



# THE MESSENGER



Ascension Lutheran Church

## **“Belong, Believe and Become all that God Promises”**

Vol. 65, No.6

February 2025

God has not given up on you.

Philippians 1:6 “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

This is a verse that offers hope and assurance to us believers. The apostle Paul wrote this letter to give courage to the church. In Philippians, Paul started giving words of encouragement to all the believers and assuring them of his prayers. Paul was filled with joy as he relayed his beliefs, expressing how much he loves them.

Paul tells them that all they did is the result of God working in their lives. With immense assurance and confidence, Paul has no doubt what the Lord started in their lives. We call this work of God sanctification. When we became a Christian, God begins the work of Christlikeness. When we become Christians, actively choosing to do good deeds, we are essentially becoming more like a Christ.

Good work refers to the process of sanctification, where believers are transformed into self-denial, which is an essential ingredient in the process of sanctification. This is a long journey that requires cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

The verse can be comforting in times of weakness or pain, and inspiring when needing motivation to keep going in faith.

If we are going through a difficult time, we can't be discouraged. It's a sign that you belong to God and that He is faithful to complete the work He started in your life. God has begun good work in us and He will finish what He has started. We are His forever and nothing can change that.

Pastor Emilce Erato

# PRAYER list

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

Chuck Albers, Stephanie Baio, Tina Bugalia, Bill Ciampa, Corey Ciampa, Gray Collingwood, Jimmy E., Brian and Dylan Gasperetti, Hunter George, Kathryn Graven, Virginia Heinsch, Angela Herber, Jessica, Joe, Joanne Kempel, Elizabeth Lacchini, Cynthia Listort, Jane Macchia, Bill McGowan, Chuck Miata, Nicki, John Pisarri, Joseph Randazzo, Joe Sallow, Schneider family, Moira Sheldon, Robert Smith, Rose Smith, Court Stevenson, Peter Stevenson, Kevin Sullivan, Miriam Valder, and Deanna Ventura



Marilyn Stravinskias 2/7  
Stephanie Zuniga 2/9  
Bill McGowan 2/17  
Eleanor Betz 2/21  
Bonny Atkins 2/22  
Sally Troscher 2/25



The church office will be closed on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.



# February EVENTS

## **Mondays**

11-12 p.m. Brew Crew-AA  
1/6-Council Meeting 10 a.m.

## **Tuesdays**

11-12 p.m. Brew Crew-AA  
6:45-8:30 p.m. Power Up-Tae Kwon Do

## **Wednesdays**

11-12 p.m. New Life-AA  
Girl Scouts 2/5 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**

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

## *Memorial Fund*



A gift has been given to the in memory of Helga Jordan by Eleanor and Guenter Betz.

A gift has been given in memory of Sylvia Erato by Harriet Wheeler.

A gift has been given in memory of Sylvia Erato by Ginni Hart and family.

A gift has been given in memory of Sylvia Erato By Bonny Atkins.

# February Outreach



## RESCUING FAMILIES, INC.

We at Rescuing Families, Inc. are trying to make a positive difference in people's lives through their homes. People with disabilities & financial hardships struggle every day with tasks that most people find second nature. Our own family faces some of those struggles day to day so we understand the need, and want to offer our help.

We are looking to help make their lives easier by improving and/or eliminating the hurdles in their homes. Whether it is a bathroom that is in great disrepair or a ramp that can make it easier to get in and out of their home or anything that promotes a struggle we are here to make it better.



**Wednesday, March 5  
11:00 a.m.**



A special donation has been given "in honor of our son-in-law, Michael Gorsky, on his birthday."

By Joanne and Sanzio Vagnini



Quotes submitted by Ginni Hart



Ascension members who joined the Prime Seniors from St. Luke's Lutheran Church Farmingdale for a week at the Wood Loch Pines Resort in the Poconos.

Pictured: H. Wheeler, G. Kratz, M. Malloy, E. Betz and G. Betz.

Photo submitted by H. Wheeler



## *Pastor Erato's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination*

On Sunday, January 26, 2025, Bishop Paul Egensteiner presided over the Renewal of Vows ceremony for Pastor Erato. Beautiful music accompanied the lectionary readings and the Bishop's sermon.

Following the service, a reception was held in the Parish Hall.



Rev. Emilce Erato and Bishop Paul Egensteiner



Patricia Chen Jones, Rev. Erato,  
Bishop Egensteiner, Dara Lemite.

