

# ***THE REACH***

***August 2022***



At Ascension, we celebrate the wonderful diversity of God's family!  
Join YOUR hands with ours so we can  
REACH out together to serve in God's name!

## **THE REACH**

**The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension  
827 Wildwood Avenue  
Columbia, SC 29203-5815**



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
**SUNDAYS 11:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**The Reverend Jackie Utley, Pastor**



**Office Phone #:** 803-786-6429

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Mailing Address:** 827 Wildwood Ave., Columbia, SC 29203

**Office Email:** [ascension.office827@gmail.com](mailto:ascension.office827@gmail.com)

**Pastor's Email:** [ascension.elca@gmail.com](mailto:ascension.elca@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.ascensionlutherancolasc.com](http://www.ascensionlutherancolasc.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/Ascension.ColumbiaSC](http://www.facebook.com/Ascension.ColumbiaSC)

**Staff:**

Jackie Utley, Pastor – [ascension.elca@gmail.com](mailto:ascension.elca@gmail.com)

Laura Browder, Office Administrator – [ascension.office827@gmail.com](mailto:ascension.office827@gmail.com)

Greg Stone, Parish Musician – [gstone@sc.rr.com](mailto:gstone@sc.rr.com)

**Church Council:**

Ken Dobbins, Chairperson – [kdobb007@gmail.com](mailto:kdobb007@gmail.com)

Pastor Jackie Utley, Vice Chairperson - [ascension.elca@gmail.com](mailto:ascension.elca@gmail.com)

Laura Browder, Secretary - [ascension.office827@gmail.com](mailto:ascension.office827@gmail.com)

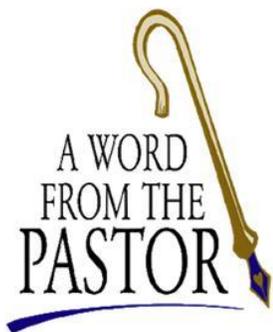
Mike Lever - [MLever@l-jinc.com](mailto:MLever@l-jinc.com)

**Pastoral Support & Advisory Board:**

Billy Browder - [bbjb1974@yahoo.com](mailto:bbjb1974@yahoo.com)

Catherine Garren - [cgarren210@bellsouth.net](mailto:cgarren210@bellsouth.net)

Ken Dobbins - [kdobb007@gmail.com](mailto:kdobb007@gmail.com)



Summer greetings!

And what a heat wave of a Summer we are having! Within the last month we have been faced with numerous days of 90+ degree temperatures. In weather such as this I, for one, am reminded to thank God for the gift of air conditioning at its best; in addition to the gift of iced-cold water. Without a doubt, in scorching heat one cannot take for granted the comfort of these two commodities; just to name a few.

Here, I fail not to mention that, despite the scorching heat Summer is a favorite season for me. There is something very special about Summer breezes. While time is swiftly transitioning, it will be Fall before we know it. I realize that this is the third Summer of the COVID pandemic. I find myself often boasting somewhat to others that as a faith community, we have been worshipping in-person since the summer of 2020 (the last of June), while several congregations are just recently returning. Here at Ascension, we practiced social distancing among other safety precautions and our congregants remained unaffected by the ongoing virus, during our time of worship.

After vaccinations and booster shots, as we have continued our worship services, several of us who were eventually infected by the virus (even me, the pastor) can all attest that it was not as a result of attending worship, but a result of our attendance elsewhere. I find this noteworthy of mentioning in regard to giving God thanks and praise for sustaining and keeping our faith community safely, here through the seasons of a pandemic.

Whereas I never fail to make mention that summer is a time of vacations and getting away for fun in the sun, pandemic or not, it is a time of low attendance to worship. Though the pandemic is still present at this time, and we are often few in attendance, still, those who desire to gather in fellowship experience the communion of the Holy Spirit here in this place. As we continue gathering for worship in the weeks ahead, I pray safe travels for all who are vacationing and getting away from it all. I continue to hope and pray that this pandemic virus will soon be a thing of the past.

In the meantime, I continue to give thanks to God for blessing and keeping each of us, our family members, and all who are near and dear to us. We do have the consolation that this too shall pass, as God is with us. God has not and will not forsake us. Let us continue to stay careful and prayerful. Thanks be to God!

Blessings & peace,  
Pastor Jackie



# Music Ministry Notes

Greg Stone, Parish Musician

The church choir has its roots stemming from the Old Testament. Many of us, I would imagine, probably think in terms of the choir beginning with Christianity at the advent of the Roman Catholic Church. Interestingly enough, however, choirs date back to the times of the Old Testament. According to Clement A. Harris, in his article, “Church Choirs In History,” the first mention of a choir in the Hebrew Scriptures is that of Moses and some children. There is also mention of choirs that were used in pagan rites. This fact intrigues me as so many of the rituals in which we participate have pagan roots.

The church choir is extremely important for worship. Choirs help the congregation with singing. They offer support on congregational songs/hymns and they provide music that enhances the worship service by relating a message to the theme of a particular service. A worship service that does not have a choir is incomplete.

Being a part of a choir has its advantages. First, members of the choir form relationships. Relationships are important in our faith journey. Second, members of choirs get to have experiences that are unique in church. For example, this past week, members of our choir participated in an ecumenical worship service that was a part of the Columbia Religious Arts Festival. The choir for this service was made up of members of church choirs throughout Columbia. It was a wonderful experience. Selma Foster came up to me this past Sunday at church and expressed how much she enjoyed being a part of the service. She said that she never thought she would be able to sing in Latin! Third, being in a church choir affords one the opportunity to learn new things. Selma learned that it isn't too difficult to sing in Latin. Finally, members of the church choir are an active part of the church family. The choir is one facet of a church family. Of course there are other facets to the church: Sunday school, church council, Bible study, fellowship opportunities, etc., but choirs create a special bond.

Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, August 17. The music for the upcoming year (through May) has been planned. We will be learning a variety of music. To be in the choir, you do not have to be a trained musician. Come be a part of a loving group of people. You'll have the best seats in the house!

**If you would like to learn more about The Music Ministry at Ascension, contact our Parish Musician, Greg Stone, at 803-609-5124 or [gstone@sc.rr.com](mailto:gstone@sc.rr.com)**

# BIRTHDAYS



Charlene Van Patten 10<sup>th</sup>

David Lever 10<sup>th</sup>

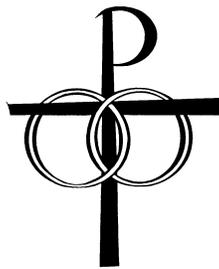
Lily Jenkins 12<sup>th</sup>

Pat Martin 19<sup>th</sup>

Gollin Martin 25<sup>th</sup>

## Wedding & Anniversaries

*There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage. ~Martin Luther*



Tommy & Susan Boozer 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Did we miss your Birthday or Anniversary? Let us know so we can update our information on file.*



SHARE THE JOY

SHARE THE JOB

***Your church needs your help!***

Every month we need: Lectors, Communion Assistants, & Altar Guild (set-up and clean-up) Volunteers.

Please take a moment to sign up in for an assignment on the sheet in the Narthex or contact the office with your availability!

---

# AUGUST SERVICE PROJECT



**SCHOOL SUPPLIES & WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR GREG'S CLASS**



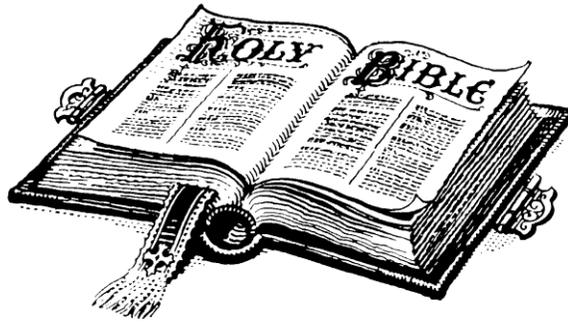
WE ARE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING THROUGH THE MONTH OF AUGUST:



- Wide Rule Composition Notebooks (no metal spirals)
- Wide Rule Packs of Paper
- Pencils
- Small Handheld Pencil Sharpeners
- Expo Dry-Erase Markers
- A typed or PRINTED note of encouragement for the class



# Monthly Scripture Readings



## August 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.*

**Genesis 15:1-6 | Psalm 33:12-22 | Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 | Luke 12:32-40**

## August 14<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”*

**Jeremiah 23:23-29 | Psalm 82 | Hebrews 11:29--12:2 | Luke 12:49-56**

## August 21<sup>st</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord’s day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.*

**Isaiah 58:9b-14 | Psalm 103:1-8 | Hebrews 12:18-29 | Luke 13:10-17**

## August 28<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.*

**Proverbs 25:6-7 | Psalm 112 | Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 | Luke 14:1, 7-14**



**Our members, family, and friends with current needs:**

Bobby Paggett, friend of Debbie Shumpert  
Kim Benson, friend of Debbie Shumpert  
Avery Denby, friend of Phyllis Hutchinson  
Doris Fletcher, friend of Phyllis Hutchinson

**Members in care centers and at home:**

Ava Hudson	Pat Martin	Gene Roof	Dorothy Van Patten
David Lever	Lisa Mosely	Johann Roof	
Margarie Lever	Delores Richardson	Charlene Van Patten	

**Members with special/long term needs:**

Tommy Boozer	Pete Currie	LaVone Griffin
Debra Butler	Donna Clark	Debbie Shumpert
Ken Butler	Selma Foster	

**Our family and friends with long term needs:**

Paula Bodner, friend of Nancy Kerr  
Dianne Browder, Steve Browder, & Linda Poole, siblings of Billy Browder  
Dave Conant, friend of Greg Stone  
Avery Denby, friend of Phyllis Hutchinson  
Doris Fletcher, friend of Phyllis Hutchinson  
Lynette Funk, daughter-in-law of Carol Funk  
Charles Garren & Kay Garren (as caregiver), brother of Catherine Garren  
Nancy (Sharpe) & Kenny Glenn, relatives of Joyce Browder  
Barb Hessesenthaler, sister of Carol Funk  
Marian and Steve Hudson, Ava Hudson's daughter-in-law and son  
Eleanor & Mike Jenkins, relatives of Lily Jenkins  
Butch Johnson, friend of Ruben Jordan  
Marilyn Johnson, friend of Pastor Jackie Utley  
Conner Miller & Ian Miller, grandsons of Ken Dobbins  
Cleo Morris, frequent visitor & neighbor of the church  
Dihue Paisley, friend of Pastor Jackie  
Matt Robinson & Carrie Schilling, friends of Catherine Garren  
Kennedy Small, great niece of Carol Funk  
Jerry Stone, father of Greg Stone  
William Utley, brother of Pastor Jackie  
Charlie Whyde, friend of Ken Butler

### **Our Neighbors & Community:**

The Dowdy House residents & staff  
Eau Claire Community Council  
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
Seminary Ridge Neighborhood Association  
South Carolina Hispanic Outreach staff and clients

### **Our ELCA & SC Synod Ministries:**

The Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America & Bishop Elizabeth Eaton  
The South Carolina Synod of the ELCA & Bishop Virginia "Ginny" Aebischer  
Sagrada Familia & Cristo Rey Lutheran Churches & The Rev. Jorge Leone  
S.C. Lutheran Men in Mission & "One Year to Live" participants  
Journey Ministry & Minister LaVone Griffin  
Lutheran Services Carolinas

### **Our Ascension Groups & Ministries:**

Members of the Church Council & Ken Dobbins, Chairperson  
Members of the Choirs & Greg Stone, Parish Musician  
The Service & Outreach Committee  
M.O.R.E Justice Team & Laura Browder, Team Leader  
The Parish, Administrative, & Grounds Keeping Staff  
"Share the Joy" Worship Volunteers

### **Closing:**

### ***Jesus Loves Me for Seniors***



Jesus loves me, this I know, Though my hair is white as snow. Though my sight is growing dim, Still He bids me trust in Him.

*Chorus: Yes, Jesus Loves Me, Yes, Jesus Loves Me  
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, The Bible Tells Me So*

Though my steps are oh, so slow, With my hand in His I'll go. On through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way. *Chorus*

Though I am no longer young, I have much which He's begun. Let me serve Christ with a smile, Go with others the extra mile. *Chorus*

When the nights are dark and long, In my heart He puts a song. Telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near." *Chorus*

When my work on earth is done, And life's victories have been won. He will take me home above, Then I'll understand His love *Chorus*

I love Jesus, does He know? Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say, That I love Him every day.