

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: 11 November A.D. 2018

Thank You! ¡Gracias!

Although I am not a linguist, speaking two languages as I am now able to do, (Hooray!) I have come to appreciate some of the subtle differences in meaning that the same word can have in each language. In Spanish, “Gracias” retains a little of its Latin origins of ‘pleasing’, and ‘God’s grace’. In English, the origins are murkier, traced through Old English, Norse, Danish and Latin, but the word has origins in the verb “to think”. Originally used in shops and offices, it meant “I will remember what you did for me.” Do you feel the difference? One, so lovely and feeling: the other, so kind and thoughtful.

And now, I am the richer for an awareness of both. For I want to tell you THANK YOU!! And ¡¡GRACIAS!! with all of their direct meaning and subtle connotations! Thank all of you for your involvement, support, and pledges to the Church of the Ascension. I appreciate every single pledge you have made, no matter what amount it is for. I value all the helpful feedback you have offered on the priest-in-charge evaluation. I am deeply pleased about the signs of your commitment to Ascension—the speed with which members of the congregation step up to fill a need, or offer help on committees, or to each other. Together we are building and strengthening the kind of community we have said that we value. Thank you for your faith in the enterprise. Thank you for your physical and mental efforts to make it happen. Thank you for your contributions to watch it bloom.

And speaking of bloom, I’m sure you would like to know the progress of the Annual Giving campaign which will fund our efforts. I estimate that we are about two thirds there— a wonderful expression of optimism— but still short of our actual needs. If you have not already pledged, today would be an excellent day to fill in the forms. The Welcome Team can provide you with a packet. Once you have pledged, I believe you will feel the happiness that others in the congregation have described when they made a conscious decision to put fear and doubt aside in order to honor God, and support their church and each other.

In today’s Gospel we read about the poor widow and how she gave all she had. What a wonderful example she has given us! If you donate or contribute weekly and have this commitment with God, you can help us better by changing your donation to a pledge. This way you can help us to have a better idea how we can budget and how many activities we can plan for 2019.

Thank You!

Gracias!

Blessings,

Javier

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TO OUR VISITORS, NEWCOMERS, AND SEEKERS

We thank you for joining us today and hope you will return often.

At Ascension, our mission is to become “Represent Jesus Christ Whatever We May be,” so we welcome you to this family of resident aliens. We invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: Nan Hildebrand

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of peace for parents and a beginners Sunday School is available in Room 4.
Please feel free to bring your child.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The members of A Joyful Path will make discoveries about Vietnamese Peace Activist Thich Nhat Hanh. He believed sharing his beliefs in practicing inner peace and mindfulness would bring peace to others and the world. Come join us in Room 2 during the 10 a.m. service.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s. The members of A Joyful Path at noon will learn about the most important source of our tradition- The Bible. We will learn about some sayings which are biblical and others attributed to the Bible which are not. Come join us at 12:00 pm. (noon) in Room 2.

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play we will study a number of the prophets from the Old Testament. Much has changed since creation. The People of God have been freed from slavery, ruled their own country, been defeated, carried off into exile, and returned to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem. God had been with them all the way--but they had not always been with God. The prophets' job was to show the people, the king and the priests when they turned away from God. We learn that prophets still exist today and continue to help all of us know the true way to live.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is discussing the book, "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humanity", by Yuval Noah Harari. This book explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be "human". We meet weekly at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library on Wednesdays. All are welcome to join us. Please read Chapters 7 and 8 for this coming Wednesday.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ascension House. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 AM in Room 6, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel; a good time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Tai Chi will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Attention all Worship Leaders (and those interested in becoming a worship leader)

I will be preparing the new worship roster for the months of January, February and March shortly; if there you have any black-out dates for that period, or any changes specific to those months, please let me know as soon as possible. I won't be able to make any changes to the roster after December 9th. My email is sari.stoddard@verizon.net, and my cell phone is 301-325-8791 (call or text).

Thanks,
Sari Stoddard

Two Bows and Eight Strings At Ascension

Please join us for the violin and cello concert on December 16, 2018 at 4 p.m. Our guest artists are cellist Vasily Popov and young violinist Yuri Popov. The artists will present a program of baroque and classical music by Corelli, Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann, Popper, Tchaikovsky and Claire Rosser.

!Call for Folk and Christmas Music from your countries! Our guest musicians invite you to participate in the repertoire selection for this performance by sending music scores or links to sound/video recordings of the favorite Christmas songs from your countries. They would like to include a selection of Christmas melodies from the world's continents on the program. Please send the music or the links before the end of November via email to celloworld@hotmail.com. More information online: vasilypopov.com.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist



We will celebrate Thanksgiving in the spirit of gratitude for creation and how the earth God has given us supports our lives. Join us Thanksgiving Day in the main church at 10:00 a.m. for a Eucharist that will reconnect us to a sense of the goodness of creation, and creation as the body of God.

Servant Keeper—We see the Change

Thank you for updating your information and becoming familiar with Ascension's database, Servant Keeper. We can see the changes you've made to your addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses; we can also see that some of you have uploaded pictures of yourselves. This is amazing. Let me encourage you to continue to spread the word to others on how easy it is to get into the database and navigate it. I'm sure you've discovered how to see your contributions and print statements as needed. I hope you have found this to be a valuable tool and continue finding yourself entering the portal.

If you have not had the opportunity to log into Servant Keeper or are having difficulties logging in, please let me know.

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at office@ascensionmd.org or stop by the office.

Lin Keene

Our Choir is Recruiting New Members!

A new and exciting musical opportunity awaits you! The Ascension Choir is currently recruiting new members. Singers of all ages, abilities, and voice parts are welcome to participate. If you're interested, come visit our weekly choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room- no audition required and no strings attached.

We'd love to see you there! Questions? Contact Andrew Kullberg, music@ascensionmd.org

Continuing the Collection of Items for ComfortCases

The inspiring sermon in September by Robert Scheer, founder of ComfortCases, has prompted many congregants to ask what more we can do to help this local non-profit organization bring dignity and hope to youth entering foster care. We will continue to have a bin in the narthex for collecting additional travel-sized toiletry items. Further information on ways to help the organization—from donating pajamas to helping pack comfort cases—can be found at www.comfortcases.org. The organization is housed at 15825 Shady Grove Road, Suite 60, Rockville, MD 20850; phone: 202-253-0402.

Ascension Youth Group—Today

The use group will meet today evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the church undercroft. Dinner will be provided, then we have an interactive formation discussion and end with fun and exciting games-some with prizes! Please text Trevor with any questions. 301-920-4267.

Also, after discussions with a few parents we will NOT have a Youth Group Thanksgiving Weekend Nov 25th. So this Sunday is the only YG in November-so please plan to attend! Also this Sunday we will decide where and what to do for our holiday party on December 9th!

Javier - Spiritual Retreat

This week from this evening to Wednesday evening Javier will be in a Spiritual Retreat at Loyola on the Potomac, A Jesuit retreat House in Faulkner, MD. If you have a pastoral emergency feel free to contact The Rev. Nan or The Rev. Deacon Eugene.

Sermon Series: Sharing your Faith in the 21st Century

For the season of Advent, our preachers will be presenting a sermon series on the "Call to Evangelism of the 21st Century". Each Sunday, we will address the topic of spreading the Gospel according to our Lord Jesus Christ within the context of the Advent Collects and Readings. We look forward to a dialogue about Episcopal Evangelism with you as the series progresses. The series starts Advent I on December 2nd and ends on Advent IV December 23rd. Parishioners may wish to read the readings for those Sundays in advance of the sermon series to prepare. They can be found on the internet on "The Lectionary Page" or, in advance in the Sunday Bulletins published on our website .

Blessings,

Javier and Nan

Men's Shelter Lunch Program



The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month. The next program will be November 18 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/>

Ministerio Felicidad

Ascension members prepare lunches and send love and prayers to day laborers in the neighborhood of the church. Join Javier at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 24 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Montgomery Hospice

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit hospice that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. We provide professional end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities and at Casey House, our acute care facility. We are looking for new volunteers. Our greatest need is for volunteers to visit patients. These volunteers provide companionship for patients, respite for family members, lavender oil hand massages, music by the bedside or help with practical matters. Many provide the gift of "presence" by simply being with a patient. All volunteers go through an application process.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 7, 2018



85 Pledges for the total of \$\$208,472.00 and 2 FRF donations for \$504

Thanks to those below who have pledged last week to the annual giving campaign:

- ◆ Peter & Ellen Minderman
- ◆ Gina Fera
- ◆ Charles Dickson
- ◆ Abrahan & Christine Kroma
- ◆ Ruby King
- ◆ Margaret Tellu
- ◆ Esther J Tellu
- ◆ Isaac & Josephine Clarke

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Javier’s Cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card on the table in the Narthex or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
mebudde@edow.org, 202.537.6550

Priest in Charge –The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

Pastoral Associate–The Rev. Nan Hildebrand, voice mailbox 13
hildebrandnan@gmail.com

Deacon–Eugene Wright

Minister of Music–Andrew Kullberg
music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Media Specialist–Eleni Hailu
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Mardia Dennis,
mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com
and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2019: Rose Buck, Janet King, John Pruessner
2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters,
Susan McLaughlin
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi ~ Christian
Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker ~
Facilities: Ted Bedell ~ John Prussener
Finance: Avin Lalmansingh ~ Mission: Paul Boynton ~
Pastoral Care: Nan Hildebrand ~
Personnel: Jean Cohn ~
Worship: Gary McLaughlin, Curt Lindsay

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay
Alternate: Fredy Diaz

Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with
ours: St. Margaret’s Parish, DC
Charlie’s Place Feeding Program, St. Margaret’s Parish
Veterans’ Day (November 11) - Pray for all military
veterans, chaplains, personnel and their families
Ordination Service (November 17) - Pray for those who are
being ordained

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, November 12

OFFICE CLOSED

- 11:30 a.m. Living with a Chronic Illness—Room 1
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, November 13

- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Spanish Bible Study—Library
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, November 14

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Book Group—Library
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:30 p.m. Worship Committee—Library
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers’ Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, November 15

- 10:00 am. Yoga—Room 6
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Room 6
- 6:30 p.m. Al Anon/Spanish—Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 16

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program—Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program—Library

Saturday, November 17

- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, November 18

Preacher: Peggy Ruppel

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
- 9:30 a.m. Men’s Shelter Lunches
- 10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3+ year olds & under – Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 2
- 10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas—Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s—Room 1
- 12:00 p.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Main Church
- 6:00 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam —Chapel

| Attendance | October 21 | October 28 | November 4 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 8:00a.m. | 27 | 21 | 53 |
| 10:00 a.m. | 100 | 127 | 150 |
| 12:00p.m. | 61 | 58 | 40 |
| Total: | 188 | 206 | 243 |