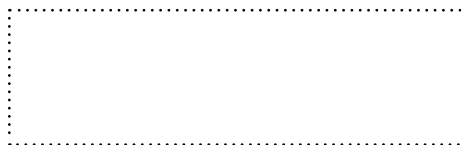




Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
May 2014

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THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA



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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.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Lead Pastor

Rev. Christian W. Marien
PC@ascensionelca.org

Interim Pastor

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Pastorbecky@ascensionelca.org

Director of Administration

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Director of Music Ministries

Vicki Taylor
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Director of Youth Ministries

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Administrator for Caring

Relationships and Mission Outreach

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and Tim Minkley

Nursery Staff

Rachel Stemper
Michelle Heimlich

Wedding Coordinator

Lauri Eckmann
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Secretary

Katie Voss
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Director of Operations

Peter Laper
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Adult & Children's Choir Director

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House Band Leader

Ben Janzow Ben@ascensionelca.org

Handbell Choir Director

Heidi Bischmann
Heidi@ascensionelca.org

Pianist

Ray Kinney Raywk2003@yahoo.com

Organists

Vicki Taylor
Rhonda Kwiecien
Rhonda@ascensionelca.org

SUCH JOY IN THIS PLACE

Dear People of God,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

What a joy to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with you in this the Great 50 Days of Easter. We have followed the footfalls of our Savior through the season of Lent and to the hill of Golgotha. We have wept with the disciples and experienced the pain of his followers who believed all hope was lost with the crucifixion on Good Friday. And now, here, we stand in defiance of death for the great joy of an empty tomb and the promised power of God as the stone was rolled away, sharing with us once again that death has no power over the creator and author of life. Alleluia!



Pastor Chris Marien

Holy Week was full of surprises. How wonderful to celebrate the First Communion of 22 fifth graders during Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and again, on the First Sunday after Easter. We give thanks for the gift of musicians that showered God with praise throughout the celebration of Holy Week and into Easter. Maundy Thursday brought a ritual of individual forgiveness of sins along with foot-washing and kneeling for communion. Good Friday welcomed the story of the passion told in mime and a traditional tenebrae service at 7 p.m. that evening. And Easter – well, God brought great joy this year – lilies and trumpets and baptisms...thanks be to God!

There is much to tell you about the days ahead. First, we give thanks to God for the gift of the reconfigured sanctuary. In March, I told you that we would return to the traditional format after Easter...I want to temper that statement with comments from several of you – sharing that you love the new arrangement. Well, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the sanctuary space as it is for a few more weeks. I expect to rearrange the sanctuary again over Memorial Day weekend or possibly June 1 at the latest. We will return to a somewhat traditional format along with a rearrangement of the altar area up-front. Come and see what the Holy Spirit will do – I am still waiting to hear the final outcome!

New members will be received on May 11. Several families and individuals have come forward ready to commit themselves to this place and to share in the grace, power, and care of our community. I ask for your prayers as these individuals join us in mission and in ministry.

We will celebrate the service of confirmation on Sunday, May 18, during both the 9 and 10:45 services, with the students choosing to be confirmed at their respective services. What great power the rite of confirmation will have within the context of the communities worship in which these students have been nurtured in the faith. Yes, there will be lots of people. Yes, the services will be different. But, for Ascension, it will be a wonderful gift for all to share in the joy of this day.

Finally, by the time you read this, the Call Team will have met face-to-face with two of the three candidates who God has entrusted to us to consider for call as pastor to this place. The Call Team expects to gather the week of May 4 to discern a final candidate recommendation for the Church Council to bless and then announce a weekend in May or June for an introduction of the candidate and their family to the congregation. Keep watching for the announcement.

Such joy in this place! Come and see what God is doing!

SPIRITUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

Pastor Becky Feters



Spring has sprung. At last, at last! We are so grateful for nicer weather - for sunshine, for warmth, for budding trees and growing grass. My 18-month old son in particular is enjoying being outside and exploring the world around him (He wasn't terribly mobile the last time the weather was this nice).

But whenever we are in our backyard, I look around and realize how much we didn't get done in terms of fall clean-up. When the layers of snow finally all melted, I discovered that our lawn was matted with dead leaves that we never had a chance to rake. There were various twigs and small branches littering the grass. Random papers and plastic from the neighbors' trash had blown into our driveway and front yard. So while we are outside enjoying spring, my husband Andy and I are also hard at work cleaning up all of the things that have accumulated to get our property ready for us to enjoy this summer.

As we enter into this Easter season (Easter lasts for fifty days, you know!), I was thinking that our lives as disciples are a lot like spring. Theoretically, we spend the forty days of Lent doing some of this spiritual pruning and clean-up as we reflect on our lives and try more deliberately to reflect Jesus' model. And then we come to Easter morning, and we rejoice at the new life that springs from the empty tomb into our lives. The warmth of Christ's love bursts upon us, and we are so thankful, ready to enjoy it.

This new life and love comes, like spring, as a gift from God – there is nothing we can do to make it come, even though we sometimes wish we could. There is nothing we need to do to bring this new life about - God is the one that brings it about, but that doesn't mean that we can't participate in it. Just because Easter life comes as God's gift doesn't mean that we don't have a chance to partner with God in what God is doing – in our individual lives, in our congregation, in the life of the world around us. As we celebrate the abundant life that Christ's life, death, and resurrection make possible, we are invited to look around us and see what we can do to help God's kingdom to come. As followers of Jesus, we do this by tending to our own spiritual ground – cleaning up the dead leaves of apathy and pulling the growing weeds of anger or bitterness or resentment before they have a chance to really take root and spread. We come to worship, we read God's word, we pray, we give. We plant the seeds of love and grace and mercy for ourselves and the people around us. We sit up and take notice of the needs of the world around us, and then take action: feeding the hungry, tending the sick, clothing the naked, loving our neighbors wherever we find them. And all the while, we give thanks for this Easter life, grateful that God calls us to work together in tending to it and helping it to grow.

May you enjoy and grow in the new life God gives us!

YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

Barbara Nordberg, Council President

The final meeting of the 2013-2014 Council was April 22.

Mutual Ministry Chair Mary Ellen Comp reported that they finished reviews of all of the paid staff members and are pleased to have such dedicated and talented individuals at Ascension. They continue to conduct background checks on all paid and volunteer adults who work with our children and vulnerable people.

We approved the appointment of Bill Rudd as Director of Ministries. He will be working with the wing leaders as they honor God as leaders in Joyful Worship, Caring Relationships, Mission Outreach, and Spiritual Growth. We are excited about the gifts Bill brings to this position.

Our next order of business was to approve the appointment of Katie Voss as secretary of the Church Council. Katie, a Supermom, is eager to continue to record the history of Ascension as presented through the decisions made by the council. Thank you, Katie, for undertaking this important position.

We spent some time talking about Lent and Holy Week and commended Pastor Chris on the beauty of all the services. We appreciate the dedication of all involved in the planning of worship throughout the entire Lenten season leading up to the glorious Easter Sunday worship services.

For the last four years, we have been blessed to have Emily Whitstone, council secretary, and Lori Kallin and Lee Ehrlich, both members-at-large on the council, serve as leaders at Ascension. We thank them for their service, insight, and the direction they provided to the issues brought to the council. We look forward to seeing them in new leadership roles at Ascension. New council members were installed on April 27; please pray for them and give them your support.

Lee Ehrlich will continue to be the council liaison to the Call Team. With the absence of the chair, Don Krueger, we changed the status of Lee to a voting member of the Call Team. Paul James will assume the position of chair. Please keep the Call Team and Don in your prayers as they complete the final steps in the call process.

It has been a joy to serve you as council president this last year. I appreciate the encouragement that has been given to me by you, the members of Ascension. I pray that we continue to grow as members of Christ's family and look forward to the days ahead with joy and thanksgiving.

Ascension's 2014 Council Members are:
President Eric Friedrichsohn

1st Vice President Nada Draeger

2nd Vice President Paul Wehmeier

Secretary Katie Voss

Treasurer Doug Bue

At-Large Board Members Steve Bonnell,
Sheri Greger, Becky Klotz, Cathy Rapp, Marcy Schaefer, and Roland Tonn

Director of Ministries Bill Rudd

Director of Operations Peter Laper

(Contact information is on page 2).



CALL TEAM REPORT

Don Krueger, Call Team Chair

The Call Committee has completed initial interviews with the candidates. Between Easter and early May, we will be conducting face-to-face interviews. Because of confidentiality, nothing more can be reported. Keep us in your prayers.

MY GOD MOMENT

Steve Bonnell, Council Member-at-Large



I believe I have had several God moments in my life. I pray daily to God for the forgiveness of my sins, blessings, and the well-being of family and friends, among other things. I have noticed as life's stress mounts, my prayers become more intense in asking God for help, guidance, and, in my mind, some miracles.

My oldest daughter Cara was born weighing a little over four pounds, causing the pediatrician to keep her in the hospital. After about a week, Sharon and I were told Cara wasn't doing well and she was going to be transported to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. This was a Saturday afternoon. By 10 p.m., we were told they didn't think they could do anything for Cara because she was in such distress. I will never forget calling Pastor shortly thereafter inquiring about having Cara baptized. Around 2:30 Sunday morning, a pastor from the Chicago area arrived, and Cara was baptized while in the neonatal unit. Miraculously, Cara stabilized that next week, and had heart surgery about 12 days later to correct several heart defects. Cara has had a few more heart surgeries since and another yet to be performed down the road. By the Grace of God, Cara will be 35 this fall. To me, this was one of God's miracles.

I have had other God Moments, including finding a great job in a great community after being unemployed for nine months.

God has blessed me and my family many times over the years; he has answered my prayers many times. I continue to pray daily thanking God for his many blessings. God's blessings to all.

Pastoral Acts

March Baptisms

Lorelei Lillian Rook

Peyton Richard Mainz

April Baptisms

Gage William Vanselow

Justin Christopher Jenkins

Alainnah Jewel Mell

Isaac Christopher Mell

Emily Ann Schroedl

Funerals - In Memoriam

Don Jones, March 25

Lois Lehmann, April 27

Weddings

Emily Bonnell Brian Reinhardt were united in marriage on April 26.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Doug Bue, Treasurer

March 31, 2014 Year to Date

Item	2014 Actual	2014 Plan	Variance to 2014 Plan	2013 Actual	Variance to 2013 Actual
Income					
Contributions	\$170,893	\$185,950	\$(15,057)	\$185,177	\$(14,284)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$16,060	\$15,212	\$848	\$11,809	\$4,251
From Restricted Funds	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$2,700	\$(2,700)
Total Income	<u>\$186,953</u>	<u>\$201,162</u>	<u>\$(14,209)</u>	<u>\$199,686</u>	<u>\$(12,733)</u>
Expenses					
Communications	\$6,491	\$6,550	\$59	\$5,491	\$(1,000)
Facilities	\$71,200	\$61,449	\$(9,751)	\$63,555	\$(7,645)
Financial Development	\$24,397	\$24,412	\$15	\$26,938	\$2,541
Leadership Development	\$243	\$600	\$357	\$-	\$(243)
Administration	\$48,999	\$62,393	\$13,394	\$70,879	\$21,880
Caring Relationships	\$4,460	\$6,073	\$1,613	\$3,254	\$(1,206)
Joyful Worship	\$15,514	\$15,182	\$(332)	\$14,278	\$(1,236)
Mission Outreach	\$14,798	\$15,025	\$227	\$19,134	\$4,336
Spiritual Growth	\$17,016	\$23,334	\$6,318	\$22,070	\$5,054
Total Expenses	<u>\$203,118</u>	<u>\$215,018</u>	<u>\$11,900</u>	<u>\$225,599</u>	<u>\$22,481</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$(16,165)</u>	<u>\$(13,856)</u>	<u>\$(2,309)</u>	<u>\$(25,913)</u>	<u>\$9,748</u>
Mortgage Balance	<u>\$1,165,483</u>				
Vision Ascension Contributions	<u>\$39,398</u>				
Ascension Arise Contributions	<u>\$10,000</u>				
Restricted Contributions	<u>\$10,544</u>				
Restricted Funds Balance	<u>\$172,922</u>				
General Fund Balance	<u>\$7,720</u>				

What the numbers mean:

- Our general contributions are behind plan for 2014, and they are behind 2013 actual as well.
- Our expenses are under plan due mainly to our pastoral and youth minister transitions.
- Based on our bottom line, we are behind plan by \$2,309.
- Our general fund balance is currently positive.

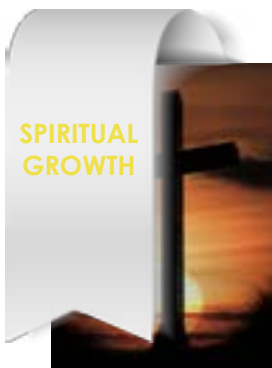
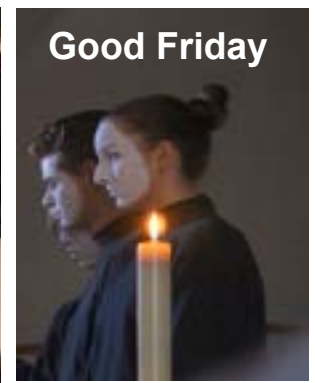
If you have questions or comments on the financials or would like more details, please email me at dwibue@wi.rr.com.



MAY 14 CONCERT AND HOSTS NEEDED

Ascension will host the Friends University Concert Choir from Wichita, Kansas for a concert on Wednesday, May 14, at 7 p.m. The choir is under the direction of Rolaine Hetherington, assistant professor of music at the university and alumnus of the Dale Warland Singers and the Minnesota Bach Society. The concert is free and open to the public; however, we are looking for Ascension members to host singers overnight, provide breakfast, and return them to Ascension the following morning. We are in need of lodging for 70 students in groups of two or four, and your hospitality would be very much appreciated! Please contact Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministries, at vicki@ascensionelca.org if you are willing to host the evening of May 14.

HOLY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS



MEMORIAL GARDENS SPRING CLEAN-UP

Steve Van Voorhis, Memorial Gardens Committee

Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. is Ascension's Annual Spring Clean-up in the Memorial Gardens (rain date, Sunday, May 11, 1 p.m.). Ascension members are invited to volunteer a few hours clearing winter trash, pruning, trimming, cutting, raking, weeding, cultivating, transplanting, fertilizing, and perhaps spraying select areas. Please bring work gloves, gardening tools of your choice, and a sunshine smile. It has been three years since we applied fresh mulch, so it is the BIG TASK on this year's list; pitch forks or small wheelbarrows will be helpful.

We've demonstrated in prior years that many hands make each task small. No need to sign up, but please mark May 3 on your calendar now, and then just show up ready to help beautify Ascension's "back yard."

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

I am always amazed at how fast the Sunday School year flies by; our last day will be Sunday, May 18!

The new 9 a.m. Children's Church has been a success and I could NOT have brought this to life without the dedication of some key volunteers: Rachael Medal, Linda Medal, Debbi Hoff, Becky Murray, Beth Hoffman, Toni Coralline-Jones, Pat Bergmann, and Puppets of Praise.

Our 10:45 a.m. teachers are a blessing to Ascension and enjoy being with the kids each week! They all hold a special place in my heart for all the great lessons they teach as they walk our youngest members through their faith journey. Thank you to: 3K-Erika Moeller, 4K-Ric Simon, 5K-Kurt Burie, 1st-Jill Burie, 2nd-Jennifer Werner, 3rd Parent

Rotation - Kim and James Bangaol, Cheri Ehrlich, Kim and Bob Ward, Brian and Sarah Pehl, Justin Gartzke, Toni Gunderson, 4th-Chris Durfee, 5th- Paulette & Sean Hayes.

I have a wonderful gift from Pastor Chris that hangs in my office; it reads, "Nothing you do for Children is Ever Wasted." Those words could not be truer for our Sunday School ministry. I have a heart full of gratitude for all my amazing volunteers. You all have made it a great year and I am truly thankful!!!

I do still look forward to seeing the faces of our kids in church over the summer. We will continue a children's lesson each week. If you have questions about volunteering for the fall, please contact me, jennifer@ascensionelca.org.

Thank you all for entrusting me with our church's future!

Jennifer Koutnik, Director of Children's Ministries



FIRST COMMUNION 2014

We celebrate with our fifth graders who received first communion this Holy Week.
Zachary Acompanado
Aidan (AJ) Andersen
Anthony Bagley
Bryson Bennett
Jackson Bennett
Rylie Christnovich
Sydney Durfee

Mary Ebbott
Madison Falvey
David (DJ) Fancher
Hannah Gallo
Gabrielle Hayes
Bryce Hoff
Justin Jenkins
Sophie Greenwood
Katherine Gunderson
Kieran Keller

McKenna Koutnik
Lauren Pichler
Samuel Steinke
Katrina Swartos
Shayla Walczak



JOLT

Calling all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders!

JOLT is back!

We gather Thursday, May 1 and Thursday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Come reconnect and get back in the groove!

9th Grade JOLT students

Confirmation is around the corner!

Check these dates:

- **Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** - Faith Retreat for student and parent(s)
- **Monday, May 12-Friday, May 16** - Interviews with Pastor Becky, Tony, or Pastor Chris (faith statements and posters are due at the time of your interview).
- **Sunday, May 18** - Service of Confirmation during 9 or 10:45 a.m. worship services
- **Sunday, May 18** - Class picture and Confirmation reception between services.





CRASH

Tony Acompañado, Director of Youth Ministries

May 4, 6 p.m. - CRASH

May 11, 6 p.m. - No CRASH (Mother's Day)

May 18, 6 p.m. - CRASH

May 25, 6 p.m. - No CRASH (Memorial Day weekend)

The CRASH ministry annual Flamingo Flocking FUNdraiser will take place from Sunday, May 4 – Sunday, May 18. On Sunday, May 4, between services, students will be in the narthex selling “Flamingo Insurance.” If you wish to avoid having a flock of flamingoes taking up residence on your lawn, be sure to purchase a Flamingo Insurance Policy for a donation of \$20.

If you like to live dangerously and choose not to purchase flamingo insurance and you get flocked, then a generous donation of \$25 will secure our Flamingo Removal Services, and give you the opportunity to suggest the next surprise Flocking victim.

All donations to this FUNdraiser will be used to support our CRASH ministry. Your participation and generous support are greatly appreciated!



CARE MINISTRIES

Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries

Sunday, May 4 will be the last Blood Pressure Screening until fall; we are taking a break during summer. Thank-you to all of our nurse volunteers.

The Care Ministries Plant Sale pick-up is at Ascension on Saturday, May 17, from 9-11 a.m. in the parking lot.

FREE CLASS: THE STROKE EXPERIENCE: DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY

ProHealth Care is offering this FREE class on Wednesday, May 21, at the West Wood Health and Fitness Center, in Pewaukee. There will be interactive displays open from 5-6 p.m. The program will be from 6-7 p.m. Neurologist Brian Chapman, MD, and interventional radiologist Erik Olson, MD, will discuss the steps that a stroke patient will experience during emergency treatment. You'll learn about the tests that will be completed, treatment options available, and how physicians make treatment decisions. The neurology specialist will discuss how the clot-busting drug TPA works, explain how physicians remove clots that cause a stroke, and outline the steps involved in your recovery.

Registration for this program is required. To register, visit www.ProHealthCare.org/Classes or call 262-928-2745.

*"Live your life while you have it. Life is a splendid gift – there is nothing small about it."
Florence Nightingale*

BLOOD DRIVE AND ORGAN DONATION REGISTRY

We are having another Blood Drive and Organ Donation Registry on Saturday, May 31, from 8 a.m.-noon, in West Hall. We had a great response at our last blood drive with 31 donors present. That donation will save up to 81 local community patient lives. Let's do it again! Sign up for an appointment at: www.bcw.edu/ascension. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are also welcome. The drive is open to family and friends. Find out more on the next page.

Blood is the essence of life, and to give selflessly can make you feel more connected to your community and to the world around you. It's a fulfilling, powerful, and enriching experience to know that your donation could save lives.

Unfortunately, fewer than 5% of people who are eligible to donate actually do. Imagine the lives that could be touched by your gift. It's a quick, simple, and amazing way to give back to our community!

Eligibility

Anyone who is at least 17 years old, weighs a minimum of 110 lbs. and is in generally good health can donate blood. The entire process takes about an hour and all blood types are needed. Donors should bring a photo ID.

Most medications are acceptable. The following are unacceptable medications: Proscar (finasteride), Avodart, Jalyn (dutasteride), Propecia (finasteride), Accutane, Absorica, Amnesteem, Claravis, Myorisan, Sotret, Zenatane (isotretinoin), Soriatane (acitretin), Tegison (etretinate), growth hormone from human pituitary glands, insulin from cows (bovine or beef insulin), Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (Note: This is different from the hepatitis B vaccine), Coumadin (warfarin), experimental medications.

Antibiotics: You can donate three days after finishing antibiotics for an infection (bacterial or viral). You can donate if you are taking antibiotics to prevent an infection, for example, following dental procedures or for acne. Antibiotics for acne do not disqualify you from donating.

Dental work: You can donate if there is no infection.

Flu vaccination: You can donate if you are feeling well.

Heart disease: Most donors with a history of heart disease that are feeling well and do not have any restrictions may be eligible to donate. Please be prepared to discuss your specific condition with a Donor Specialist.

Infections: You must be infection-free.

Injections/Vaccinations: Certain injections and vaccinations require a wait before donating. Please bring the name of the injection or vaccination and the date it was administered.

Menstruation: Women can donate during their periods.

Piercings: Ear or body piercing using single-use, sterile equipment is acceptable.

Pregnancy: Women who are pregnant should not donate. Please wait to donate until 6 weeks after giving birth. Women who are breast-feeding are eligible to donate.

Tattoos: Restrictions concerning tattoos have changed. If your tattoo was applied by a licensed facility in Wisconsin, you can donate blood. If your tattoo was applied by an unlicensed facility or a facility outside Wisconsin, we require a 12-month waiting period from the time the tattoo was applied.

Travel: If you have traveled to a malaria area, you may not donate until 12 months after your return.

Cancer: Certain cancers require a 5-year wait after treatments. Please be prepared to discuss your specific type of cancer with a Donor Specialist.

Please contact the Blood Center's nurse audit/record review department 414-937-6070 for any eligibility questions.



LIVING LETTERS



Baptism Birthday Cards for sale on Sunday, May 4.

Have you ever wished you had a special card to give to your child, grandchild, or godchild to celebrate the day of their baptism years after their actual baptism? Inspired by Ascension's Sunday School and their celebration of Stepping Stones, the women of the Living Letters Stamping Ministry have created different designs and colors of cards for you, which you may have seen at our preview during the Ministry Expo.

These cards will be on sale on Sunday, May 4 between church services. The cards will be sold separately for \$3.50. You may purchase by cash or check, made out to Ascension Lutheran Church with "Living Letters sale" in the memo line. If we run out of the card you want, you can put in an order for that card. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Hansen, at lindahansen@wi.rr.com or 262-544-6823.

PRAYER GROUP MINISTRY



Please pray for Dylan.

The Prayer Team and the members of the Tuesday morning women's Bible study heard this request a few years ago when Pastor Ted and Sharon Romberg asked for prayers for their grandson Dylan Moyer who had been adopted from China by their daughter Kristin and son-in-law Greg. Our hearts were captured by challenges that the family was facing, and we have been praying for Dylan and the rest of the family ever since. Kristin has since written a book entitled *Finding Sozo*, documenting how the

power of prayer has changed their lives and the life of little Dylan. Kristin has graciously acknowledged the Prayer Warriors of Ascension in her book. The book is now in the Ascension library. We encourage you to read this book. It will touch your heart as it gives testament to the power of prayer and the teachings of Jesus in your life.

We all have challenges in our lives. We all need prayer. We invite you to attend our prayer meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6 p.m. in the prayer room at Ascension.

RESPIRE MINISTRY



Do you need a few hours of relief from a long-term care or hospice situation? Or perhaps you have a passion for helping others? If so, please consider participating in Ascension's Respite Ministry. Relief from respite care is a growing area of need in our congregation and the Respite Ministry can help.

How it works: Family and/or recipient will be a member of Ascension. This ministry is to provide in-home breaks. Small, local errands may be provided upon agreement with volunteer prior to appointment time. Volunteer will give 1-3 hours of time per visit with the hours being mutually decided between the family and volunteer. Please note: this ministry does not provide any nursing care.

For more information, please contact Nada Draeger at njdraeger@msn.com or 262-548-0351.

SUPERMOMS

A HUGE THANK YOU FROM SUPERMOMS

Supermoms of Ascension would like to thank all of you who helped to make this year's rummage a success. To our volunteers, sellers, the staff of Ascension, and those who gave their time to help with the administrative needs of our group, thank you all for continuing to support our ministry! We are very excited about the future of Supermoms here at Ascension.



SUPERMOMS DINNER AND RUMMAGE CELEBRATION

Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 p.m., East Hall

Another successful rummage season has passed and the Supermoms have so much to be thankful for! After all of the hard work, it is time to stop, celebrate, and reflect on how far our group has come and where we would like to go in the future. Please join us for a dinner at church to:

- Celebrate and review the results of the Rummage Sale
- Discuss the goals and future of Supermoms of Ascension

- Get to know other members of Supermoms

Interested in joining Supermoms? Want to learn more about the group? This is the perfect event to come and learn more about our mission and to meet other moms at Ascension.

In order to ensure that we have enough food, please RSVP to Katie Voss, at katievoss@yahoo.com by Friday, May 23, if you plan to attend.

SPECIAL FRIENDS SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Do you want to be part of a special ministry for some very special kids and adults? Special Friends is a ministry for people with special needs; it is part of Ascension's butterfly wing of Caring Relationships. Special Friends currently has approximately 27 members.

Special Friends Buddy Program pairs a church member to a special needs member. These "buddies" participate in planned activities together (e.g. bowling, miniature golf, etc.). The Buddy Program creates friendship and fellowship while sharing God's love. It also enables our members to recognize and bond with other people while attending Ascension's services/activities. The basis for our relationship with one another is Christ's relationship with us. We are to "accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God" (Romans 15:7).



If you are considering joining us or have any questions, please contact Sally Graser, at 262-993-9545, or Marge Schroeder, at 262-695-2384

SPECIAL FRIENDS PARENTS NIGHT OUT

On Friday, May 16, from 6-8 p.m., you can drop off your kids to participate in the Buddy Program and a service project. Participants will make new friends and share the love of God while participating in fun activities.

We will be collecting food for Feed the Kids, which is the Salvation Army summer feeding program. Please bring non-perishable, kid-friendly food to donate (fruit snacks, Sun Chips, Teddy Grahams, fruit and/or pudding cups, juice boxes, etc).



SPRING SALAD SUPPER AND A MOVIE

Free Event! Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m., East Hall

Back by popular demand: a potluck supper of salads, salads, salads, and more of your favorite salads! After supper, we'll relax and enjoy a movie starring Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson about the making of the Disney classic *Mary Poppins*.

All women welcome! Admission is free, but each person attending should bring a salad (or dessert) with serving utensils. We'll provide dinner rolls, water, and flavorings.

Please sign up on the Girlfriends bulletin board (next to the office door) before May 5, or contact Cheri Ehrlich, 262-820-9925 or cehrlich@waukeshak12.wi.us.

KNIT WITS



Annual Report

October 1, 2012- March 31, 2014

Knits Wits is a group of women from Ascension and the community who enjoy knitting, crocheting, and looming, and want to help others. Our purpose is to foster friendship among our members. Our mission is to help keep the less-fortunate warm one stitch at a time, and so we make hats and other winter accessories for charity. We expanded our mission this year to include infants at Ascension. We make hat-booties-and-mitten sets for the New Life Ministry and create Angel Blankets for families grieving the death of an infant.

Our accomplishments this year include:

- 12 charity knit-a-thons
- Two new missions this year: New Life Ministry and Angel Blankets
- Our first annual Hat Sale raised \$1,140. We purchased 2,332 knit items for charity!

- We created 1,732 hats and bought 1660, so our HAT total came to 3,392!
- Our grand total was 4,245 items donated to charity, including cowl, scarves, capes, mittens, and slippers!
- We donated \$300 to charities for their general clothing funds.
- 40% of attendees are not members of Ascension, which is evidence of our successful community outreach!

We'd like to thank everyone who has donated yarn for hats and supported our mission by purchasing items at our Hat Sale. Mark your calendars now for our next sale on Saturday, October 25!

Knit Wits is open to all women of the community. If you don't knit or crochet, we can teach you to make hats using the Nifty Knitter loom. For more information, contact Maddie Goetter, 262-527-4013.

YOUNG AT HEART



Boat Trip:

We will be taking a cruise on The Mailboat on Lake Geneva on Monday, June 16. Lunch will be at The Abbey Resort. The total cost for the cruise, lunch, and coach bus is \$53.00 per person. There will be a sign-up at church on Sunday, May 4 and 18. All money must be paid by May 21.

Young at Heart had Pastor Walter Barres speak about the poverty and damage that was left in El Salvador after Volcano Chaparras-

tique erupted. Therefore, we are donating \$100 to the El Salvador Food Pack fundraiser.

Wednesday, May 21 is our next Pot Luck Luncheon, from noon- 3 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and stay to enjoy socializing and game playing while we are entertained by accordion music. If you have questions, please contact Celeste Defenbach, at 262-370-4522, Beth Hoffmann, at 262-542-7447, or Arlene Davis, at 262-542-9119.

MILITARY FAMILY MINISTRY

LEST WE FORGET

A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers. - JFK

I wonder if JFK somehow had a premonition of what our country was going to look like some 60 years after he made that statement. Did he know that we were going to stop remembering the good men that we produce? America is great because she never seems to have a shortfall of brave and selfless men and women who are willing to lay their lives on the line to protect the freedoms so many of us take for granted.

While Memorial Day was first observed in 1868 when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery, there's evidence that it first became a tradition by women's groups in the South who decorated the graves of the Civil War dead before the war ended. How did we get from those groups of dedicated women who so honored those men, to today's Memorial Day celebrations which have come to mean the beginning of summer, barbeques, picnics, and sales at the malls?

Diane Maasz, Military Family Ministry Leader

Where would this country be if not for those who so valiantly sacrificed in places like Belleau Wood, Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, and Normandy? As Americans, we should never forget their sacrifices. It's our solemn obligation to offer them our undying gratitude. This Memorial Day, honor the lives of the more than 1.2 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines that paid the ultimate price. Consider going to a parade, a VFW ceremony, or take flowers to the gravesite of a service member who lost their life while serving our country. Perhaps discuss with your children the true meaning of Memorial Day before you fire up the grill. Stop and give thanks for those that were willing to sacrifice everything so that we can enjoy so many freedoms, and maybe pause for a moment to pray for the families that now have an empty seat at their picnic table; and always will.

Please include the following deployed service members in your prayers:

Kyle Maasz, serving in the Middle East

Cody Penning, serving in Afghanistan

David Schmiechen, serving in Afghanistan



MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

We will once again be sending care packages to our service members at Permanent Duty Stations and to those who are deployed. We are excited to now be including the service members from our partner church, Cross Lutheran in Milwaukee. Due to the specific needs of our military and shipping restrictions, if you choose to donate and would like to ensure that your items are sent to our service members, we recommend that you purchase only items on this list, or they are likely to be donated to another organization. If you have any questions or know of a service member you would like to receive a care package, please contact Diane Maasz, at 262-542-7507 or ddmaasz@gmail.com.

Care Package Items Needed:

FOOD ITEMS

Beef Jerky/Slim Jims (non-pork)

Trail Mix/Dried Fruit

Seeds/Nuts

Canned Fruit (pop tops)

Summer Sausage (non-pork)

Granola Bars (crunchy)

Easy Mac & Cheese

Protein Bars (at least 9 grams of protein)

Gatorade/Power Bar Chews

Electrolyte Replacement Drink Mixes

(individual serving size/ NOT Kool Aid or

Crystal Light)

Care package list continued on next page...



TOILETRIES

Sunscreen (4-8 oz at least 30 SPF)
 Disposable Razors
 Multivitamins
 Shave Gel (non-aerosol)
 Toothbrush/Toothpaste (4-6 oz tube)
 Lip Balm (w/ SPF)
 Eye Drops
 Clearasil Facial Wipes

OTHER ITEMS

Batteries (AA/AAA)
 Playing Cards/Electronic Games/Small Board Games
 Word Puzzles/Sudoku/Crosswords
 Money for postage or to purchase items (over \$150 has been spent on postage for care packages in the past six months). Checks may be made payable to Ascension Lutheran with "Military Ministry" in the memo line.

Please NO PORK PRODUCTS, aerosol cans, glass containers, or anti-Muslim materials. Additionally, volunteers are needed to bake so that we can send home-baked items. These are the most requested items! There will be a sign-up sheet by the collection receptacle and you will be contacted with the pack date.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

MISSION OUTREACH



Shirley Wehmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader

Are you aware that Ascension commits 10% of the total budget to Mission Outreach? Just as members are encouraged to tithe, the congregation has committed to tithing. Mission Outreach is a central part of the Christian Church.

Why do we do this?

Because the Bible tells us to. Jesus' last words to His disciples were, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus also says, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matt. 25: 35). The Old testament reminds us of God's desire for us to care for others: "This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place" (Jeremiah 22:3). In Micah, we are reminded, "He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).

Three Types of Mission Support:

1. Hands On (volunteering)
2. In-kind (donations of goods)
3. Financial (donation of money)

Discover your mission calling! Everyone has a role in Mission Outreach.



A MISSION OUTREACH THANK YOU

Thank you to Iva Richards and Bob Grady who reacted quickly to an urgent need at the Men's Emergency Shelter and organized four evening meals within a matter of days. Thank you also to those who stepped forward with donations of food, money, or assistance in serving. What a wonderful way to share Christ's love during Holy Week.

EL SALVADOR SUNDAY, MAY 4!

This is the first of our partnership Sundays where we focus on our mission partners.

EL SALVADOR FOOD PACK

Volcano Chaparrastique left ash on crops that were not yet harvested in El Salvador. The reserved food that the Salvadoran Lutheran Church provides following a disaster has been depleted. Congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod are being asked to help restock those supplies so people can have food until their fields are again viable. On Saturday, May 10, Ascension will be hosting a Food Pack from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. We are in great need of volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, or packing from 10:30 a.m.-12p.m. The first shift is filled! If you are not able to participate, we are also requesting donations to cover the price of the food. Each meal is \$15 or \$32.40 per box. Any money donated to offset the price of the food is appreciated. Individuals, small groups, or families can participate. Contact Sarah Aparicio, at weh22@hotmail.com or Shirley Wehmeier, at pwehmeier@wi.rr.com for more information, or sign up in the narthex.



EL SALVADOR MISSION OF HEALING

We are especially in need of reading glasses for the Mission of Healing. Place them in the marked bin in the Donation Center.



CROSS FOOD PANTRY

During May, we will be collecting baby items for the Cross Food Pantry. This includes formula, baby food, diapers, and wipes. These items are in great need for families who are struggling to keep babies healthy and clean. Please place your donations in the marked bin in the Donation Center. Our partners at Cross truly appreciate our regular contributions.



WEST HALL DONATION CENTER UPDATE

Thank you to all of you who are helping us fill the donation bins for our mission partners and our local mission outreach agencies. The bins are labeled with requested items from each partner/agency. Please check with the listed contact person if you have items you would like to donate that are not on the label. This helps assure that the agencies are getting what they need.



OUTREACH FOR HOPE FAMILY BIKE RIDE

Sept. 6, 2013; Pedal to Push Down Poverty

There is something for everyone at the Family Bike Ride to support the churches of the Greater Milwaukee Synod doing ministry among the poor:

Casual rider: includes families and children; ride on the paved Glacial Drumlin Trail, 14 miles or less if you prefer

Avid bicyclist: a 30 or 50 mile mapped, cued, and supported ride on country roads around Dousman

Everyone: catered picnic lunch

Non-bikers: you don't have to ride to support Outreach for Hope – simply donate to exercise your Christian stewardship. The results are amazing!

Join forces with hundreds of other bikers riding with a purpose. Visit the website for updates and registration information: <http://outreachforhope.org>. Registration begins on June 1, 2014.





Helping Hands Building Hope

Hope Center is a non-profit organization that has been serving the basic needs of financial assistance, food, and clothing in Waukesha County for more than twenty years.

By the Numbers:

Clothing Shop

- 2,704 unduplicated individuals have visited the Clothing Shop 8,814 times. Approximately 45% of all visits were for children.
- 29,054 articles of clothing were distributed, in addition, 2,765 pieces of underwear and 3,689 pairs of socks.

Day Center

- 390 unduplicated individuals have visited the Day Center 4,430 times.
- 3,641 breakfasts and 4,484 lunches were served.

Meal Program

- 335 unduplicated individuals have visited the evening Meal Program 1,974 times. Approximately 7% of all visits were for children.
- 2,789 dinners were served (average of 70 people served per evening meal).

Project Move

- 300 households received 847 household items.
- 129 households received 809 furniture items.
- 25 layettes were distributed.

Social Ministry:

- We distributed \$12,184 in rent, gift cards, vouchers, and miscellaneous expenses.
- We received 391 requests for financial aid and were able to help 53 of those requests.

Volunteer Hours:

- 404 volunteers have donated a total of 5,425 hours.

Donations

- 609 furniture items donated.
- 1,085 household items donated.
- 50,491 clothing items donated.
- \$59,897 retail value of food items donated.

Legal

- 114 individuals were referred for free legal services.
- Be the Hope. Volunteer your time, or contribute to help those in need.

May 2014

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 9:30am Al Anon 106/107 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 6:30pm JOLT - S, EH, WH, HR 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107 7pm Care Ministries mtg. 107	2 Supermoms Rummage EH WH HR	3 Supermoms Rummage EH WH HR 8am RiverWalk for Breast Cancer @ Frame Park 9am Church Property Clean-Up 10am Literacy Council/refugee family mtg 106-107
4 El Salvador Sunday 8am & 9am Worship 10:45am Worship Blood pressure CMO 11am Private Event WH 12:30pm Ldr. retreat EH 6pm AA mtg WH 6pm CRASH 6pm Call Team off-site 7pm AA closed mtg WH	5 9:45am Al Anon WH Flamingo Flocking begins 6pm Prayer group PR 6:30pm Girl Scouts 106 6:30pm Guys Talking Christ 107 6:30pm Knit Wits meeting WH	6 6:30am Early Bird Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Girlfriends Salad & Movie EH & K 7pm Mutual Ministry PR 7:15pm TGIT 107	7 9am Young at Heart at Denny's 11:30am Staff mtg. 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7:30pm Choir rehearsal S	8 9:30am Al Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir rehearsal 5:45pm Joyful Sounds rehearsal 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 6:30pm JOLT - Sanctuary, EH, WH, HR 7pm Ballantyne Small Group "The Story" 107	9	10 9am 9th Grade Faith Retreat EH 9am Food Pack WH
11 Mothers' Day 8am Worship 8:30am Puppets WH 9am Worship 10am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	12 9:45am Al Anon WH 7pm Guys Afraid of Bible Study 107 7pm Living Letters 106	13 6:30am Early Bird Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6:30pm Diakonia HR 7pm Holloway small group 107	14 11:45am Men's Nurture Group Luncheon 106 6pm Handbells S 6:30pm SOPHIA EH 6:30pm Sunday School mtg EH 7pm Wisdom Grp WH 7pm Friends University Choir Concert	15 9:30am Al Anon WH 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107 7pm Care Ministries mtg 106	16 Knit Wits Retreat 5pm Special Friends EH	17 Knit Wits Retreat 9am Plant sale pick-up Parking Lot 10:30am Folk choir rehearsal S Flamingo flocking ends
18 Knit Wits Retreat Final Sunday School 8am & 9am Worship, Confirmation 10am Reception for confirmands HR 10:45am Worship, Confirmation 6pm AA mtg - WH 6pm CRASH 7pm AA mtg WH	19 Knit Wits Retreat 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer Grp PR 6:30pm AMEN 107	20 1pm Pastoral Assistants mtg. 6:30am Early Bird Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 7pm Council EH 7:15pm TGIT 107	21 11:30am Staff mtg. 12pm Young at Heart Potluck EH & K 5pm Cloverleaf graduation EH 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7:30pm Choir S	22 9:30am Al Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 6:30pm Knit Wits WH 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	23 10am Cloverleaf picnic @ Park	24 9am LSS WH
25 8am Worship 8:30am Puppets WH 9am Worship 10am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA mtg WH	26 Memorial Day Office Closed 9:45am Al Anon WH 7pm AMEN SG107	27 6:30am Early Bird Men's Bible Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 7pm Holloway small group SG107	28 6pm Handbells S 6:30pm Supermoms Dinner EH 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH	29 Ascension Day Synod Assembly 9:30am Al Anon WH 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	30 Synod Assembly	31 Synod Assembly 8am Blood Drive WH