



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA

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# THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA



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1415 Dopp Street  
Waukesha, WI 53188



## MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## FRIDAY

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

### Lead Pastor

Rev. Christian W. Marien  
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### Interim Pastor

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[Pastorbecky@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Pastorbecky@ascensionelca.org)

### Pastor

Rev. Ted Romberg (Retired)  
[TRomberg@wi.rr.com](mailto:TRomberg@wi.rr.com)

### Director of Administration

Amy Gilgenbach  
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### Director of Care Ministries

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### Director of Music Ministries

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### Director of Youth Ministries

Tony Acompanado  
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## SUPPORT STAFF

### Administrator for Joyful Worship and Spiritual Growth

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### Custodians

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and Tim Minkley

### Nursery Staff

Rachel Stemper  
Michelle Heimlich

### Wedding Coordinator

Lauri Eckmann  
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## CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

### President

Barbara Nordberg  
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### 1st Vice-President

Eric Friedrichsohn  
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### 2nd Vice-President

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### Secretary

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Marcy Schaefer [marcymyschaefer@yahoo.com](mailto:marcymyschaefer@yahoo.com)

### Director of Ministries

Vacant

### Director of Operations

Peter Laper  
[PLaper@oldenburggroup.com](mailto:PLaper@oldenburggroup.com)

## MUSIC STAFF

### Adult & Children's Choir Director

Vicki Taylor  
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### House Band Leader

Ben Janzow  
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### Handbell Choir Director

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### Pianist

Ray Kinney  
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### Organists

Vicki Taylor  
Rhonda Kwiecien  
[rhonda.kwiecien@gmail.com](mailto:rhonda.kwiecien@gmail.com)

## LOOKING TO THE HORIZON

*Pastor Chris Marien*

Dear People of God,

“Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior.” The words of the prophet Habakkuk call us to life in this season of Epiphany. Epiphany offers us the opportunity to live in the tension of remembering our celebration of Christmas and already looking to the horizon of Lent. We have only just gathered at the manger with the magi and already we are anticipating the shadows of Good Friday. We live in a season of “give and take” during Epiphany—the same is true of the life the congregation of Ascension Lutheran Church is living these days.

You and I are called to live in relationship with God in Jesus Christ. We are called to share the joy of that relationship with each and every person we meet throughout our day. We often shy away from sharing the joy of who we are as God’s children. We are afraid that our sharing will cause embarrassment and awkwardness with our co-workers, our family members, even our closest friends. Yet, we are called, summoned really, to the feet of our Savior to hear more of the story and go into the world with joy. Our sharing comes in many forms—the sound of our voice; the work of our hands; the step of our feet; even the path of our car as we drive (where do our cars take us?). Each, in its own way, shares the story of Jesus. How does your voice, your hands, your feet, the path of your car share the story of your relationship with God for the world to see?

We are called to be the Body of Christ together to the glory of God. We are called to share the story when we gather together and when we are alone. We are called to bear God’s image into the world, and that, my friends, is not easy. “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior.” Habakkuk offers a proclamation of faith for God’s people. It is a word of hope and joy that the whole people of God need to hear time and time again. And it should be our prayer that this word of hope and joy is found in and through each of us.

This month we welcome our new Director of Youth Ministries, Tony Acompañado. He will be a wonderful gift to the youth ministries and to our whole community. He brings a passion for Jesus Christ, incredible energy, and a depth of faith that will continue to serve the kingdom of God in this time and place. Please give thanks for his presence among us and for his entire family – Tony’s wife, Lori; Savannah (16); Zachary (10); and Isabella (7). What a wonderful gift of God to Ascension in this season of Epiphany. Please hold Tony and his family in your prayers as they transition churches and join us in ministry.

It is also important for us to celebrate the installation and work of the call team as they have begun the process of discernment as we seek God’s will for our community with the extension of a call to another pastor to join us in mission and ministry. I invite you to keep Don Krueger (chair), Steve Boyer, Marcy Schaefer, Paul James, Bonnie Siegel, Eric Hoelzl, Sarah Wehmeier de Aparicio, and Lee Ehrlich (council liaison) in your prayers.

And just when you thought your prayer list was full...I invite you to also offer prayers for Chris Holloway and Rob Stryker, our co-chairs for the 2014-2017 Debt Retirement Campaign. The leadership structure is beginning to solidify as we look to the close of our Vision Ascension campaign at the end of April and prepare for our Ascension Arise Campaign, which will finally retire our debt and allow us to look to the future of Ascension with great joy and possibility and without any mortgage to slow us down!

**Much to celebrate! Much to consider! Much to do to the glory of God! I can’t wait! See you in church.**

## BREAD OF LIFE, BODY OF CHRIST

*Pastor Becky Fetters*



Each week that I am with you, I am blessed and honored to stand at the front of the sanctuary and serve communion to God's gathered people. Since I arrived in October, we have begun using "real" bread at communion, rather than communion wafers. (Just for the record, wafers are "real" bread too, just in a different form). And each week, as I stand there and speak the words, "The body of Christ, given for you," I am struck by the rich symbolism of the loaf I hold in my hands, in contrast to the wafers that we sometimes use for communion.

Churches have used wafers for centuries, and there are some things to recommend them. They are neat, by which I mean they don't crumble when you place them in someone's hands. They don't break off crumbs into the wine if you are using them for intinction (dipping the bread into the cup). They don't go stale (though some folks might argue that they kind of seem stale to begin with!). They are uniform in size and shape – everyone gets the same thing, every time. There is usually an ample supply tucked away in the sacristy (the room where we keep the worship supplies and worship leaders put on their robes) so the chances of running out at a given service or morning are slim. They're just generally convenient.

Compare that to the loaves of bread we've begun to use here at Ascension. We cannot buy several months' worth at once and store them away. They're too big to hold many in the freezer, and they would go bad pretty quickly otherwise. Bread is messy; as we break off pieces for each person who comes forward with open hands to receive this gift, crumbs fall into the napkin (and hopefully not onto the floor). Each piece that is broken from the loaf is a unique size and shape, and sometimes it ends up being too big to chew and swallow easily before we make it to the wine that is waiting. (I always say that the body of Christ is something worth chewing on for a while, both literally and metaphorically, but I promise that I try to make them manageable bite-sized pieces). Though we never have, it is more conceivable that we could run out of bread at a given worship service or have someone forget to bring it to church when they are supposed to.

Using bread loaves has its potential drawbacks, but I love the symbolism beneath it, because as we receive the body of Christ, we become, together, the body of Christ. And we are a messy lot. Broken. Crumbling around the edges at times. Taking on different sizes and shapes. We worry at times that what we have to offer may not be enough, and we can find each other a bit more than we care to take sometimes. Yet it is beautiful, this messy, crumbly body of Christ. In this bread of life and in each other, we see glimpses of the great feast that is to come, and we are nourished for the journey ahead. What a blessing to share this meal together!

Feasting with you.

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Ascension's new website is coming this month!

## YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

*Barbara Nordberg, Council President*

At January's council meeting, our first agenda item was an update from the Call Team. The discussion centered on the title of the pastor we are planning to call. After some thought and discussion, we approved the title of "Pastor." Current philosophy indicates that congregations are moving away from using "associate pastor" or "assistant pastor."

We reviewed the questions that have been addressed to us regarding the 2014 budget. These included, questions asked at the Budget Forum on Sunday, January 19; questions asked at the Welcome Center; and questions sent via email. We appreciated these inquiries as they gave us new views to consider.

Mary Ellen Comp, co-chair of the Mutual Ministries Team, gave us an update of the process for conducting staff reviews. Reviews are conducted annually by the Mutual Ministries Team members.

Ascension will be 65 years-old on September 14, 2014. Set aside the date to praise God for the many blessings bestowed on us these last 65 years. At this time, we only have the date and planning will begin shortly.

We made two appointments: Shirley Wehmeier as Mission Outreach Wing Leader; and Matt Johnson as Financial Development Team Leader.

We thank Riley Cooper, who led the Mission Outreach Wing and resigned due to a move to Virginia. We also thank Kerry Friedrichshon, who thoughtfully led the Financial Development Team.

With regrets, we accepted the resignation of Erica Probst as Council Member at Large. Marcy Schaefer was approved to complete Erica's term.



## CALL TEAM UPDATE

*Don Krueger, Call Team Chair*

Over the past month the Call Team, which is charged with the task of recommending to the congregation another pastor to be added to our ministry team, has met several times. One of these meetings included a representative from the Greater Milwaukee Synod, Pastor Paula Canby, who reviewed the call process with us.

We are now preparing the form, called the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), which will be submitted to council for approval and then sent to the synod to be matched with candidates who are available for Call. The MSP describes our congregation and identifies what we see as our pastoral needs. On the last page of the newsletter is a survey to find out what you think those needs are and to reflect those thoughts in the final document. Please fill it out by Feb. 16 and return it to the church office or drop them in the offering plate on Sunday. You can also fill it out on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JXPZC6Q>. After the MSP is sent to the synod it will take about four weeks for them to send us information on three potential candidates for interview.

Call Team members include: Don Krueger (chair), Pastor Chris, Steve Boyer, Eric Hoelzl, Paul James, Bonnie Siegel, Sarah Wehmeier de Aparicio, and Lee Ehrlich (council liason).



## VISION ASCENSION

*Dave Hammer*

At the end of 2013, the Vision Ascension campaign to reduce Ascension's Goliath debt has been under way for 32 months. Significant progress has been made toward reducing Ascension's debt.



- The original amount pledged: \$1,140,508
- The amount received through 12/31/13: \$ 940,184
- 297 people have contributed through 12/31/13.
  - 196 of those who gave made a pledge.
  - Half of those who pledged have fulfilled their pledge.
  - Half of those who pledged still have an opportunity to fulfill their pledge.
  - 101 of those who have given did not make a pledge.
- The impact has been significant.
  - The amount of debt paid down: \$888,000
  - The amount of interest saved: \$ 57,600
- What happens in 2014?
  - The Vision Ascension campaign officially ends April 30, 2014.
  - Anticipated additional contributions of: \$ 35,000 - \$ 40,000
  - Estimated total receipts of: \$975,000 - \$980,000
  - Estimated remaining debt: \$1,160,000
  - A new campaign, "Ascension Arise," will begin in an effort to attack the remaining debt.

A great big THANK YOU goes out to all those who have participated in and given to the Vision Ascension campaign. Your faithfulness and generosity have made a major impact on the current and future ministries of Ascension. Your continued faithfulness and generosity, by keeping your pledge or making a contribution, is still needed through the end of the campaign in order to meet our goal.

## LOVE YOUR CHURCH, LOVE YOUR WORLD MONTH



**BEGINS FEBRUARY 2 , 2014**



### CHURCH KEY COLLECTION

We are running low on church keys. If you were issued a key to the church, and you realize that you no longer need it, please turn it into the church office. Thank you!

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

We are pleased to welcome Tony Acompanado to Ascension as our new Director of Youth Ministries. Tony, his wife Lori, and their children, Savannah (16), Zachary (10), and Isabella (7) are excited to be a part of the life and ministry here at Ascension.

Tony has been in youth ministry for more than 10 years working in congregations, on the synodical level, and with the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering where he worked behind the scenes and spoke on the main stage. He was the keynote speaker for the 2014 Greater Milwaukee Synod Youth Gathering at the end of this month.



Please take time to introduce yourselves and welcome Tony, Lori, Savannah, Zachary, and Isabella in days ahead. On a side note - Tony runs marathons - anywhere from 26.2 to 50 miles. So if you see him running down the street - DON'T PICK HIM UP! Welcome to Ascension!



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

*Jennifer Koutnik, Director of Children's Ministries*

Hello! I pray everyone is staying warm during this (very) cold winter. Sunday School has been going wonderfully. We are in a good routine. The children are enjoying that they begin in church. The children's' sermons are always a hit, thanks to our fantastic pastors!

We have had a great time correlating the sermons with the Sunday School material. Having that double message, is helpful for little minds who absorb everything. I am still looking for people (grandparents, moms, aunts, dads, uncles, cousins...) to jump in and spend those 20 minutes of the 9 a.m. service in East Hall lending a hand. It is so easy and you will get paid in adoration of some amazing kiddos! Please let me know if you would like to hang out one morning. God's Blessings on your month.

## CRASH: CHRIST REACHING AND SHARING HOPE

**CRASH schedules for February...Are you ready?**

- Feb. 2 - 12:00-2:00pm Mime Rehearsal (Parts only)
- Feb. 9 - 12:00-2:00pm Mime Rehearsal (Everyone)
- Feb. 16 - 12:00-2:00pm Mime Rehearsal (Everyone)
- Feb. 23 - 12:00-2:00pm Mime Rehearsal (Everyone)
- Feb. 9 - Talk Time with Tony + 6-8pm - Food, Games, Pick Your Brain Time
- Feb. 23 - Hang-Out with Tony + 6-8pm - Surprise Event.

## JOLT

JOLT continues to meet in the month of February. Small group sharing and large group teaching combine with conversations and games to offer the story of God to students in ways that surprise and engage. In February we meet the following Thursdays at 6:30pm...Feb. 6, Feb. 13, Feb. 20, Feb. 27.

## "THE LUTHERAN" SUBSCRIPTIONS

Ascension is changing the way we administer our group subscription to the "The Lutheran." If you want to take advantage of the discount through our group subscription, please contact Amy Gilgenbach, director of administration ([ascension@ascensiononline.org](mailto:ascension@ascensiononline.org)) by Monday, Feb. 17. The cost of a subscription through Ascension is \$11.75. If we don't have ten or more subscribers by Feb. 17, we will discontinue our group subscription, and individuals and households will need to purchase their own subscriptions at <http://www.thelutheran.org/global/form.cfm>.



## CARE MINISTRIES

Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries

*Behold, all things become new; there is a new course of life, both of faith and holiness; a new way of serving God through Christ by the Spirit, and from principles of grace. - 2 Corinthians 5:17*



The name "Health and Wholeness" was changed to the new name "Care Ministries" this past year. Although the name has changed, the ministries continue to do the same wonderful work to provide care and compassion through the generosity of all of the volunteers that give so much to support our Ministries. As the Director of Care Ministries, my hope is that we are able to grow with the needs of our congregation in 2014!

### THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

We are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for our Care Ministry Volunteers on Tuesday, Feb. 4 from 6-8 p.m. This is our special way of saying "thank you" from Ascension Care Ministries.

We thank Kay Stone for 10 years of faithful and dedicated service as the Coordinator of the Transportation Ministry as she retires from that position. We welcome Judy Franke as the new Director of Transportation Ministry. This Ministry is looking for volunteers that would like to drive members to church on Sundays. Do you have time to help drive once or twice a month? We have a member in the Minooka Park area that needs a ride once a month for the 10:45 service. Please contact Judy Franke at 547-3921 if you are interested in helping the Transportation Ministry.

### NEW LIFE MINISTRY

Are you pregnant or know a member in our congregation that will be having a baby in 2014? Our New Life Ministry has a special basket for new babies filled with beautiful keepsakes. Please contact the church office or email Jennifer

Koutnik  
[Jennifer@ascensiononline.org](mailto:Jennifer@ascensiononline.org) to let us know due dates.



### HEALTH SURVEY RESULTS

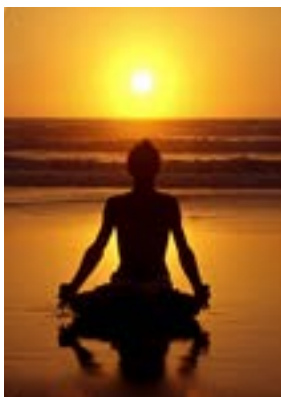
The Health Survey results are in...70% of respondents said that they would like to see an exercise program offered at our church, and the majority would like Yoga. 43% said they would like Tai Chi, 31% said they would like Zumba, and 18% said they would like Pilates. 66% prefer Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evenings. With this new data, I have been in contact with the Waukesha YMCA and we will begin a yoga class here at Ascension. Please see below for details.

### YOGA AT ASCENSION!

Looking to get out of your house and get some exercise this winter? The winter blues getting you down? Join a fun class to hang out with friends, strengthen your core, and increase your flexibility! Fun for all ages!

Join an easy 10 week class for just \$10 a person (that's only \$1 a week)! Classes will be on Monday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in East Hall. Classes start February 3 and go through April 7. Ann Hurley, a yoga instructor from the Waukesha YMCA, will teach the class.

Sign up on the Care Ministries bulletin board outside Brenda's office if interested! Bring the \$10 fee the first night of class along with a yoga mat if you have one, some will also be available.





## JANUARY BLOOD DRIVE - A SUCCESS!

Wow! We had 31 donors present at the drive and 31 units of blood come back to Blood Center for patients.

Up to 81 local-community patient lives will be saved this week because of your donations. 81 components of blood in those 31 units of blood can save up to one life each! Thank you! Ascension will be sponsoring another Blood Drive in on Saturday, May 31, from 8 a.m.-noon in West Hall. Sign-up will happen in April.



*Finn Olson, blood donation recipient, with a blood donor.*



*Pastor Chris donated too!*

## SPECIAL FRIENDS

Special Friends is in need of both adult and teen helpers. We do monthly activities that last approximately two hours, the events are listed below. A goal for our May event is to invite all Sunday School kids to become buddies with Special Friends members. Buddies are invited to all events for Special Friends.

Special Friends Ministry hopes to gain more recognition at Ascension. We want everyone to know this is an open group and anyone can join. All ages are welcome. We are all special - you don't have to have a diagnosis.

### Calendar of Events for Special Friends:

Feb. 24: Country Springs water park, 6-8 p.m.

March: McDonald's and bowling at Sunset Bowl  
No April event

May: Buddy event

June 22: Mini Golf, 12-2 p.m.

July 27: Picnic and boating at the Schroeder's house, Pewaukee Lake

Aug. 17: Church picnic and ice cream social

Sept.: Adventure laser tag (date depends on Packer schedule)

Oct.: Boo at the Zoo

Nov.: Christmas parade

Dec.: Salvation Army bell ringing Brookfield Square  
Ascension has many amazing ministries within these

## RESPITE MINISTRY

*By Nada Draeger*

Ascension has many amazing ministries within these church walls and out in the community. Yet God has been whispering in my ear for quite some time to start another one – lately it has been more like bellowing. Most of you, as I have, have had or know someone close to you who has cared for a loved one with a long-term illness or who is remaining at home in a hospice setting. Many times, this loved one can no longer be left at home alone. While many services are usually involved in managing this level of care in the home setting, the caregiver can get burned out. As the saying goes, it takes a whole village to raise of child, but this saying can also apply to this chapter in life's journey. I am starting up a new respite ministry and asking for volunteers who may feel called (or bellowed at) to join me to give non-nursing help to the caregiver. I am looking for Ascension members who would be able to volunteer up to a few hours regularly, to give a fellow brother or sister a much needed break from caregiving and to stay with their loved one so they can get out of the house. Please contact me if you are interested or have questions, Nada Draeger (262) 548-0351 or [njdraeger@msn.com](mailto:njdraeger@msn.com). I ask for your prayers for the success of this new respite ministry and for all who are or will be in need of this. A respite provider meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 11 in the Hearth Room.

## FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Mark your calendars for the free blood pressure screenings between services for our congregation. Please notice the blood pressure information posted on the bulletin outside the Care Ministries office.

**February 2**

**March 16**

**April 27**

**May 4**

## AMEN

### BY MEN, FOR MEN, TO MEN: HELPING MEN TO GROW AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



AMEN ministries will be sponsoring a Holy Week study of the movie "The Passion Of The Christ." All men are invited to join us for this event which will be April 14 – 17 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. in room 107. This special Holy Week study will include a viewing of the movie followed by discussion using the bestselling book Killing Jesus by Bill O'Reilly.

## YOUNG AT HEART



The Young at Heart Breakfast (Young at Heart, 55 years and older) is Feb. 5 at 9 a.m. at Denny's on North Grandview Blvd. Invite an old or new member of Ascension, a friend, or a neighbor to join us. Questions, please contact Gigi Gresl (414) 737-2057.

## KNIT WITS

Now's a good time to learn to knit or crochet. We can teach you. Join us for any of our events. We can provide you with yarn, needles, hooks or looms, plus we can teach you how to make hats! We'll be delivering hats and scarves throughout the winter to all our charities. Thanks again for all your support! For more information, call Maddie Goetter, 262-527-4013.



Our schedule for February:

Feb.3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Meeting

Feb. 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Knit Fest

Feb.17, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Education Meeting



## A 4-G EVENT

### Galloping Girlfriends' Game Gala

Free! Tuesday, Feb.11, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Just a casual evening to hang out and play a few games.

Bring cards or a favorite board or dice game.

Cost: FREE, just bring some snacks or chocolates to share. All Ascension women, all ages, are welcome.

No advance reservations needed. Questions, please call Cheri Ehrlich at 262-820-9925.

Save these dates!

Tuesday, May 6 – Salad Supper and a Show. FREE!!!!!!

Friday, Nov. 7 - 5th Annual Girlfriends Birthday Bash!

## MILITARY FAMILY MINISTRY

*Diane Maasz*

### ATTENTION VETERANS!!!

The Military Family Ministry will be collecting photos of our veterans and active duty service members for a display board to be used on Care Ministries Sunday. We'd love to have photos in uniform, but if you can't find one, we'll take any photo (preferably from the period of your military service). Please include your name, branch of service, and years of service. Your photos will be handled with the respect they deserve, copied, and returned as if untouched. We want to honor all of Ascension Veterans, so if you're a veteran or the spouse, parent, sibling, or grandparent of someone who served this country spread the word, dig through those photo albums, and get those photos in! Photos can be turned into Box 7 at church or emailed to [ddmaasz@yahoo.com](mailto:ddmaasz@yahoo.com) no later than March 2. Please send questions to the same email or call Diane Maasz at 262-542-7507.

The next Military Family Ministry Meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7:00 pm in the Hearth Room.

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them -  
Matthew 18:20*

## MISSION OUTREACH



When we did the listening sessions with Pastor Chris last Lenten season, only a few people could name our mission partners. For our partnerships to have true meaning, it is important that members of the congregation are not only aware of who our partners are but of who we are because of our partnerships. Our mission partnerships are ministries with which Ascension has a deeper, ongoing relationship and/or have been designated as partnerships or Companion Synod relationships by the Greater Milwaukee Synod. These partnerships are relationship based and follow the accompaniment model of walking together with people who may be of a different culture, race, or language yet together we are part of the body of Christ. We are brothers and sisters who share our faith and join our hearts and hands in mutual Christian love, prayer, learning, and gestures of help and care.

*Shirley Wehmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader*

Currently, Ascension has three active partnerships: Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, the Lutheran Church of El Salvador, and the Meru Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. During 2014, the Mission Outreach Committee has committed to developing a deeper relationship with each of our partners and to helping the congregation explore new ways to be connected with each of the partners. While traveling to Tanzania or El Salvador may not be an option for many people, there are other ways we can connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We will be developing partnerships with congregations in Tanzania and in El Salvador to enable us to truly walk with each other. Watch the newsletter and other announcements for opportunities to learn more about our partnerships. We challenge each of you as individuals and as participants in small groups to take up the challenge of being part of these amazing partnerships.

### FEATURED MISSION: NEXT STEPS EL SALVADOR

*In the time of the Gospel, Jesus walked to where the sick people were. He went inside. The people came, carried on little stretchers and walking by foot. Their small beds were lined up outside the door of the house. The people waited and waited, and Jesus healed and healed and healed. In our time, you come here by airplane. The people come in vehicles and they line up inside and outside the door. They wait and Jesus heals. He heals and he heals. This is the power of God.*

This quote is from Linda Muth's blog during her 2013 participation in a Mission of Healing in El Salvador. This summer, Ascension will participate in our first Mission of Healing with Lake Park, Milwaukee and Grace, Thiensville (see following article for details). El Salvador Lutheran Church has been one of our partners since 2009, and we are now ready to take the next step in this partnership. Ascension's main role to this point has been mission trips, financial assistance to the endowment fund to help pay pastoral salaries, and assistance in developing the Agroferreteria (hardware store) in Usulután. These endeavors have been very beneficial, but now we are ready to take the next step. During 2014, in addition to the Mission of Healing, we will be partnering with a congregation in El Salvador. The congregation-to-congregation commitment will help us develop deeper relationships with our brothers and sisters in El Salvador. If you are interested in either of these new opportunities, please contact Sarah Wehmeier de Aparicio, our representative on the Synod El Salvador committee and leader of Ascension's El Salvador partnership, [webh22@hotmail.com](mailto:webh22@hotmail.com).



## MISSION OUTREACH

### DONATION CENTER



Do you know where to put the food items you have brought for the Cross Food Pantry? What about books/magazines for the prison ministry? Etc., etc., etc.? Take a look in the West Hall. The shelves have been organized and updated to make it easier for everyone to find the correct bin for donated items. We are asking that all items be put in the appropriate bins so that items don't end up on the floor. Because we do extra collections for Cross, there is a larger bin on the floor for overflow Cross food items. If your small group or organization plans to do a collection for a specific cause, please contact Shirley Wehmeier ([pwehmeier@wi.rr.com](mailto:pwehmeier@wi.rr.com)) so that we can make consistent signage. Once your collection is complete, please arrange to have the items delivered to the recipient. Thanks for your help in keeping our Donation Center up to date and orderly.

**WANTED:** We are looking for someone who can monitor the Hope Center donation bins and deliver the items to the Hope Center on a regular basis. This would probably be a once a month task unless there is a specific collection. Contact Shirley Wehmeier if you can help with this.

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### CROSS PARTNERSHIP



During February, our collection for the Cross Food Pantry will be peanut butter. Peanut butter provides protein for a low cost and is also easily stored. Please place your donated items in the appropriate bins in the Donation Center (West Hall).

On February 23, the Mission Outreach Team plans to have several members attend worship at Cross. Part of our partnership is to worship together and pray for each other. We invite others who are interested to participate in the worship service with us. If you cannot join us for worship, please commit to pray for our brothers and sisters at Cross and their ministries. Contact Shirley Wehmeier for more information

NEXT MONTH: TANZANIA PARTNERSHIP

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### MISSION OF HEALING TO EL SALVADOR

Who can go on a Mission of Healing?

Anyone! The missions provide holistic healing, which includes art, music, medical checks, dental hygiene workshops, play areas for kids and adults, prayer, pharmacy, natural medicine and more. Whatever gifts you have, we will use! We do need a few doctors, nurses, and 1 or 2 pharmacists in order to include medical checks. We work closely with several health clinics in El Salvador to provide good continuous care.

In the months from February - June, we will be collecting:

- Boxes of regular-size Band-aids
- Reading glasses
- Toothbrushes (soft bristle)
- Arts and craft supplies (construction paper, yarn, scissors, stickers, crayons, etc.) for the children's area and to leave with the Sunday Schools
- Money donations to help with the purchase of medications in El Salvador

The dates of the trip are approximately July 31 - August 8. We anticipate the trip will cost \$600, plus airfare. Contact Sarah Wehmeier Aparicio with questions, [weh22@hotmail.com](mailto:weh22@hotmail.com).



## MISSION OUTREACH

### RUTILIO GRANDE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Ascension El Salvador Committee has made a donation to the Rutilio Grande University scholarship fund. Our donation will fund the equivalent of tuition for two students, but the funds will be split between the four new university students from the community.

Humberto is in the middle with the stole, Katy is next to him, Kevin is on the end, and Heidi is next to him with the stole

We hope to stop by Rutilio Grande for an afternoon during the mission of healing to meet these students!



## SOPHIA

*Once upon a time there was a town that was built just beyond the bend of a large river. One day some of the children from the town were playing beside the river when they noticed three bodies floating in the water. They ran for help and the townsfolk quickly pulled the bodies out of the river.*

*One body was dead so they buried it. One was alive but quite ill, so they put that person into the hospital. The third turned out to be a healthy child, who they then placed with a family who cared for it and who took it to school.*

*From that day on, every day a number of bodies came floating down the river and, every day, the good people of the town would pull them out and tend to them – taking the sick to hospitals, placing the children with families, and burying those who were dead.*

*This went on for years; each day brought its quota of bodies, and the townsfolk not only came to expect a number of bodies each day but also worked at developing more elaborate systems for picking them out of the river and tending to them. Some of the townsfolk became quite generous in tending to these bodies and a few extraordinary ones even gave up their jobs so that they could tend to this concern full-time. And the town itself felt a certain healthy pride in its generosity.*

*However, during all these years and despite all that generosity and effort, nobody thought to go up the river, beyond the bend that hid from their sight what was above them, and find out why, daily, those bodies came floating down the river.*

*(The story is quoted in its entirety from "A spirituality of Justice and Peacemaking," a chapter in Ronald Rolheiser's book The Holy Longing: The Search for Christian Spirituality).*

If you would like to join SOPHIA in looking upriver and around the bend to address social justice issues at their core, please contact Iva Richards, [babuivarichards@yahoo.com](mailto:babuivarichards@yahoo.com).

Currently we have task forces working on TIP (Treatment Instead of Prison), Affordable Workforce Housing, Immigration Reform, and Health Care. Our goal is to raise awareness in the community, to inform officials at the local and state level of our concerns and to propose workable solutions to social problems.

God has shown you what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

- Micah 6:8



## IN GRATITUDE

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Dear Friends,

A world without poverty. That's our prayer.

With your partnership, every day we get closer. Compare 2014 to the year 2000:

- Half a billion fewer people live below the poverty line today.
- 25% fewer people are dying from malaria.
- The proportion of people with clean drinking water has risen to 89% .

These amazing advancements aren't achieved quickly, but through the long-term, lasting work you support as a partner with your gifts to Lutheran World Relief. You are changing and saving lives — creating brighter futures — in powerful and lasting ways through Lutheran World Relief!

Please enjoy this special video, featuring LWR staff, giving witness to what your partnership can do: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rz\\_H8Ct0HQc&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rz_H8Ct0HQc&feature=youtu.be)

Will you take the first step to ending poverty, injustice and human suffering and renew your partnership today? Please give generously so we can put your gift to work immediately! You can donate at: <http://www.lwr.org>.

Thank you. God bless you — and Happy New Year!

With great hope,

Jeff Whisenant

Interim President and CEO

### WAUKESHA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generous donation to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. Your gift will be used to help with the increased need. Because of your generosity and willingness to help, we have been able to provide free food and groceries seven times per week for almost 35 years to the registered clients of the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. Each time we are open, clients select from a variety of fresh and non-perishable food to feed their families. The staff and Board of the Food Pantry of Waukesha County join our clients in saying “thank you” for helping us to provide more than \$2,200,000 worth of food this past year to more than 10,00 unduplicated clients. And thank you for helping us strive to make our vision a reality: End Hunger. Start Here.

Sincerely, Michael Zirbel

### CHILDREN'S VILLAGE OF HONDURAS

Associate Director – Operations & Marketing

We would like to thank you for your Mission of the Month special offering to TSSI, dba Children's Villages of Honduras. Your generous contribution will help us to continue our mission to nurture, care for, and educate the disadvantaged children of Honduras.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors and the children of CVoH

### SAINT A - ANGEL TREE THANK YOU

On behalf of Saint A, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of gifts for the Independent Living Services Holiday Party. Your contributions makes it possible for us to achieve our mission to advance foster care, education and mental health services throughout Southeastern Wisconsin and beyond. Our agency serves more than 2,000 of society's most vulnerable individuals. We encourage you to share information about us with family, friends, and others in your circles.

I would like to invite you to visit us at our main campus, 8901 W. Capitol Drive, to learn more about our agency. Visit our website at [st-al.org](http://st-al.org) or contact our Advancement Office at (414) 465-5727. We look forward to your ongoing support and thank you again.

Sincerely,

Teri Zywicki

President and CEO



# FEBRUARY 2014 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 CRASH @ SWAG
2 Blood pressure screening 8am Worship 8:30am Puppets WH 9am Worship 10am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 12pm SWAG ends 12pm Mime lunch WH 12:30pm Mime S 6pm AA beginner mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	3 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer group PR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm Guys Talking Christ 107 6:30pm Girl Scouts 106 6:30pm Knit Wits open meeting WH	4 6:30am Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Care Ministries Dinner EH & WH 6:30pm Call Team meeting PC office 6:30pm Mutual Ministry PR 7:15pm TGIT 107	5 6pm Handbells S 6:30pm Wednesday night women's nurture PR 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7:30pm Choir S	6 9:30am Al Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir 5:45pm Joyful Sounds 6:30pm JOLT S, EH WH & HR 7pm Ballantyne Small Group "The Story" 107	7	8
9 8am Worship 8:30am Puppets WH 9am Worship 10am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 12pm Mime lunch WH 12pm Arise Leadership mtg 107 12:30pm Mime S 6pm AA beginner mtg WH 6pm CRASH YR 7pm AA closed mtg WH	10 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Yoga EH 7pm Guys Afraid of Bible Study 107 7pm Living Letters 106	11 6:30am Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Girlfriends Game Night EH 6:30pm Respite Ministry Provider Meeting HR 7pm Holloway small group 107 7pm Military Ministry Meeting HR	12 11:45am Men's Nurture Group Luncheon 6:30pm Call Team mtg PC's office 6pm Handbells 6:30pm SOPHIA EH 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7:30pm Choir S	13 9:30am Al Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir 5:45pm Joyful Sounds 6:30pm JOLT S, EH WH & HR 7pm Ballantyne Small Group "The Story" 107 7pm Mission Outreach Team 106	14	15 9am Knit Wits Knit Fest WH 10:30am Folk choir
16 8am Worship 8:30am Puppets WH 9am Worship 10am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 12pm Mime lunch WH 12:30pm Mime S 6pm AA beginner mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	17 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm Guys Talking Christ 107 6:30pm Knit Wits educational meeting WH	18 6:30am Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 7pm Church Council 107 7:15pm TGIT 106	19 12pm Young at Heart Potluck EH & kit 6pm Handbells S 6:30pm Wed night women's nurture group PR 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7:30pm Choir S	20 9:30am Al Anon WH 5pm No Angel Choir 5:45pm No Joyful Sounds 6:30pm JOLT S, EH WH & HR 7pm Ballantyne Small Group "The Story" 107	21	22
23 8am Worship 8:30am Puppets WH 9am Worship 10am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 12pm Mime lunch WH 12:30pm Mime S 6pm CRASH YR 6pm AA beginner mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	24 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Yoga EH 7pm Guys Afraid of Bible Study 107	25 6:30am Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 7pm Holloway small group 107	26 6pm Handbells 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7:30pm Choir S	27 9:30am Al Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir 5:45pm Joyful Sounds 6:30pm JOLT S, EH WH & HR 7pm Ballantyne Small Group "The Story" 107	28	

