



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
March 2014

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THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA



(262) 547-8518



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www.ascensionelca.org



1415 Dopp Street
Waukesha, WI 53188



MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Pianist

Ray Kinney
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Organists

Vicki Taylor
Rhonda Kwiecien
rhonda@ascensionelca.org

WE WILL KEEP LENT

There is a tattered, purple book about half the size of the other books on my shelf entitled *Let Us Keep Lent!* I am the third pastor to own this book. I know nothing of the first pastor to own this book. The second pastor to own this book was the pastor of my parent's church in Appleton, WI. My parents were so appreciative of this man's friendship and guidance that they honored him by naming me after him. Years later (many years later), this man once again entered our lives as he became pastor to my grandparents in their retirement in Salem, OR. In the span of four years, I finished seminary, celebrated both of my grandparents' lives with my namesake, and upon his retirement, was offered his library for my own career in ministry. This little book has traveled from Wisconsin to Texas to Oregon to California to Idaho and has now returned to Wisconsin. Along the way, this book has reminded each pastor about the importance of "keeping Lent." *This pastor is no different.*

As Lutheran Christians we are outside the norm of the world. Not so close to Catholic that we are forced to fast or give up meat on Fridays, though some Lutherans do. Not so far from Catholics that we are shocked at the invitation to gather in the middle of the week for fellowship and worship. In the season of Lent, we are invited to walk the forty days with a different design than the rest of the life we live throughout the year.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. We will offer services at noon and 7 p.m. with the Imposition of Ashes at noon and beginning at 6:45 p.m. Then on consecutive Wednesdays, you are invited to join us for a soup supper at 6 p.m. and worship from 7-7:45 p.m. We are using the entire Holden Evening Prayer service on Wednesday nights with piano and oboe or flute. It will be beautiful, with moments of glorious praise and quiet introspection. Each week we will hear from a different person of the Bible connected to these last days of Jesus. And so we will, indeed, keep Lent this year in our worship and traditions. Please consider joining us for each of these Wednesday nights if only for the opportunity to meet God in Jesus Christ in a new way.

As we enter into the season of Lent there will be one other significant difference in our worship life. After worship on March 2, the sanctuary will be transformed from the traditional seating arrangement into a sanctuary in the round. Yes, several of you will not be able to find your normal seat. For me, that is something to celebrate. The season of Lent calls us to self-examination and a time of wandering in the wilderness to re-discover our relationship with God and with each other. Why not allow yourself to wander to a new location in the sanctuary for worship? During the season of Lent, we will be just a bit uncomfortable. By that, I mean we will have the opportunity to worship in a slightly different set-up as the altar moves to the middle of the sanctuary and the congregation arranges itself in three sections facing the center of the sanctuary. I was told that after we moved into the sanctuary in 1993 the chairs and altar area were moved only once for a brief time while Pastor Frank preached through the symbolism of the stained glass, and yet, the whole point of chairs was to offer the sanctuary the ability to be reshaped for different styles and times of worship. Certainly, some of you have told me you like to have all the information before things happen so that you can prepare. Certainly, some of you prefer to know nothing beforehand because it causes you anxiety. This is a hard balance to maintain.

So there you go...in the midst of the season of Lent, which can be uncomfortable enough as we journey with Jesus to the cross, you are offered one more chance to follow God in a new way by changing your perspective in the sanctuary. You may love the new set-up. You just might hate the new set-up. Regardless, the beautiful gift of God's grace is that the sanctuary will move back to our current set-up either before Easter Sunday or immediately after, and you will be able to find your seat once again. Dear friends, we prepare to travel the road of faith following in the footsteps of our Savior, and indeed this year, as I am reminded every year by a little book on my shelf, we will keep Lent.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Chris Marien



BELOVED CHILD OF GOD

Pastor Becky Feters



*As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.*

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

(ELW, service of Holy Baptism, p. 228)

On February 19, my family celebrated the anniversary of the day we brought our daughter Norah to receive God's gift of baptism. As part of our celebration, we filled a bowl of water to splash in and lit Norah's baptismal candle. We said prayers and made the sign of the cross on Norah's forehead to remind her that she is a baptized, beloved child of God. Andy and I remembered again the responsibilities listed above and our promise to follow through on them. When infants or children are baptized, their parents and baptismal sponsors (a.k.a godparents) make these promises on their behalf. Older children or adults who come to be baptized make these promises for themselves. When you are confirmed, you are asked these same questions. "Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism...?" (ELW, P. 236)

Because many of us were baptized as babies, we don't really remember the moment of our baptism. (And for those of you who were older and do remember, the rest of us are a little jealous!) I encourage parents to celebrate their child/ren's baptismal day each year – to light the candle given to them, to show them pictures, to tell them the stories of who was there and how they reacted when the water was poured over them. Baptism is a pivotal moment; God changes everything right then – and we want our children to be able to claim it, to know that it is real, that it matters. Most especially, we want them to know that God has claimed them as God's child forever, no matter what.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and it is an opportunity for us to do that in our own lives – to return to the waters of baptism and hear God's promises to us, to claim those promises as our own, and to renew our commitment to the covenant God has made with us in baptism. Lent is a chance to go deeper, to listen again to the stories of what Christ has done for us, and to let the Holy Spirit put to death all the things within us that pull us away from God and God's ways, so that we may be raised to new life! One gospel acclamation sung during Lent calls us to "Return to the Lord, your God..." That is the invitation for us all this Lent – to come back to the waters of baptism, to put ourselves once again in God's hands, and to respond to God's gift of love with the offering of our whole lives. The promises we have made are a good place to start!

See you in worship!

YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

Barbara Nordberg, Council President

We began our meeting with a heartfelt devotion by our council member, Lori Kallin (see her story on p. 9); council members have taken turns this year talking about our “God Moment” and sharing times where we have felt God’s hand on us. We welcomed the new council members to the meeting. The time between the election of new council members and their installation is for them to attend meetings and become familiar with the workings of the council. We are having a “Council Orientation” prior to the March council meeting.



We had an update from Christine Holloway and Rob Stryker on the progress and plans for the “Ascension Arise” debt elimination campaign. How wonderful it will be to arrive at 2017 without the huge debt we have carried for the past 35 years. We can only dream about the ministry plans God has for Ascension when we get to that point. We continue to be blessed by the dedication of co-chairs, Chris and Rob, and the many members that are involved in this work.

We unanimously passed the Ministry Site Profile created by the Call Team. This document is a “resume” of Ascension that now will be sent to the synod office to provide information about our congregation to potential candidates for the pastor position. The surveys you completed were used to create this profile. The Call Team has been meeting weekly to prepare this document. We thank them for the time and expertise used to develop the profile. We continue to keep them in our prayers as they go forward with the selection of a second pastor. If you would like to look at this document, it will be available at the Welcome Center on Sundays.

The council approved two new members, Doug Soderberg and Kathy Williams, to the Mutual Ministry team. We thank them for their willingness to serve on this team.

The 65th Anniversary of Ascension will be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 14. We talked about what the celebration might look like, and we are interested in any ideas you might have. You can send us your ideas by email or talk to any one of the council members on Sundays. We are also looking for suggestions to fill the position of Director of Ministries. This individual assists the Joyful Worship Team, the Spiritual Growth Team, the Caring Relationships Team and the Mission Outreach Team with developing and reaching their goals for ministry. The Director of Ministries is a non-voting member of the council.

The council approved the following changes to the constitution and Bylaws. These changes will be up for adoption at the next Congregational Meeting.

Constitutional changes:

C6.05

b. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail or email a copy of the resolution to voting members of this congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.

d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall (continued on the next page)

YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

(continued from previous page) be mailed or emailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless he or she is a voting member of the congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.

C10.03

Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship during the two preceding weeks and by mail or email, including the anticipated agenda, to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient.

C17.04

This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as most recently amended by the Church-wide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or email notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of two percent of the voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

Bylaws change:

C11.02.01

The term of office for officers shall begin on ~~May 1~~ February 1 through ~~April 30~~ January 31. During the period between election and beginning the term, the officers shall engage in preparatory activities to ensure a smooth transition.

Our last order of business was to approve the addition of four new members, the release of 16 members, and the transfer of seven members to other congregations.

CALL TEAM UPDATE

Don Krueger, Call Team Chair



The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been completed and sent to council for review and approval at their Feb. 19 meeting. The pastoral candidates nominated by the congregation have been sent to the synod for consideration. By the time you read this report, the MSP will have been sent to the synod.

Thank you for making nominations and responding to the survey. Next month, I will report back on the survey results.

The Call Committee will now turn its attention to preparing for interviews with the potential candidates. We will be developing the interview questions and working out the best way to conduct the interviews.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Doug Bue, Treasurer

Ascension Lutheran Church
Financial Report
January 31, 2014 Year to Date

Item	2014 Actual	2014 Plan	Variance to 2014 Plan	2013 Actual	Variance to 2013 Actual
Income					
Contributions	\$53,311	\$53,150	\$161	\$53,485	\$(174)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$6,316	\$4,412	\$1,904	\$4,999	\$1,317
From Restricted Funds	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$900	\$(900)
Total Income	\$59,627	\$57,562	\$2,065	\$59,384	\$243
Expenses					
Communications	\$2,514	\$2,650	\$136	\$1,376	\$(1,138)
Facilities	\$28,638	\$29,298	\$660	\$28,125	\$(513)
Financial Development	\$8,239	\$8,245	\$6	\$9,229	\$990
Leadership Development	\$51	\$200	\$149	\$-	\$(51)
Administration	\$16,350	\$20,798	\$4,448	\$23,900	\$7,550
Caring Relationships	\$1,520	\$2,024	\$504	\$791	\$(729)
Joyful Worship	\$5,431	\$5,569	\$138	\$3,945	\$(1,486)
Mission Outreach	\$2,300	\$2,550	\$250	\$5,206	\$2,906
Spiritual Growth	\$3,066	\$7,437	\$4,371	\$7,229	\$4,163
Total Expenses	\$68,109	\$78,771	\$10,662	\$79,801	\$11,692
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(8,482)	\$(21,209)	\$12,727	\$(20,417)	\$11,935
Mortgage Balance	\$1,207,697				
Vision Ascension Contributions	\$8,063				
Restricted Contributions	\$4,135				
Restricted Funds Balance	\$212,412				
General Fund Balance	\$18,530				

What the numbers mean:

- Our general contributions are on plan for 2014, and they are about the same as 2013 actual.
- Our expenses are under plan due mainly to our pastoral and youth minister transitions.
- Based on our bottom line, we are ahead of plan by \$12,700.
- Our general fund balance is currently positive.

If you have questions or comments on the financials or would like more details, please email me at dwbue@wi.rr.com.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Amy Gilgenbach, Director of Administration



Do you have an activity or some information about your small group or ministry you would like to share with the congregation? Ascension's office staff is here to help.

Ways the office can help missions and ministries communicate about their events include the communication tools listed below. The goal of these types of communications is to effectively inform people about Ascension's activities, events and stories so that our church and its ministries and missions can thrive and better serve God.

Newsletter -- For articles about your group's activities, purpose, and ministry. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior. This is a hard and fast deadline because of the time it takes to layout, assemble, and mail the newsletter to people by the 1st of the month. Please focus on activities only in the next month to keep material fresh and interesting for readers. Please also consider submitting a picture with your article. Newsletter items should be emailed to Kate Mattson, kate@ascensionelca.org.

Weekly e-alert -- For a short news brief (two to three lines) about your upcoming event. Events will be run in the e-alert two weeks prior to the event, unless there is something related to the event that will take place sooner, for example, registration for the event. The deadline for e-alerts is Tuesday at noon. Email items for the e-alert to Kate, kate@ascensionelca.org.

Bulletin announcement -- Similar to the e-alert -- a short news brief (up to one short paragraph) about your upcoming event/activity. Events will be run in the bulletin one or two weeks prior, unless there is something related to the event that will take place sooner. Deadline is Wednesday. Please email bulletin announcements to Amy Stryker, amys@ascensionelca.org.

Announcements in multiple locations -- Email Amy Gilgenbach, admin@ascensionelca.org, who will distribute

the information accordingly; or email both Kate and Amy Stryker.

Website -- If you have ministry or mission information you would like on the new Ascension website, AscensionELCA.org, please review the material with your wing leader and then submit it to Amy Gilgenbach, admin@ascensionelca.org.

Social media -- Ascension has a Facebook page and we'd love to have a picture about your event and a small brief to post to let people know about it. Please email it to the office at admin@ascensionelca.org or post it on our Facebook page for us to share.

Media screens in the narthex -- Announcements for upcoming events with information taken from the newsletter, e-alert, or bulletin as necessary.

Narthex displays or hosting a table in the narthex -- If you need to have a sign-up for your event, you may consider scheduling a table for use in the narthex, but please know that we are limited in the amount of tables we can use in the space. Also, stand-alone displays in the narthex are generally discouraged (tripods). With the space constraints and potential impediment to traffic flow, there's a good chance your display may not be seen. If you have a need for something like this, please contact the office for other options which may include the use of an existing bulletin board.

Did You Know?



Ascension's e-alert list reaches just over 400 people/households each week. We use MailChimp, a free, online email service that complies with legal email list privacy and subscription requirements.

Comparatively, our newsletter is mailed to about 450 households and costs our church about \$245 month to copy and mail, not including staff costs and volunteer time.

While some people prefer the printed version, many people receive both versions.

If you'd like to sign-up to receive an email from us when the monthly newsletter is ready for viewing (much quicker than waiting for the Post Office to deliver it via bulk mail), please let the church office know or sign-up online at <http://tinyurl.com/newsalertA.L.C>. If you'd like to opt-out of the monthly newsletter mailings, please let us know. Money saved on postage and paper is money that could be used on missions and ministries.

MY GOD MOMENT

Lori Kallin, Council Member-at-Large

Fortunately, I have had several God moments in my life, although sometimes I have not recognized them at the moment. I would like to share my latest series of God moments with you.

A lot of you know that last November, I resigned from my job as a Lactation Consultant RN after 8 ½ years. This was sudden and unexpected. I had never left a job with no job waiting for me. But a whisper told me this was the time. During the next couple of months, I searched for a new position, getting a couple of interviews for different roles in nursing but nothing in my specialty. During this time, I had my bouts with self doubt and depression, wondering if I had done the right thing. Fortunately, the support of my family and many friends who prayed and supported me got me through some really tough times.



Then a chance meeting in late January with a couple and their beautiful baby Leo at a restaurant gave me new life and hope. I had taken care of Leo and his mother back in September, and the fact that they remembered me and thanked me for all my help gave me a renewed sense of determination. It also reminded me how much I loved working with babies and families. This was definitely another God moment.

Luckily, out of the blue, I saw a notice for a Lactation position at Aurora. I contacted the recruiter I had interviewed with a week prior for another position. And to make a long story short, I had an interview with the manager of OB at West Allis in four days and was offered the job on the spot! This is a dream job; 1000% better than what I had previously. I still can't believe all this happened.

But in a way, I am not surprised. Sometimes we have to give all our worries to God, for ultimately, He is in control. Now I realize that everything that happened, good and bad, had meaning. With God, all things are possible!

SOUP SUPPERS IN LENT

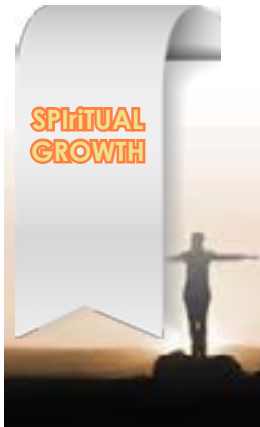
In the season of Lent, we will again gather for soup and bread dinners before we enter the sanctuary for worship. We begin with prayer at 6 p.m. and finish in time to worship at 7 p.m. Those who have graciously agreed to host include:

- 3/12- Supermoms and Girlfriends
- 3/19-JOLT
- 3/26- CRASH
- 4/2- Ascension Choir
- 4/9- AMEN

If you are a part of one of these ministries, will you contact your leader/director/chair to offer your soup for the dinner? We need 18-20 soups for each Wednesday night and 8-12 loaves of bread or bags of rolls. All paper products/drinks are provided and set-up is done ahead of time. Last year we averaged between 120 and 160 people for each Wednesday night. Come and join us!



GRACE, GRATITUDE, GENEROSITY: KEYS TO BECOMING A GOOD STEWARD



Dave Hammer, Stewardship Team Leader

A couple of weeks ago, I had a chance to hear Mark Allan Powell, the author of "Giving to God" speak at a Synod stewardship event. I have read and liked his book, which covers a number of elements of stewardship, and I was interested to hear what he felt were the key elements of becoming a good steward.

- Stewardship is really about a way of life. We need to know stewardship is NOT fundraising; it is not just about money, although that is the meaning that many people give it. Stewardship is about taking care of ALL aspects of our lives that God has entrusted to us.
- Stewardship is really about taking care of things that belong to someone else. Everything we have comes from and belongs to God. However, because of our sinful nature, we often assume an ownership mentality - that what we have belongs to us and not to God - which can get in the way of our stewardship mentality - that of being a caretaker.
- The fact that we belong to God and that God has provided everything we have - even though we don't deserve it - is an element of His grace, and is the "good news" of the Bible. Our response to this grace ought to be one of gratitude.
- The #1 enemy of gratitude is entitlement - the feeling that we deserve things. God loves us and wants us to enjoy His bounty, not because we deserve it, but because He is loving. On the other hand, the devil hates us and wants us to be miserable, so he plants the seeds of entitlement. Gratitude - being happy/content with what we have - is the antidote for entitlement - grumbling about what we don't have.
- People with gratitude are the second happiest people on earth. "I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty" (Philippians 4:11-12).
- Who are the happiest people in the world? They are the people who give, the people who are generous. Giving is an expression of gratitude and provides more joy than getting.
- Many people believe that they must grow spiritually first before they become generous. However, giving and generosity is a way to grow spiritually and grow closer to God. Your being generous will help you transform your heart. "Where your treasure (generosity) is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34).

How do we become good stewards? Recognize God's grace. Respond with gratitude. Become generous in your giving.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jennifer Koutnik, Director of Children's Ministries



It is a blessed time as we begin Lent and prepare to welcome our fifth graders at the communion table!

March Schedule

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, March 2: | 5th grade communicants will be making a chalice at Touch-of-Glaze |
| Wednesday, March 5: | Ash Wednesday – evening services along with soup suppers begin |
| Sunday, March 9: | FAMILY WORSHIP DAY |
| Saturday, March 29: | Fifth Grade First Communion class from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, March 30: | Puppet Sunday! |

I pray that as you begin the Lenten journey, you share this wonderful time together as a family. Remember the reason we are forgiven! Any questions or concerns – I am an email or call away! Blessings on your March!

JOLT

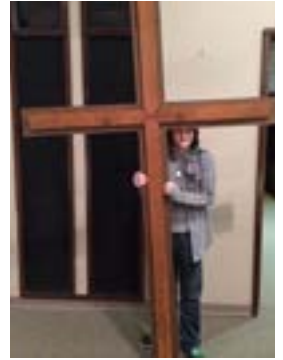
JOLT takes a break in the season of Lent. And for every student a bigger break – a season off from an extra project.

HOWEVER...JOLT students are expected to be in worship on Wednesday nights and Sundays and at Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services during Holy Week. Sermon notes are required for Wednesday nights.

Adventure Camp deposits are due – get them to PC ASAP! Spots are beginning to fill up. whitewater rafting, high ropes courses, and paintball are all on the agenda this year! Come and join us.

JOLT gathers together again on May 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Chris Marien



ATTENTION! ATTENTION! JOLT families are hosting the soup supper for the mid- week services in Lent on March 19. We need 20 soups...if you can bring a crock-pot of soup for this night – we start at 6 p.m. – please email PC so that he can make sure we have enough!

CRASH

Tony Acompanado, Director of Youth Ministries

On March 1, the CRASH youth group will host the Annual Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction fundraiser. You're invited to join us for an evening of delicious chili, desserts, and exciting entertainment for both kids and adults. This fundraiser will support the students participating in the CRASH summer trip to Cincinnati.

The CRASH youth group will continue to meet for faith, fellowship, and fun throughout Lent in the month of March. CRASH will meet on the following Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m., March 2, 16, and 30.

In addition to the regular Sunday evening youth gatherings, CRASH students will be encouraged to join the congregation on Wednesday evenings in Lent for soup suppers and worship. In March, CRASH will meet on the following Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.: March 12, 19, and 26.

Ascension's Youth Mime will kick off its performance season at Ascension on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and then travel to congregations throughout the synod.



Mime Travel Schedule

Sunday, March 9
 Sunday, March 16
 Sunday, March 23
 Sunday, March 30
 Palm Sunday, April 13
 Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m.
 Good Friday, April 18

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Hartland
 Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Racine
 Our Saviors Lutheran Church, West Bend
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Random Lake
 St John's Lutheran Church, Jackson
 Attend worship at Ascension
 Performances at Ascension, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Alison Roe, Spiritual Growth Wing Leader



Ascension Lutheran Church has a Blessed to be a Blessing (BTAB) Scholarship Fund.

Amount of scholarships:

- Up to \$2,000 paid evenly over four years

Eligibility requirements:

- Ascension member
- Attend a Lutheran college or university
- Be in good standing at the college or university
- Complete an application form (available in the church office)

Application deadline:

- April 10, 2014

Who should apply:

- High school seniors planning to attend a Lutheran undergraduate school in the fall
- Members who are not currently receiving the BTAB Scholarship and are planning on attending a Lutheran undergraduate school in the fall
- Members who are planning on attending a post graduate school in the fall to pursue a career in ministry within the ELCA

Members who currently receive the BTAB Scholarship:

- Steve Bogie
- Caitlin Marschall
- Alexander Kirk

Applications are available in the church office. Questions please call Alison Roe (513-9273).

CARE MINISTRIES

Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries

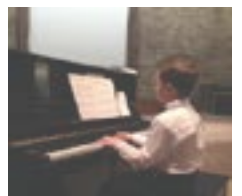


My husband, Jack, and I are in the process of becoming Level 3 Foster Parents to a little girl who was recently discharged from the hospital. This turn in our life has uprooted our present schedules and my office hours are not consistent like usual. Thank you for your patience in February and March...a special thanks to those of you who are remembering us in your prayers and have contributed gifts for her. We appreciate our "Ascension Family," and she will be a very lucky little girl to be a part of such faith-loving friends!



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

A special thanks goes out to Sally Wagner, Barb Van Voorhis, Jim Hahn, and Jodie Mueller for all of the organization and work that was involved with the Appreciation Dinner. Many people have made positive comments about our adorable entertainer, Anthony Bagley. It is wonderful that we have had the chance to embrace and support such a talented young member of Ascension. With the quilt raffle, we raised over \$100 to buy baby bibles for the New Life Basket Ministry. Thanks to Alice Bissett for her quilt donation to help support this special ministry. The leftover food from the dinner was donated to the Hebron House in Waukesha. As the food was carried into their kitchen, all of the residents in the house gave a standing ovation...so unexpected, but they were so grateful for the wonderful food we provided for them.



CARE MINISTRIES

YOGA SUCCESS!

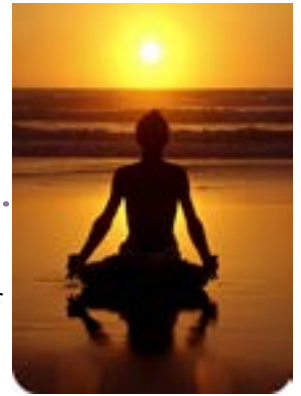
We have offered Yoga on Monday nights from 6-7 p.m. in our East Hall. It is led by a YMCA Instructor. Last week we had 48 people show up! Young and old, flexible and inflexible...it didn't matter as we enjoyed an evening of exercise and relaxation. This program continues through Monday, April 14.

NEW COT

Care Ministries purchased a new cot for emergency situations. Twice, I have needed to lie someone down and we have not had a bed to do that. The cot is located across from the Director of Care Ministries office, by the wheelchair. We also have created Incident Reports for any injury, accident, or medical issue that occurs on Ascension property. These forms are in the church office.

RESPIRE MINISTRY

Respite Ministry is a new project this year! This is a ministry that helps to provide relief and support for family members who are caring for a loved one that is in a long-term health care or hospice situation. It is an extension of our church family to provide a "break" for a caregiver. Nada Draeger is the leader for this ministry. Volunteers are welcome to contact Nada if interested in this ministry at njdraeger@msn.com or 262-548-0351.



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:

March 16, April 27, May 4

YOUNG AT HEART



Our next Young at Heart Pot Luck will be on Wednesday, March 19 at noon until 3 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. We will eat, socialize, and play games.

We will be having breakfast at Denny's on Grandview Blvd. Wednesday, March 5 at 9 a.m. No need to register; just come and visit. If you have questions, contact Gigi Gresl (414) 737-2057, Celeste Defenbach (262) 968-4592, or Arlene Davis (262) 542-9119.

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 for another month, so you still have time to warm heads and hearts this winter. For more information, call Maddie Goetter, (262) 527-4013.

March Schedule:

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

March 15, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Knit Fest

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

April's Knit Fest will be April 26.

A WORD OF THANKS

Dear Knit Wits,

Thank you so much for the adorable hats you made and donated to Waukesha Memorial's OB unit. The babies look so cute in them as well. With this cold weather we've been having, they are sure to keep the babies warm. We truly do appreciate it!

Sincerely, Barb Olstad, Clinical Mgr. Waukesha Memorial Hospital

PRAYER MINISTRY GROUP

Have you ever been able to come up with a good reason not to take time to pray? We haven't either. Please join us for an hour on the first & third Mondays of the month at 6 p.m. in the prayer room at Ascension as we lift up the prayers of the congregation.



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



NO REGRETS MEN'S CONFERENCE

33 men from Ascension participated in the annual No Regrets Men's Conference held at Elmbrook Church on February 1. They joined thousands of other men from around the country to participate in this retreat which is held annually at Elmbrook Church. This year's conference theme was "All In," and the men experienced a mix of large general session speakers and smaller breakout sessions intended to inspire and invigorate their relationship with the Lord at home, in the workplace, and in their ministry here at Ascension.



BREAKFAST WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN

AMEN ministries will be hosting an event that is open to all men, their families, neighbors, and friends. A special guest is joining us...that's right! Abraham Lincoln will be joining us to share stories and an inspirational message. The breakfast will be held on March 8 at Ascension. Breakfast will be at 8 a.m. The presentation starts at 9 a.m. Advanced ticket purchase is appreciated. Tickets are \$5 for adults, 12 and under are free. See an AMEN ministry leader for tickets after Sunday services by the Welcome Center, or email AMENMinistries@group-spaces.com with any questions you may have.

BOOK DRIVE

I was in prison and you visited me. - Matthew 25:36

Prepare to make a "visit" and share the Word with those in jail or prison during April.

Throughout April, Amen Ministries will be sponsoring a Bible and Devotional Materials Collection for Ascension's Prison Ministry. Look through your home libraries or the shelves at Goodwill and St. Vincent DePaul for hardcover and paperback Bibles and devotional/spiritual topic books. These are in short supply in both the Waukesha and Racine correctional systems. Selected magazines, such as Sports Illustrated, Popular Mechanics, National Geographic, are also welcome. Unused greeting cards, especially birthday and "thinking of you" cards are in high demand and will be collected as well.

Donations will be collected in the AMEN Ministries designated bins at the Donation Center in the West Hall.

HOLY WEEK BIBLE STUDY

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 6:30-7:45 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.

Seek God's presence continually. - 1 Chronicles 16:11

MISSION OUTREACH

Shirley Webmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader

Thank you to everyone for your donations for volcano relief for El Salvador. The original plan was to help 11 families, but the Agroferreteria was able to get things for cost, so 15 families were able to receive the supplies to repair their homes. Ascension collected more money than anticipated, so we will be sending more to assist additional families.

We've also received news that there was another small eruption on Feb. 12. The communities continue to live in a time of considerable uncertainty and fear. Please keep them in your prayers.



FEATURED MISSION



"Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good"

Dave Hammer, Mt. Meru Team Leader

Ascension is currently participating in the Partnership with the Diocese of Meru through the Mt. Meru Coffee Project. Did you know?

1. The Mt. Meru Coffee Project (MMCP) is part of the faith-based relationship which started in 1996 between the Diocese of Meru of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) and the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA).
2. The MMCP originated 3 years later, in 1999, when a small coffee farmer said to a visiting Milwaukee Pastor: "We grow coffee; you drink coffee; would you buy your coffee from us?"
3. The MMCP's mission is to develop and grow justice-based relationships, building on fair trade practices between the Meru coffee growers and U.S. coffee consumers.
4. The Project has sought to follow the pricing and practices of established Fair Trade programs. It began paying the farmers \$2/lb for their green coffee at a time when the market price was less than \$1/pound. When the market price rose to \$2.50/lb, the Project paid the farmers \$2.80/lb. Today, the Project is paying farmers \$2.20/lb compared to a market price of \$1.50/lb.
5. The premium price paid by the MMCP has benefited other farmers as well because other coffee buyers have had to raise their prices to remain competitive.
6. The justice-based pricing has enabled the farmers to support their families, send their children to school, access healthcare, sustain and improve their farms, and support their local cooperatives, villages and churches.

7. In 2001, the Project started working with about 200 small farmers (having less than three acres of land) and imported coffee for the first time. Today, the Project works with over 2,000 small coffee farmers.

8. The Project has imported, roasted, packaged and distributed an average of 8 to 12 tons of coffee per year, totaling over 100 tons from 2001 through 2013.

9. The greater portion of the coffee is being sold through churches within the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Coffee is also being sold to other churches of other denominations and locations outside of the Synod and to coffee shops, restaurants, and private label coffee roasters.

10. Both regular and decaf coffee is available in whole bean, drip grind, perk grind, and green (unroasted) form. Four flavored regular and decaf coffees are also available in drip grind. Single cup servings (K-cups) of regular coffee will be available in April.

11. Although the MMCP does not directly fund Meru-Milwaukee Partnership activities, it is the single largest project of the Partnership. It involves 75-80 churches within the Synod and helps create awareness and support for other projects within the Diocese of Meru, such as: a hospital and clinic, schools and scholarship programs, hunger relief and water supply programs, and parish-to-parish partnering.

12. Our ongoing purchase of Mt. Meru Coffee is the single most important way in which we can grow the relationships of this Project, supporting thousands of small family farmers in Tanzania.

MISSION OUTREACH

EL SALVADOR PARTNERSHIP



During our visit to El Salvador in August 2014, in addition to the Mission of Healing (see article below), we will be doing several other important activities with our Salvadoran partners. In the next few months, we will write about some of the additional aspects of our next delegation visit.

During the first week in August, the patron saint and namesake of El Salvador—El Salvador del Mundo (the Savior of the World)—is honored with a national festival. Festival proceedings, “the August Feasts,” commence the week before the saint's day on August 6. Some of the highlights of the day are the processions in San Salvador.

The observance dates back to 1525, the date that the city of San Salvador, the present-day capital, was founded. The grandest of the celebrations take place in that

city, but there are also observances throughout the rest of the country and in Salvadoran communities settled abroad.

The Salvadoran Lutheran Church was founded by a missionary from Milwaukee in 1952, but on August 6, 1986, Rev. Medardo Gómez was consecrated as the first Bishop by the Swedish Lutheran Bishop. This consecration responded to the need to strengthen the humanitarian aid work being carried out with the civilian population and to the growth of the church as it extended throughout the country. The consecration of Bishop Gómez led to the construction of a National Church and the move to become part of the Lutheran World Federation.

Today, the Salvadoran Lutheran Church considers August 6 to be the anniversary of the church, an event that is celebrated with a procession through the streets of San Salvador. This August, we will be walking side-by-side with our partners. Since this will potentially be the beginning of our new sister parish relationship with San Jorge, we hope to have good representation from Ascension. Please contact Sarah Wehmeier de Aparicio (weh22@hotmail.com) if you are interested in being a part of this meaningful endeavor. There will be some assistance for fees.

EL SALVADOR MISSION OF HEALING



Sharing Christ's light



Crafting with kids

Do you want to do something special that will make a profound difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in El Salvador? Consider being a part of the Mission of Healing scheduled for early August 2014. We are specifically in need of people with a medical background (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, etc.). But even if you are not in the medical field, there is a big need for others to help with the mission by organizing, sharing love, doing teachings, leading crafts with the children, and offering spiritual support and prayers for healing. If you would like more information, contact Sarah Aparicio (weh22@hotmail.com). Ascension will be participating with Lake Park Lutheran, Milwaukee and Grace, Thiensville for the Mission of Healing in the eastern region that was affected by the volcano. There will also be a chance to learn more about El Salvador as we work side by side with our Salvadoran brothers and sisters and worship with them.



Handing out glasses



Prayers of healing

MISSION OUTREACH

CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

Cross Food Pantry

Our food of the month for Cross Food Pantry is canned fruits and vegetables. Please drop your donations in the Cross bin in the Donation Center.

Cook Meals for the Bridges Tutoring Program

Cross is providing meals in conjunction with their tutoring program. They are in need of some wonderful cooks (or donation of meals) for the Tuesday sessions. (Fox Point Lutheran Church covers the Thursday sessions). If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Michelle at Cross, (414)-344-1746.



Cross Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry

When people come to Cross for a meal each Wednesday, their bodies are fed but so are their hearts and souls. After the meal, there are Bible study groups, AODA groups, job readiness and training, and the Food Pantry. Every donation we make helps this valuable ministry.

Bread of Healing Meal

We all enjoyed serving a spaghetti meal at Cross Lutheran Church on Wednesday, Feb. 5 to approximately 200 people. Thanks to all of you that cooked the meat and to those that went down to Cross to prepare and serve the meal. Also, many thanks to all of you that prepared the desserts; I wish all of you could see the smiles as people try to decide which dessert to choose. Our next opportunity to serve is on Wednesday, March 6. We will be serving our Meat and Gravy meal. We again need people to help at the church and those to prepare desserts. If you have questions, contact Arlene Davis (262)542-9119 or Cheryl Dewey (262)363-7881.

DOLLAR A DAY FOR HOPE



Are you looking for a Lenten discipline that deepens your faith as you study God's word and helps you make a personal sacrifice? You are invited to participate in a daily devotion that will also benefit Outreach for Hope. The Greater Milwaukee Synod has prepared this devotion for us: "Holy Places" by Bishop Jeff Barrow. Journey with Bishop Jeff as he shares personal stories of the places in his ministry and life that have inspired his faith and drawn him toward the cross. This is the fourth year that a Lenten devotional resource is being made available in conjunction with Outreach for Hope's "Dollar a Day for Poverty" Lenten offering. We are inviting you to observe a Lenten discipline of giving a Dollar a Day for Poverty during the 40 days of Lent. The offerings received will support the 21 congregations and min-

istries of the Greater Milwaukee Synod which are working to be the presence of Christ in the poorest communities of our synod. If you are interested, please contact Shirley Wehmeier at pwehmeier@wi.rr.com. The devotion will be sent to you electronically each day of Lent. If you prefer, a hard copy will also be available. Our goal is to have 40 people sign up for this commitment. The Dollar a Day offering will be collected at the end of Lent.

WAUKESHA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Ascension has collected food and other items for the Food Pantry of Waukesha County for many years. In spite of Waukesha County being identified as one of the wealthiest counties in Wisconsin, over 19,000 people live in poverty, according to the Census Bureau. Providing food for the hungry gives dignity, enhances health, and encourages hope. Please consider purchasing a little extra each time you shop for groceries, and either take it directly to the Food Pantry or drop it off at the WH Donation Center in the Food Pantry bin. Remember that there are items not covered by food stamps that are always needed: cleaning supplies, paper products, grooming items, and baby items. Watch the e-alerts and bulletin for the Food Pantry's needs beyond the basic food items.

EASTER BAGS OF HOPE

Sat, April 5
9am - 12pm

Ascension Lutheran Church
1415 Dopp Street
Waukesha

Teach children the importance of helping others by involving them in the collecting of items and the assembling of Easter Bags benefitting the Hope Center of Waukesha

Item Drive

March 1 - 30

We are looking for the following donations which will be included in Easter bags

- *Non-perishable snacks
- *Trial size ibuprofen/acetaminophen
- *Hand sanitizer
- *Toothpaste
- *Toothbrush
- *Nail files & nail polish
- *Hygiene products:
Hand or face lotion, lip balm, soap, travel size shampoo/conditioner, women's razors, deodorant (teen and women), body spray or perfume
- *Hats & Gloves
- *Socks (children, teen and women)
- *Hair accessories for girls and teens
- *Books for kids, teens & women
(including Bibles, devotional or prayer books)
- *Crossword puzzles
- *Small toys
- *Coloring books & crayons
- *Small stuffed animals
- *Crosses
- *Candles
- *Journals & pens

Collection bins located at
Ascension Lutheran Church
1415 Dopp Street, Waukesha

Easter Bag Assembly

Saturday, April 5

Come join the fun as we create and fill Easter Bags benefiting the Hope Center of Waukesha

Kids & Teens of all ages

(along with their parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles and friends)

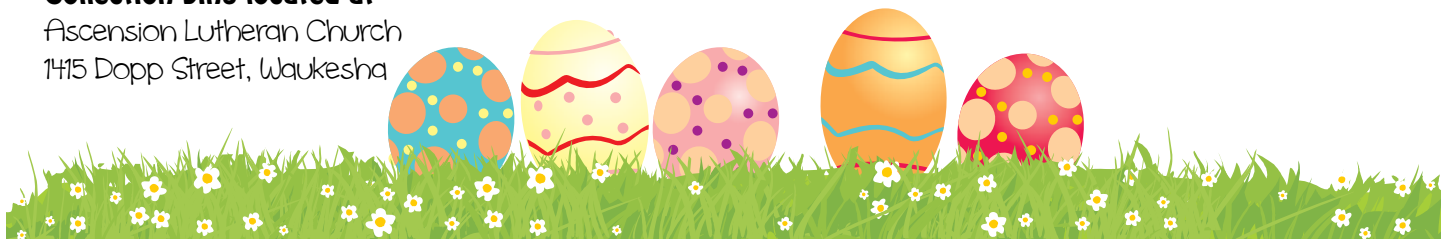
Ascension Lutheran Church

1415 Dopp Street, Waukesha

Register at

www.owenslittlewarriors.com

(pre-registration is appreciated but walk-ins are always welcome)



March 2014

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 9am Ascension Arise taping - S 5pm Chili cook-off EH, WH & kit
2 8am Worship 8:30am Puppets WH/EH 9am Worship & SS 10:45am Worship & SS 12pm Mime WH/S 6pm AA mtg WH 6pm CRASH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	3 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer group PR 6pm Yoga EH 6pm Ascension Arise 6:30pm GTC 107 6:30pm Girl Scouts 106 6:30pm Knit Wits open mtg WH	4 6:30am Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 7pm Mutual Ministry PR 7:15pm TGIT 107	5 9am Young at Heart at Denny's 12pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship, Mime blessing 7pm Wisdom Grp WH	6 9:30am Al Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir 5:45pm Joyful Sounds 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107 7pm Care Ministries Mtg 106	7	8 7am AMEN Break- fast-Breakfast with Abe EH/WH 9am Arise Mtg 107
9 Family worship, No Sunday School Mime travel 8am Worship 9am Puppets visit shut-ins 9am Worship 10:45am Worship 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	10 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Yoga EH 7pm GABS 107 7pm Living Letters 106 7pm Supermoms Book Study HR	11 6:30am Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 1pm Pastoral Assistant Mtg. 6:30pm Small grp leadership mtg PR 7pm Military Family Ministry HR 7pm Holloway small group 107	12 11:30am Staff Mtg. 11:45am Men's Nurture Grp 106 6pm Lenten Soup Supper EH/WH 6:30pm Women's nurture grp PR 7pm Worship 7:30pm Wisdom Grp WH 8pm Grace Grp 106	13 9:30am Al Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm NO Angel/Joyful Sounds Choir 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group "The Story" 107	14	15 9am Knit Wits Knit Fest WH 10:30am Folk choir rehearsal
16 Blood pressure screening HR Mime travel 8am Worship 8:30am Puppets WH/EH 9am Worship & SS 10:45am Worship & SS 6pm AA mtg WH 6pm CRASH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	17 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer Grp PR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN SG107 6:30pm Knit Wits WH 6:30pm Call Team 7pm Supermoms Book Study HR	18 6:30am Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Council Orientation 7pm Church Council EH 7:15pm TGIT 107	19 12pm Young at Heart Potluck EH & kit 6pm Lenten Soup Supper EH/WH 7pm Worship 7:30pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH	20 9:30am Al Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir 5:45pm Joyful Sounds 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	21	22
23 Mime travel 8am Worship 8:30am Puppets WH/EH 9am Worship & SS 10:45am Worship & SS 6pm AA mtg WH 6pm CRASH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	24 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Yoga EH 7pm AMEN SG107 7pm Supermoms Book Study HR	25 6:30am Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 7pm Holloway small group 107	26 6pm Lenten Soup Supper EH/WH 6:30pm Women's nurture group PR 7pm Worship 7:30pm Wisdom Group WH	27 9:30am Al Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir 5:45pm Joyful Sounds 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group107	28 6pm Ascension Arise	29 9:30am First Commu- nion Class EH/WH
30 Mime travel 8am Worship 9am Puppets/Sunday School EH 9am Worship 10:45am Worship & SS 6pm CRASH 7pm AA closed mtg - WH	31 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Yoga EH 7pm Supermoms Book Study HR					

