

 **THE MESSENGER** 
Ascension Lutheran Church

“Belong, Believe and Become all that God Promises”

Vol. 65, No.4

December 2024

Gratitude helps us see that God’s hand is all over our circumstances.



Gratitude is a response to God’s grace and goodness; it’s considered a way to glorify God. The Bible mentions gratitude 157 times. For example, 2 Corinthians 12:9: “My faith is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” means that God’s grace is enough to sustain us even in our weakness, and it is precisely when we are weak that God’s power is most clearly seen. Essentially, our dependence on God’s strength is most evident when we lack our own strength.

This example of gratitude refers to being thankful for God’s “sufficient grace,” which is described as being most powerful when we are weak. Basically, finding thankfulness even in our vulnerabilities allows God’s strength to shine through our weaknesses.

The feeling of gratitude should be constant; not just when everything is going well. It’s important to practice gratitude even during challenging times, as it can help focus on the positive aspects of life and build character when facing difficulties.

There are numbers of benefits when we practice gratitude in our normal life. Most people wait until the holidays roll around, but it is important to practice gratitude throughout the year.

Gratitude is an action that we should practice daily. It involves actively recognizing the positive aspects of our lives and in turn, taking steps to contribute positively to the lives of others.

Pastor Emilce Erato



***The following need
your prayers...***

Chuck Albers, Sylvia Erato, Stephanie Baio, Tina Bugalia, Bill Ciampa, Gray Collingwood, Jimmy E., Elsie, Brian and Dylan Gasperetti, Hunter George, Kathryn Graven, Virginia Heinsch, Angela Herber, Joe, Joanne Kempel, Kate Lang, Cynthia Listort, Bill

McGowan, Chuck Miata, Nicki, John Pisarri, Schneider family, Moira Sheldon, Donna Slyman, Robert Smith, Court Stevenson, Peter Stevenson, Kevin Sullivan, Miriam Valder, Deanna Ventura, and James Wheeler.



December Schedule

Mondays

11-12 p.m. Brew Crew-AA
10/4-Council Meeting 10 a.m.

Tuesdays

9:30 a.m.-Council
11-12 p.m. Brew Crew-AA
6:45-8:30 p.m. Power Up-Tae Kwon Do
12/24 Christmas Eve Service 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

11-12 p.m. New Life-AA
Sanctuary Tree set-up 12/4 11:30 am
Girl Scouts 12/4 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Road to Recovery 7:15-8:30 p.m.

Thursdays

6:00-7:45 p.m. Power Up-Tae Kwon Do

Fridays

11-12 p.m. New Life-AA

Saturdays

9-1 p.m. SDA Church-Sanctuary
9-11:15 a.m. Road to Recovery-AA
1-3 p.m. SDA Church-Parish Hall

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
12/8 Remembrance Tree Service
Advent Luncheon



December

BIRTHDAYS

Lois Altvater 12/1

Barbara Roach 12/1

Lucille Fritz 12/3



Christmas
Eve
Worship

Service with Communion
4:00 p.m.



December Outreach



Feeding Body and Soul

Mercy Chefs provides chef-prepared, nutritious meals and clean water for victims, volunteers and first responders in natural disasters and emergencies across the country and around the globe.

Our team is experienced in providing relief following hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, wildfires, extreme winter weather and other emergencies.

Our mobile kitchens are self-sustaining, equipped to operate in areas without power, and capable of purifying drinking water on-site.

This allows our team to deliver relief even in the most challenging circumstances. With six fully equipped mobile kitchens, each capable of serving up to 20,000 hot meals per day, we are strategically positioned across the country to respond to disasters at a moment's notice.

Our chefs are driven by an unwavering commitment to excellence. In the heart of a disaster zone—amidst supply shortages and equipment failures—they don't stop until they have served the most nutritious meal possible.

While we have served over 28 million meals in the past 18 years, it's always about the one person we have the opportunity to make a profound impact in their life.

Since our founding in 2006, we have responded to over 200 disasters across 33 U.S. states and territories, and 31 countries with the help of over 15,000 volunteers.

Our hope is to provide comfort and a moment of normalcy to those facing unimaginable loss, often on the worst day of their lives, through a hot meal.

As our Founder, Chef Gary LeBlanc, often says, "Something amazing happens over a shared meal." We take this statement to heart.



Orders are now being taken for poinsettia plants to beautify our church this Christmas.

If you would like to contribute one or more plants, please fill in the form below and place it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office, together with payment in the amount of **\$18.50 per plant**. You are welcome to pick up your plants following the Christmas Eve service.

Plants will be distributed to the sick, homebound and the members who are in nursing homes.

If you wish to take your plant yourself, please indicate on the tear off form below.

Please return the form, along with your payment by Sunday, December 15th.

Christmas Poinsettias 2024

#of plants _____ @ \$18.50 each

Name _____

Envelope # _____

Please dedicate my poinsettia(s) in the bulletin as follows:

In memory of

by

In honor of

by

_____ I wish to take my plant

_____ I am leaving my plant



A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Fran McGowan by Harriet Wheeler.

A gift has been made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Fran McGowan by Eleanor and Guenter Betz.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Fran McGowan by Joyce Becher.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Fran McGowan by Helmut and Caren Prill.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Fran McGowan by Grace Kratz.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Fran McGowan by Sandy and Bob Skarda.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Samuel Weiner by Eleanor and Guenter Betz.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Sam Weiner, loving brother and uncle by Sandy and Bob Skarda and family.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Fran McGowan by Bonny Atkins.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Fran McGowan by Ginni Hart.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Frances McGowan by Lois Altvater.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Frances McGowan by Judy Schmidt.

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Robert Gferer by the Vagnini Family.



Advent Brunch



Celebrate the beginning of the season with an Advent Brunch hosted by your Church Council. All are welcome to attend this gathering following worship on Sunday, December 8th.

HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE TREE



On Sunday, December 8th following our worship service, we will gather around the tree to remember those who have died and whom we wish to hold in special remembrance during this season. Deacon Carole Brosnan will lead this brief service.

If you wish to place a picture of a loved one on the tree, there are ornament frames available.