

 **THE MESSENGER** 
Ascension Lutheran Church

“Belong, Believe and Become all that God Promises”

Vol. 65, No.5

January 2025



Twenty years ago, I was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in an Episcopal church with an Episcopal Bishop and a Lutheran Bishop present. This happened because the church where I was assigned as a new pastor was a new ministry in Spanish that recently started. I remember that day my feelings were a mix between happy and scared.

Happy, because of the years of preparation for such a beautiful call to be a pastor. I was sure this is what I wanted to do the rest of my life. Serve the Lord through His people. It is very rewarding and at the same time challenging, but I have grown a lot in strength and also in faith.

I was scared because I knew it was very serious and I had a lot of responsibility, probably in some cases there was no rule to know how to deal with. In all these feelings I knew that this was and came from the Lord.

As the years pass by, I have had numerous of challenges but never doubts about being a pastor serving my Lord through his people. When I'm able to comfort or console a human, I know that I do this for Jesus.

Sometimes I ask the Lord, “Why didn't you call me when I was young?” But at the same time I feel like the Lord answers, “no because you weren't ready” and that is the truth. I wasn't ready for such a beautiful, challenging journey.

Everything had been happening in my life according to God's will. It is clear to me that if I were born again, I would say yes to the call of being a pastor again. My heart is full of gratitude. It has allowed me to be aware of how the spirit of the Lord moves among us every day and everywhere.

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, 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, Court Stevenson, Peter Stevenson, Kevin Sullivan, Miriam Valder, and Deanna Ventura



Fred Schoenfeld 1/5
Sandy Skarda 1/8
Joyce Becher 1/10
Patricia Chen Jones 1/13
Caren Prill 1/15
Emily Roach 1/16
Harriet Wheeler 1/27
Kristen Gasperetti 1/29
Regina Sala 1/30

Our Church Decorating Team



M. Malloy, H. Prill, L. Altvater, C. Brosnan, B. Atkins, C. Prill, K. Gasperetti.
Missing from pic: E. and G. Betz.
J. Brosnan behind camera.



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 1/8 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

1/26 Special 10:00 a.m. worship commemorating 20 years of ordination for Pastor Erato. Bishop Egensteiner will preach.

January Outreach





Memorial Fund

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

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

Donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars!



If you haven't already done so, you still have time to direct your 2024 Thrivent Choice Dollars. With Thrivent Choice you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financials charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, more than \$330 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide. The largest recipient of these funds is St. Jude's.

Eligible members have until MARCH 31 to direct the Choice Dollars they are designated. If Choice Dollars haven't been directed by then and there are remaining funds in the program budget, Thrivent may choose to use some of the funds to further promote participation in their program or for other purposes. The goal is to get the greatest amount of eligible members involved to recommend how Thrivent's charitable funds are distributed.

Many of our members have already directed their Choice Dollars to Ascension. It's easy to do. You can go on line at www.thrivent.com or call 1-800- 847-4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice."

BLESSINGS
on the
Anniversary
of your
Ordination



Come celebrate Pastor Erato's 20th Anniversary of Ordination on Sunday, January 26th.

A special worship time of 10:00 a.m. is set for that day.

Bishop Egensteiner will be preaching and performing the renewal of vows.



On Monday, January 6, 2025, the Council voted to call a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2025, for the purpose of considering a change to our worship time. This is the sole business item on the agenda.

We hope you will be able to stay after church on Sunday, February 2, for the meeting to ensure a quorum is present.

