

The Tidings

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
Phone: 337-232-2732 www.ascensionlafayette.com



OUR DOORS ARE OPEN

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Summer Schedule through Labor Day

Ascension Online

Until we are ALL able to meet safely together, those who are high risk of COVID-19 are encouraged to continue to worshipping at home with family or in small groups practicing safe distancing. Meanwhile, the following are available online.



ZOOM is a free online meeting application. Download the app and email us if you want to participate in any particular activity. It is easy! [Join us!](#)

ASCENSION ACADEMY

a (virtual) Rector's Forum
ZOOM in on Wednesdays at 7 PM

SIGN UP to EXPLORE
The Biblical Story
The Christian Faith
The Episcopal Church
with
The Rev'd Joseph Daly
and
The Rev'd Palmer Kennedy

Join this Wednesday night study if you are interested in joining the church or simply deepening your understanding.

church.rector@ascensionlafayette.com



Staying Home?
We Understand

Tune in to YouTube
Sundays at 10:30 AM
for a livestream of the service

at

ascensionlafayette.com/youtube

no sign up required

The Episcopal Church
of the Ascension
1030 Johnston Street
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501
Address correction requested

Non-Profit Organization
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Rector
The Rev. Joseph E. Daly
church.rector@ascensionlafayette.com

Chaplain
The Rev. Palmer B. Kennedy
pkennedy@ascensionbluegators.org

Deacon
The Rev. C. S. Honey Becker
deacon@ascensionlafayette.com

Tidings Deadline-August 20

E-mail submissions to:
deacon@ascensionlafayette.com

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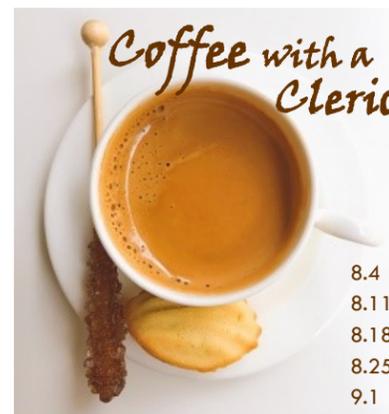
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YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR Our Vestry and Clergy, Pit Hesterly, Julian Christopher Buuck, Stephen, Sandie Jordan, Barbara Myers, Joyce McClellan, Janet Tessier, Christopher Anglin, Lynn, Charles Lutes, Gerald Delaunay, Lila, Bob King, Mary McIntosh, Frank Parratt, Karen Gallet, Lisa Bordelon, Maggie Patin, Richard, Janet, Jamie, Ken Wade, Nita, Ryan Green, Billy Hall, Hazel, Marvin, Ainsleigh, Katie, Mary Fay Freshley, Michael Reed, Nicholas Blonski, Margret DeLarue, Catherine Elizabeth, Henry, Tim and Sarah, Emily Taylor, Lee, Alison Higginbotham, Renee Reina, Tammy Carpenter, Dr Kerri Rimmel, Rebecca Jayne, Gwen Bernard, James Alan Vaughn, Sawyer Billeaud, Paul, Benita, Marie Julie, Jimmy, William and Ann Shower, Laura, Maddox, Curtis Melancon, Charlene, Faye V. Turner, Hedy Stevens, Louise Haddock, Virginia Bercegeay, Lisa Karre, Yvonne Aitken, Father Gary Schexnayder, Miller, Howard, Ann Dobie, Nagham El Karhili, Pam Capell, Kasey, Jack Larmier, David, Judy Roberts, Carlin Craig,

Kasey, Sharon, Kristen, Carolyn Barker, Melissa Barker, Jonathan Barker, Catherine McGowen, Linda Weems, Jim, Carol Baker, Charles McGowen, Angela Roy, John Bateman, Colette House, Arthur White, Sammy, Albert Davis, Lou Ann St. Julien, Thomas, Phyllis Huval, Katherine Attrep, Michael Blevins, Mike Blevins, Maty Blevins, Carli Blevins, Mike and Shirley Godwin, Jan and Charles, David, Thomas Rowe, Theresa, Connie Priest, Corrine, Marci Lecky, Angie Touchet, Dr. Jim Rotchford, Hammy Davis, Lou Oliver, Martha Green, Rodney Ledoux, Ronnie Pendergraft, Mary and Irby Olivier, Farin Gougierrez, Beck B., Ann Patin, Nick Georges, Emily Kean, Ashley Alexander, Kennedy Shuler, Josh Menard, Christopher Hebert, Marion, Joyce Harvilchuch, Cassandra Bernard, Roslyn Fouin, Chad Vidrine, Andy Andrus, Julie Guidry, Patsy, Linda Weiner, Bill Boston, Allan Voss, Rick Onks, Mark Buddy and Carmina, Kaytlin, Diane, Judy Herman, Sterling Lejeune, The Kruger Family, Jane Cabes, Troy LeBoeuf, Kaye Womack, Dave Cheshire, Stephen Casanova, Aubrey Braithwaite, Sylvia Turner, Susie Tucker, Anson Lindsay, Roxanne Myers, Andrew D., The Wilson Family, Mary Beth Tompkins, Donald Shaffer, friends and family serving in the armed services. (Names stay on the prayers list for three weeks unless otherwise requested.)



email your cleric at least two hours before the ZOOM meeting to receive your invitation

Every **Tuesday at 10 AM** you are invited to (virtually) meet and share a cup of joe and casual conversation with your clergy online via ZOOM.

- 8.4 The Rev'd Joseph Daly
- 8.11 The Rev'd Honey Becker
- 8.18 The Rev'd Joseph Daly
- 8.25 The Rev'd Honey Becker
- 9.1 The Rev'd Joseph Daly
- 9.8 The Rev'd Honey Becker

Wine Wednesdays: a NEW Opportunity for (virtual) FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to meet Wednesday afternoons at 4 PM to share fellowship and conversation with your clergy via ZOOM.

- 8.5 The Rev'd Honey Becker
- 8.12 The Rev'd Joseph Daly
- 8.19 The Rev'd Joseph Daly
- 8.26 The Rev'd Joseph Daly
- 9.2 The Rev'd Honey Becker
- 9.9 The Rev'd Joseph Daly



From the Rector

Every week, we gather around the table and pray, "It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth." And it is especially important to do so now as we wrestle with the daily challenges that the coronavirus presents to us, our families, our churches, our communities, the country and the world. Our circumstances are continually shifting. Vacation, work, church, school, weddings, funerals even grocery shopping can change one day to the next. Frustrated, we slip into disappointment, loneliness, anger, even despair. A posture of thanksgiving keeps us attentive to our Heavenly Father who made us, knows us, and loves us. We count our blessings as much as our troubles before the One who abides with us always and in every circumstance. "It is right, and a good and joyful thing."

So many of us cannot gather. The virus and subsequent restrictions necessitate our patient obedience to those in authority, especially our bishop and governor for whom we pray for wisdom and strength. Still, Ascension's ministries continue, albeit in a way that we have never been accustomed. And without your continued support we could not keep the church open during these tough times. I am thankful to those who have stepped up their giving to support our parish budget. Your continued prayers and steadfast faith

still remain Ascension's greatest strength, and I look forward to the day when we ALL can come back to church to pray together and enjoy each other's fellowship.

In the meantime, our gathered weekly worship will remain livestreamed for those who chose to participate from home. Sometimes technology frustrates or fails us but we persevere and thank you for your patience. We also continue to meet online for study and fellowship, whether it is Tuesday's coffee with the clergy, wine on Wednesdays, or our weekly theological conversations on Ascension Academy. And, in the coming days, Deacon Honey Becker will begin an online midweek service of noonday prayers for the health of our parish, the nation and the world. *Stay tuned!*

I am grateful for our volunteers who have made these online communities of fellowship, study, worship and prayer possible. Your church clergy, staff, musicians, and vestry all strive to enable us to give thanks, literally (in Greek), *eucharist*. Together, we lift up one another as we lift up our hearts to the Lord our God, to give him thanks and praise always and everywhere.

From The Treasurer

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 1 Peter 2:21

As you know, our church has again (and again) reopened for services, though under strict conditions, with restrictions imposed on us by the State, the Diocese, and good sense. These reduced numbers continue to impact our balance sheet in a strongly negative way.

With June, we are half of the way through our budget year. Thankfully our pledge income is holding up, and we have received 56% of our pledge budget for the year, which is about average compared to the previous five years. Looked at more closely though in June we received only 84% of the monthly pledge budget (up from 49% in May). Even worse are the non-pledge contributions and plate offerings which down by 52% and 63% respectively, leaving us with an income shortage of over \$12,200 for the month. Our total income shortfall for the months of May and June combined was over \$41,000. This is obviously an area of concern.

Our expenses are all well below budget for which I am only somewhat thankful. Thanks to our Bishop, the Diocesan Asking was forgiven for April, May and June, which has helped our budget considerably. We received funds through the CARES Act (Also known as the Payroll Protection Program) which have been of major assistance in helping make payroll, but these funds are now exhausted. Our total expenses for May were \$5,571.07, while for June they were \$51,448.55, (this reflects the end of the PPP money). Our expenses on a year to date basis are low, but this reflects both the assistance we have received and the significant reduction in utilities, maintenance,

worship related expenses, and others. As I told the Vestry, having expenses so far below budget is nice, but it reinforces the fact the things are not normal.

With the end of the PPP funding and the resumption of Diocesan Asking we will again be facing a normal budget on the expense side. My concern is that until services resume on their normal basis, our income will not come close to matching those expenses. It is therefore critical that any pledgers who are able to do so keep their pledge current. Those members who contribute but do not pledge are strongly encouraged to continue to do so whether via mail, Venmo, or by dropping it in the plate as you attend a service.

These are indeed unusual and for some very difficult times. We are all members of the Ascension family, whether we attend the reduced services, or watch them remotely. I pray that you all remain safe and healthy, and that you continue to hold fast to your faith. Please wear a mask when appropriate; if Jesus could suffer crucifixion for us, we can wear a mask for the sake of those we know and love.

Frank F. Limouze



You can support your parish using Venmo, the app that automatically deposits funds using your mobile device.



@Ascension-Lafayette



TRANSITION MINISTRY

YOGA

Connie Lavergne will lead us in our chair yoga classes on Thursday mornings at 10:00. They will be on ZOOM so there is no need to even leave your house! And, you will still get the benefit of some socializing with friends as well as great exercise!

A few of the benefits of this type of yoga are:

- increased flexibility
- improved strength
- reduced stress and pain
- and better sleep

Our planned time frame is Sept. 10 until Dec. 10. We will re-evaluate at that time.

Hope to see you there!

Please contact Connie or the Rev. Honey Becker if you need more information and/or if you plan to join us.

BOOK CLUB

Dr. Ann Dobie will facilitate our book club this fall on Friday mornings at 10:00. This will also be a ZOOM session. The book chosen is *Mission Walker*. As she explains:

"Under siege from relentless stage 4 cancer and after losing her right lung, Edie Littlefield Sundby undertook a healing 1600-mile walk along the El Camino Real de los Californias mission trail through the mountains of Baja Mexico and the Sonoran Desert to northern California.

She experienced desert heat and cold, walls of cactus, sleeplessness and hunger, both physical and spiritual exhaustion, the dangers of wild creatures, and encounters with drug smugglers—and weeks without water other than what a pack mule could carry.

It is both an adventure story and a reflection on the universal experience of confronting our own mortality. It is a story of what we will do with our time left on earth, and how much do we still really, truly want to live. Edie's faith carried her through her adventure and into life again. As she has said, "I feel alive when I'm outside walking with God along the old mission trail."

We hope you join us for this amazing read. Our 6-week sessions for this book will be Friday, Sept. 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9 and 16. Books can be ordered online.

The next book we are considering is *Year of Wonders*, a bestselling historical fiction novel by Geraldine Brooks.

FALL SCHEDULE

FOOD WITH FRIENDS

Frank Limouze and a few other Ascension members and serious foodie friends, will gift us all with their ministry, which many of you already know, is cooking!!!

They will each demonstrate a few of their favorite dishes and you may be able to cook along with them if you'd like.

These cooking classes will take place on Monday mornings at 10:00 via ZOOM. They will begin on Monday, Sept. 14 and will run until Dec. 7.

We have been promised some really good dishes and knowing these chefs, there will be more than a few laughs along the way!

And, if you would like to demonstrate **your** culinary expertise as part of this ministry, call Frank at 781-4378.

Join us for food that will nourish your bodies and a good time that will nourish your souls!

Please contact Frank or Rev. Honey Becker if you have questions and if you plan to join us.

TRANSITIONS: Deacon Becker

The Fall Schedule will begin the day after Labor Day and will end at 2nd Sunday of Advent. We will take a Christmas break and begin our Spring Schedule after New Years.

We continue with some of the programs you have requested and our response to the "healthy aging" segment has taken a new twist with some of our favorite chefs who have stepped in; many thanks to them, Connie Lavergne, Ann Dobie and Frank Limouze for all sharing their gifts.

Also, I'm delighted to add, that two of our young people in the congregation, Lauren Martin & Ava Groves have offered their computer skills to assist those who may appreciate some info with ZOOM. And, considering this is the way we are "gathering", this is indeed helpful. If you are interested, please contact Rev Becker.

Also, when I am scheduled at the cleric on Tuesdays, I will share tales of my travels in The Holy Land. And, I am encouraging all who attend, to share some of their own travel stories as well. It should be great fun; hope to see you there!

By the looks of our new schedule, we can all gather on ZOOM every day of the week to pray, laugh, cook, exercise, read, discuss and share! God is good! We have much to be thankful for!

ASCENSION SLATES ONLINE



We are delighted to invite you to shop online for those slates that were procured after the replacement of the old roof of our historic A. Hays Town church building. After the removal, many local artists painted the slates and the sale assisted us in raising funds to support our In-reach and Outreach Ministries. We sold many and we have some that we would like to offer at this time. This unique opportunity will be available from 9:00am on Monday, August 3 through midnight on Sunday, August 16. To view and purchase the slates please visit <https://ascension.cbo.io>. After purchase, they can be picked up at the church office. Please remember that you must wear a mask and observe social distancing at this time.

After August 16, the slates will be available at a local gallery.

Please contact Rev. Honey Becker at the church office at 337-232-2732 if you have any questions or if you need additional information about the slates. If you have questions regarding the online and website issue or problems with the process, please contact Stacie Belle at stacie478@aol.com.

Again, thank you for your continued support and enjoy your beautiful pieces of history and art!