

The Messenger



Ascension Lutheran Church, 5730 SE 28th St,
Ocala, FL 34480 Ph: 352-624-0066
On the web at ascensionocala.com

AUGUST
2023



COMPASSION

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If you were part of worship on Sunday, August 6, or watched our You Tube service at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSCCPOEIRIDVNciYL6WcMXA>, you are aware that the message preached, based on the Gospel lesson from Matthew 14:13-21, was about compassion.

Jesus has been informed of the murder of his cousin John (the Baptist), and desires to be alone for a while. Matthew tells us, *“Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and healed their sick.”*

Compassion is not sympathy. Jesus does not just feel sorry for them. He does not say, “This is very sad and I wish I could do something. However, there are

just so many, and besides, I have some very deep hurts of my own to contend with.” He does something very different, he has compassion.

Compassion is a willingness to enter into the suffering of another person. It is a desire to share their suffering, to understand their hurt and pain, to attempt, with God's help, to bring some healing.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the pastor in Nazi Germany who opposed Hitler, smuggled Jewish people out of Germany, headed up an underground Seminary, and who was murdered in a concentration camp days before the camps liberation, once wrote:

“We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer.”

Jesus shows compassion. Later he feeds over 5,000 people, and yes, that is a miracle. I think another miracle precedes that one. It is Jesus' compassion.

Cont. on pg. 3





My brothers and sisters in Christ,

I was gone for a couple of weeks in July, and it was amazing to see the church transformed by paint! Wow! I told Otto that I had never really noticed nor admired the beautiful brick on the front of the Fellowship Hall before, and I find all of the trim eye-catching. **There is more maintenance work to be done...roof leak, drywall patching, etc...but we should all be so satisfied with the results.** The audiovisual system is equally impressive. The personal attention given to Ascension by those we hired is unparalleled. Again, it's just a Wow!

So all the people said: Thanks be to God!

Much appreciation goes out to everyone who has helped with these major projects as well as to those providing the love, care, and hard work behind Vacation Bible School. We have another opportunity to reach into the community coming up. Council is buttoning up plans on an exciting, old-fashioned Fall Festival to be held on church grounds September 16 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM; exciting details will follow shortly.

We're also glad to hang together as a community to learn about scam protection, to celebrate birthdays and other life events, to care for each other in times of need and sadness, and to worship our Lord.

Thank you for ALL you do. God be with us.

Deanne Kells



From the Pastor

Cont. from pg. 1

I said in Sundays' message that I'd list some Biblical verses on compassion. A sample follows:

“Shout for joy, you heavens, rejoice you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.” Isaiah 49:13

“I will tell of the kindness of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us - yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindness.” Isaiah 63:7

“The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.” Psalm 145:8-9

“Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.” Psalm 112:4

Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” Colossians 3:12

These are wonderful and comforting verses that speak to the compassion of God! Compassion is not reserved for God alone. As people of God in Christ Jesus, we too are called to engage in compassion. May God enable our growth in compassion, love, and grace through the Holy Spirit at work in us. May we allow God to guide us as we seek to respond to a hurting world with acts of compassion.

*In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Chuck*



Vacation Bible School (VBS)
July 17-21 from 9:30-11:30am







M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Scam Prevention

Join us at...

Don't fall for



phone scams

Ascension Lutheran Church

5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala, FL 34480

352-624-0066

www.ascensionocala.com

Saturday August 26, 2023 from 10:00am-11:00am



Our guest speaker from the Marion County Sheriffs Department will share ways that you can protect yourself from scams. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

This subject is rapidly gaining much needed attention to safeguard us from being cheated, tricked, or fraudulently taken advantage of.

Ascension Lutheran Church cordially invites you to attend. There is NO cost and light refreshments will be provided.



Daily Scripture Readings for AUGUST

Tue – Aug 1	1 Kings 4:29-34	Ephesians 6:10-18	Psalm 119:121-128	
Wed – Aug 2	Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33	Mark 4:30-34	Psalm 119:121-128	
Thu – Aug 3	Proverbs 10:1-5	Philippians 4:10-15	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	
Fri – Aug 4	Isaiah 51:17-23	Romans 9:6-13	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	
Sat – Aug 5	Isaiah 44:1-5	Matthew 7:7-11	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	
Sunday Aug 6	Isaiah 55:1-5	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Mon – Aug 7	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	Romans 1:8-15	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29	
Tue – Aug 8	Deuteronomy 26:1-15	Acts 2:37-47	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29	
Wed – Aug 9	Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35	Matthew 15:32-39	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29	
Thu – Aug 10	1 Kings 18:1-16	Acts 17:10-15	Psalm 85:8-13	
Fri – Aug 11	1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40	Acts 18:24-28	Psalm 85:8-13	
Sat – Aug 12	1 Kings 18:41-46	Matthew 16:1-4	Psalm 85:8-13	
Sunday Aug 13	1 Kings 19:9-18	Psalm 85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
Mon – Aug 14	Genesis 7:11—8:5	2 Peter 2:4-10	Psalm 18:1-19	
Tue – Aug 15	Genesis 19:1-29	Romans 9:14-29	Psalm 18:1-19	
Wed – Aug 16	Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24	Matthew 8:23-27	Psalm 18:1-19	
Thu – Aug 17	Isaiah 45:20-25	Revelation 15:1-4	Psalm 67	
Fri – Aug 18	Isaiah 63:15-19	Acts 14:19-28	Psalm 67	
Sat – Aug 19	Isaiah 56:1-5	Matthew 14:34-36	Psalm 67	
Sunday Aug 20	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Psalm 67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
Mon – Aug 21	2 Kings 5:1-14	Acts 15:1-21	Psalm 87	
Tue – Aug 22	Isaiah 43:8-13	Romans 11:13-29	Psalm 87	
Wed – Aug 23	Isaiah 66:18-23	Matthew 8:1-13	Psalm 87	
Thu – Aug 24	Ezekiel 28:11-19	1 Corinthians 6:1-11	Psalm 138	
Fri – Aug 25	Ezekiel 31:15-18	2 Corinthians 10:12-18	Psalm 138	
Sat – Aug 26	Ezekiel 36:33-38	Matthew 16:5-12	Psalm 138	
Sunday Aug 27	Isaiah 51:1-6	Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
Mon – Aug 28	1 Samuel 7:3-13	Romans 2:1-11	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32	
Tue – Aug 29	Deuteronomy 32:18-20, 28-39	Romans 11:33-36	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32	
Wed – Aug 30	Isaiah 28:14-22	Matthew 26:6-13	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32	
Thu – Aug 31	Jeremiah 14:13-18	Ephesians 5:1-6	Psalm 26:1-8	



8/01 Gabriel Tighe
 8/05 Gene Duffey
 8/19 Louise McCallon
 8/21 Jane Kurtz



AUG. 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 am—Quilting	3	4	5
6 Tenth Week After Pentecost 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion	7 5:30pm—AA	8	9 9:00 am—Quilting	10	11	12
13 Eleventh Week After Pentecost 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion Council Meeting after service	14 5:30pm—AA	15	16 9:00 am—Quilting	17	18	19
20 Twelfth Week After Pentecost 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion August birthdays after service	21 5:30pm—AA	22	23 9:00 am—Quilting	24	25	26
27 Thirteenth Week After Pentecost 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion	28 5:30pm—AA	29	30 9:00 am—Quilting	31		