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this endeavor both in prayer and with a financial gift that is significant to you. God has provided for us in our journey as a congregation of believers to this facility, and now:

We are confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).



**FOR
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TO COME**

Ascension
Lutheran Church
Psalm 100:5



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