



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
August 2014

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THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA



(262) 547-8518



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facebook.com/ascensionlutheran



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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Interim Pastor

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Director of Youth Ministries

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and Tim Minkley

Nursery Staff

Rachel Stemper
Michelle Heimlich

Wedding Coordinator

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Director of Ministries

Vacant

Director of Operations

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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

GOD IS DOING GREAT WORK

Dear People of God,

At this moment, I am sitting in the middle of 85 high school students as they return from another day of walking through a “Week of Hope” outside of Cincinnati, OH. This is my first mission trip with CRASH at Ascension. When Elisabeth announced her resignation, I stepped forward to lead the mission trip regardless of whom God would send to walk with us as the new Director of Youth Ministries. When Tony Acompanado came on staff in February, I was confident in the direction of youth ministry and the continued protection and blessing over our students through the watchful eye and guidance of Tony. I could have stepped back from the mission trip and spent the week in the office. (Lord knows there is enough to tend to even in these summer days at Ascension). However, God was prodding and so I kept the dates on my calendar. I am never fully prepared for the ways in which God chooses to reveal God’s self in my life. I miss moments because I do not expect God to be present. I doubt the Spirit’s work because I do not think this experience or that action is worth the Spirit’s time. And then God reminds me again that I often lack the eyes of faith to see the great work God is doing in the world.

Tony is the newest member of the staff. We can often expect to wait for high school students to connect with a new Director of Youth Ministries. Sometimes we expect juniors and seniors to disconnect from the youth ministry altogether due to a need to grieve the loss of a previous youth director. Losing Elisabeth was a painful moment in ministry. I was grateful for her faithfulness and her love for her Savior. As we all know – those who fill staff positions – those who take new calls – bring gifts that are different from those who served before them. The joy of those transitions is in discovering the gifts of the new person among us and the ways in which God will unfold those gifts in service to the community in which they serve. Here at Ascension, God has provided a deeply committed and humble man to walk with our high school and junior high students in ministry and mission. It has been a joy, a complete joy, to share the journey of the mission trip with Tony and to watch him interact with our students. We are blessed, very blessed, to know

Tony’s presence and ministry among us, and I am grateful for the continued foundation of God’s love and the promise of eternal life that is spoken and lived out among our students. Our students are engaged, invested, and on fire for who God is in their lives and the way in which God is working in their own world and the world around them.

The greatest hope for our students is that we have someone who walks with them who continues to point them toward the love God has for each of them. Tony, along with Sheri and Scott Greger, Amy Stryker, and Brian Zwicky continue to do just that. Thanks be to God.

The heart of the journey of faith that beats within the bodies and souls of high school students is nothing short of miraculous. I stand in awe of their witness, their willingness to sacrifice, their ability to set themselves and their needs aside to be present – present in great ways to the glory of God, to the children of inner-city Cincinnati, to the elderly in assisted living facilities and adult day-care centers, and in camps and food banks and shelters in the area. The stories of God at work in Cincinnati and among our students will come back in force to the doors of Ascension and be told among us in the days ahead.

As the mission trip comes to a close in the days ahead, we have much to prepare in the month of August. We expect to move out of the sanctuary towards the end of the month, after the weddings we have scheduled, so that we may bring new life to the sanctuary. A full painting of the sanctuary, from the top to the bottom, along with a cleaning of the ceiling fans (finally, Barb Nordberg!) is before us. We will need people to help us move out of the sanctuary after worship on August 17. We will temporarily set up the sanctuary in East Hall for at least one Sunday of worship. The freshening of the sanctuary is coming to prepare us to celebrate our 65th anniversary in the life of Ascension. We will gather on September 14 to give thanks to God for all that God has done through Ascension and look to the future with great hope. Mark your calendars now. God is preparing our community for an incredible Fall – on our way to an incredible future. Come, give thanks to God, for all that God has done and is doing within our walls and far beyond our walls to the great glory of God. Peace be with you.

Pastor Chris Marien



A TITHE OF TIME

Pastor Becky Feters



Stewardship is a topic that's near and dear to my heart. I know, that seems kind of weird; stewardship is not typically something that engenders much passion in the lives of a lot of people. I get kind of fired up when I get a chance to talk about it or preach on it though, because it's something that is so important in our lives as followers of Jesus.

I'll be honest and say that when it comes to stewardship, I usually think I've got at least the basics covered: walking the walk, not just talking the talk. Our family strives to keep our finances in check and spend "our" money in ways that honors God as well as providing support to the missions and ministries that are important to us (and we hope to God too!). We seek to balance our work and rest and family time (see my reflection in July's newsletter article for more about that). I try to be a good steward of my physical health. I wear a Fitbit (digital pedometer) to keep track of my daily activity level, and often log my food intake online too, as a way to be more aware of what I'm eating, and use both as tools for improving my diet and exercise. There is always room for improvement, of course, but generally, I've been pretty happy with how I'm doing in most of these areas.

Recently, however, God drew my attention to a new dimension of stewardship. After Kristin Moyer (Pr. Ted Romberg's daughter) shared her faith witness in worship on July 13, I began reading her book, *Finding Sozo*. It describes her family's struggles with the emotional, relational, and physical challenges of their adopted son and two of her biological sons and the desperate place to which that brought their family. In the course of the book, she talks about stewardship of time. Typically, I have considered that mostly from the perspective of making sure that I honor sabbath time weekly and schedule vacations regularly, ensuring that I get a chance to rest and reconnect and be renewed. Kristin talks in her book about a tithe of time, and that was a new concept to me, one I have never thought of before.

As she described her family's search for healing and hope, Kristin and her husband began to look for ways to spend more time with God each day – a significant amount of time too! It may (or may not) surprise you to know that even pastors can have a hard time setting aside time to intentionally be with God, whether that's in prayer or reading the Bible devotionally or praising God in song. It's not that I never do those things, but if I'm not intentional about them, there will always be things that will jump ahead in my priorities. And spending a tenth of my time doing that? (That's what a tithe is: ten percent.) Well, that thought never crossed my mind. As a mom with two young children, there's a part of me that wonders how that would even be possible!

I'm intrigued by this thought. I'm inspired. I'm challenged. I'm curious to try this out and see what happens as I am more diligent about making and protecting time to be with God. Jesus gives us the model of getting up "in the morning, while it was still very dark" to go pray in a deserted place (Mk. 1:35). There are other ways too – talking with God while exercising or listening to music with spiritual themes, having a prayer partner (a spouse or good friend or someone you know at church), using a daily devotional or reading guide for the Bible and then reflecting in a journal or blog about what you read.

Creating time to be in the presence of God isn't a cookie cutter operation. I'm excited about the possibilities.

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

June 29, Charlotte Hill

July 20, Logan Treep

July 27, Jaxon Lombardi

July 27, Karson Staples

YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

In June, we began our meeting with a wonderful reading by Pastor Chris. Our council members continue to take turns this year talking about our “God Moment” or what excites us about the future of Ascension.

We had an update from the Call Team on the progress and plans for the next round of pastoral candidates. We continue to pray for the Call Team and all the work they do. 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 the many members that are involved in this work.

Council members continue to take turns working the Welcome Center on Sundays. This is not an every Sunday event, but we will be there off and on all year. Please come up and say “hi.”

The council is continuing to monitor our year-to-date numbers. As of June we were at a 7% drop YTD. However, we are continually blessed with outside giving for many

different things. The Ascension Arise debt reduction program was reported to have received 25% of the goal already, and we praise God for all the work that has gone into that program and the many who have given; we are truly blessed here as Ascension.

We addressed the medical and dental benefits of the church staff with Mutual Ministries. Thank you to that team for all the hard work they do.

Council terms were explained to everyone, and the hope is that we will get back to our alternate year program so a few members will leave council every year and a few new ones will join, rather than a full turn-over every one to two years.

Please mark your calendars for Nov. 9, 2014. This is the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting. If you will recall, we voted to move the meeting so we will start the budget on the fiscal year. So please join us on Nov. 9.

Eric Friedrichsohn, Council President



ADMINISTRATION

REFRESHING THE SANCTUARY

We will be cleaning and painting the sanctuary starting Aug. 17 through the first week of September. During that time, we will worship in East Hall. **This means that East Hall will be unavailable for meetings and activities during this time frame.** Please be aware that some groups will be moved and space is extra tight. If you have an activity that may be impacted, please let me know so I can help find space for what you need and avoid conflict with other church activities (admin@ascensionelca.org).

These couple weeks will be a bit chaotic and cramped but the sanctuary will look wonderful when it's done. Please join us at 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 17 to help us move!

Amy Gilgenbach, Director of Administration

STAFF CHANGES

This fall, Ascension's head custodian Don Malchow will be retiring from custodial duties. A long-time church member, Don has been custodian here since 2007. We are thankful for his diligent and faithful service. We are also grateful that Don will continue to be a member of the Ascension church family.

FALL CHURCH CALENDAR

As we start a new year, please check our online calendar to ensure your group has reserved space for meetings: www.ascensionelca.org/calendar/. Please let me know if your group is not listed or if there is an error. Ascension is home to over 40 small groups and community groups and preventing conflicts and confusion can be a challenge without good communication.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Doug Bue, Treasurer

June 30, 2014 Year to Date

Item	2014 Actual	2014 Plan	Variance to 2014 Plan	2013 Actual	Variance to 2013 Actual
Income					
Contributions	\$340,547	\$364,350	\$(23,803)	\$354,357	\$(13,810)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$30,992	\$29,700	\$1,292	\$24,580	\$6,412
From Restricted Funds	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$3,600	\$(3,600)
Total Income	\$371,539	\$394,050	\$(22,511)	\$382,537	\$(10,998)
Expenses					
Communications	\$14,988	\$14,300	\$(688)	\$12,184	\$(2,804)
Facilities	\$92,547	\$80,098	\$(12,449)	\$85,145	\$(7,402)
Financial Development	\$48,648	\$48,662	\$14	\$53,407	\$4,759
Leadership Development	\$3,087	\$4,800	\$1,713	\$1,944	\$(1,143)
Administration	\$97,695	\$124,786	\$27,091	\$142,620	\$44,925
Caring Relationships	\$9,134	\$12,146	\$3,012	\$5,283	\$(3,851)
Joyful Worship	\$30,397	\$29,314	\$(1,083)	\$25,651	\$(4,746)
Mission Outreach	\$29,388	\$29,425	\$37	\$38,059	\$8,671
Spiritual Growth	\$41,349	\$45,253	\$3,904	\$43,637	\$2,288
Total Expenses	\$367,233	\$388,784	\$21,551	\$407,930	\$40,697
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$4,306	\$5,266	\$(960)	\$(25,393)	\$29,699
Mortgage Balance	\$1,025,117				
Vision Ascension Contributions	\$48,759				
Ascension Arise Contributions	\$150,041				
Restricted Contributions	\$55,868				
Restricted Funds Balance	\$189,484				
General Fund Balance	\$42,178				

What the numbers mean:

- Our general contributions are 6.5% behind plan for 2014, and they are 3.9% behind 2013 actual.
- Our expenses are under plan due mainly to our pastoral and youth minister transitions.
- Based on our bottom line, we are behind plan by \$960.
- 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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT: TOGETHER AT GOD'S TABLE

Paul Wehmeier, Second Vice President

Together at God's Table was the theme of the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly held May 29-31, 2014 at Country Springs. There were more than 300 representatives at the Assembly; we participated in worship, confession, and communion all three days of the event.



The ELCA Representative's Report was by Rev. Ruben Duran, the program director for New Congregations. His report was in fact an encouraging homily. In the past, an ELCA theme was "Called, Gathered, and Nourished." This has evolved into "Claimed, Gathered, and Sent." Every person is called to be a missionary and every church is a mission outpost. He used the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus on Easter Sunday evening to illustrate this point. On their way to Emmaus, the disciples were disheartened. But after meeting the risen Savior, they ran back to Jerusalem with burning hearts. Are we trudging to Emmaus or are we running with burning hearts? Christ is walking with us 24/7. In addition to this question, Rev. Duran informed the assembly that there are currently 41 new congregations being developed, and 155 congregations are receiving ELCA support to renew their congregations. Finally, Rev. Duran discussed the success of the Malaria campaign. The success has allowed various projects to be fully funded.

Friday of the Assembly included informational workshops in the morning and afternoon. Elections were held to fill vacancies on various councils and committees. Pastor Chris was elected to the Consultation Committee.

Other business included the synod's Treasurer's report. The Synod received \$2.1 million from congregations. The synod in turn forwarded 55% of this to the ELCA for its world-wide missions. A complete income and expense statement, dedicated accounts, and the 2015/16 recommended budget was distributed. The budget was passed as presented. If anyone at Ascension wants a copy of the approved budget, I can provide one.

During the Assembly, four resolutions were presented (three are summarized below). Copies of the complete resolutions will be provided upon request.

- Resolution 1 - Establishment of a Synod Endowment Fund submitted by the Greater Milwaukee Synod Council. Passed.
- Resolution 2 - Encouraging Voter Member Diversity and Participation by the Waukesha Cluster. This was referred to the Synod Council with report out by or before next Assembly. The discussion included convening on weekends instead of weekdays, reduced registration fees, consideration of other locations, limiting the number of assemblies in which a person can participate.
- Resolution 3 - Encouraging Intentional, Called Interim Ministry in our Synod by the Waukesha Cluster. This was referred to Synod Council. Interim Ministry requires special skills to restore, or maintain the health of congregations served. The current funding and staffing is not adequate to meet current needs.

Thank you for letting me represent Ascension.

JOYFUL WORSHIP: ALL ARE WELCOME!



There are many cultures where music is an integral part of every gathering, celebration, and occasion, and EVERYONE joins in the singing, dancing, and playing of instruments, not just those deemed to be musically "gifted." I believe music is a gift that lies within each one of us, just waiting to be developed and used to the glory of God and for our joy and pleasure. There are no musical gifts too small or unworthy of being tapped.

I enthusiastically and lovingly invite each one of you to consider using your musical gifts through singing in choirs, ringing handbells, playing instruments, and especially by raising your voice in song during worship. The musical gifts that lie within each of us are not meant to remain dormant and multiply when they are used!

In August, we look forward to musical offerings

Ascension Choir	7:30-8:45	Wednesdays, beginning 9/3	High School-Adult
Angel Choir	5:00-5:45	Thursdays, beginning 9/4	Grades 1-3
Joyful Sounds	5:45-6:30	Thursdays, beginning 9/4	Grades 4-8
vicki@ascensionelca.org			
Handbell Choir	6:00-7:15	Wednesdays, beginning 9/3	Adults
heidi@ascensionelca.org			
Folk Choir	10:30-12	Saturday AM/once each month	All ages
raywk2003@yahoo.com			
House Band	ben@ascensionelca.org		

Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministries

from Scott Greger, Renee and Olivia Smith, Ray Kinney and the Folk Choir, the Ascension Choir, and several of our high school students.

Many thanks to those who have graced worship at Ascension with music during June and July: the Burmese Choir, Christopher Ruck, Kimberly Defenbaugh, Linda Elder, Rhonda Kwiecien, Ray Kinney and the Folk Choir, Heidi Bischmann and the Bell Choir, and Ben Janzow and the House Band.

While I hope you are enjoying the summer as immensely as I am, I cannot help but look forward with anticipation to the fall season. September brings a resumption of regular rehearsals for all of our choirs and their return to regular participation in worship. Please consider joining us for one or more of these opportunities - all are welcome!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



I pray you are all having a wonderful summer! I am very excited as I plan fun school year activities to share with your children. I am so grateful to have this opportunity to be included in their faith journey. I look forward to seeing all of them in September.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming dates:

- Sunday, Aug. 24 – Backpack Blessing
- Wednesday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m. – Sunday School volunteer meeting
- Sunday, Sept. 7 – RALLY DAY!!!!

I am searching for awesome people who would like to grow in their faith and assist our littlest members on their faith journey. The commitment is little, and the payout is great.

I am looking for volunteers for the 9 a.m. Chil-

Jennifer Koutnik, Director of Children's Ministries

dren's Church. Everything will be completed for you; volunteers just need love being around children! I'm looking for a Story Teller, Art Teacher, Movement Master, Music Lover, and Kid Wrangler.

I am also looking for volunteers during the 10:45 a.m. Sunday School. Volunteers are needed for 3K, 1st grade, 3rd grade, and 5th grade. Teachers receive a user-friendly curriculum, "Faith Weaver NOW." This ministry also needs co-teachers and high school or adult aides. Volunteers start in church with their families, and after the children's lesson, walk their kiddos to the classroom.

If you feel called to help with either of these times or if you have any questions, please contact me at Jennifer@ascensionelca.org.

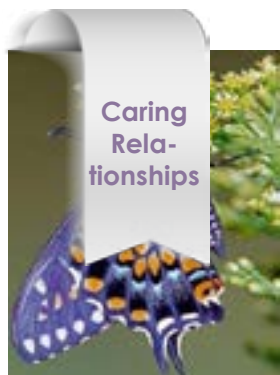
CRASH

Tony Acompanado, Director of Youth Ministries

Greetings from CRASH Cincinnati, Ohio Mission Trip Week of Hope



CARE MINISTRIES



LIFE LINE SCREENING

Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries

Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure or a family history of these? Do you have a poor diet? Then you may want to consider being screened for your risk of stroke through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based, preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive, and painless health screenings at Ascension on Aug. 16, in East Hall.

Five types of screenings will be offered that scan for potential problems related to: (1) blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke (2) abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta (3) the hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease (4) atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat, which is closely tied to stroke risk (5) a bone density screening for men and women for osteoporosis. All screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

In order to register for this event and to receive discounts, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

LOOKING FOR SOME VOLUNTEER HOURS THIS SUMMER?

Volunteer drivers are needed to help deliver a hot meal to homebound seniors living in the Waukesha area. Drivers use their own vehicles but are reimbursed for their gas mileage. Meals are picked up at the Waukesha Health and Human Services Building on Riverview Ave. Help out once a week or twice a month from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If interested call the ADRC at 262-548-7829, or visit the website and click the "volunteer" tab, www.waukeshacounty.gov/adrc.

RED CROSS CERTIFIED BABYSITTING TRAINING AT ASCENSION!

Two classes will be offered in August for pre-teens and teens, ages 10 and up. Sign up for either the Tuesday, Aug. 12 class or the Wednesday, Aug. 13 class. Classes run from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in Ascension's West Hall. Cost is \$35, which includes lunch, Red Cross certification, and all course materials. Class size is limited to 10 students each day, so sign up now on the bulletin board outside Brenda's office soon!

GRIEF SHARE PROGRAM

Care Ministries will be hosting a new program at Ascension called Grief Share to help those in our congregation and in our community who are grieving. The death of a loved one is devastating. Christians are able to claim an eternal perspective and can rejoice that the person they lost is now in the presence of his or her Creator, but as humans, we must grieve a loss so deep and significant. Even Christians with a solid faith need ongoing comfort and encouragement during the grieving period. The Grief Share program is facilitated with leaders, videos, and workbooks that address grief within a biblical context along with ongoing support

and discussion groups. The program is 13 weeks. It will be Monday evenings, starting Sept. 8 from 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Room. If you, a family member, or a friend would like to join this program, please contact Brenda Lytle at 262-547-8518 or brenda@ascensionelca.org.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Babysitting Classes, Aug. 12,13, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., WH
- Community Stroke/Aneurism Health Screening, Aug. 16, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Flu Clinic and BP screenings begin for the fall, Sept. 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., WH



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY: FALL CAMPAIGN

Karen Schmiechen, Fall Campaign

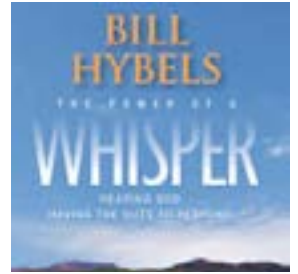
Listen. Do you hear it? It comes to you softly, perhaps tenaciously. It stays on your mind. You can't ignore it. But it is just a whisper. Shhhhhh....You can hear it!

Imagine what your life might become if you were willing to say, "God, I'm listening," if you were hearing God's voice and obeying God's promptings. This fall Ascension is offering a powerful Bible study that provides inspiration and vision for what can happen when you intentionally listen for the Holy Spirit's promptings and respond decisively to what you hear. Author Pastor Bill Hybels leans into personal experiences from over three decades of active ministry, offering practical wisdom on how to better listen for God's whispers of direction, challenge, and counsel – and how to summon the courage to follow God's voice.

This four-week course includes a book, a participant's guide, and a DVD entitled *The Power of a Whisper*. This August, small groups will form. Pick a day or time that works for you and your family and sign up at the Welcome Center. Sessions will start the week of Sept. 21 and end the week of Oct. 12.

Current small group leaders and those interested in leading a new group should contact Jan Zastrow at Jan_Zastrow@yahoo.com by Aug. 10 so materials can be ordered. Materials for your group can be picked up Aug. 24 in the West Hall. New leaders should watch for information about a training session Sept. 9 in the Hearth Room.

*Oh! give me Samuel's ear
An open ear, O Lord,
Alive and quick to hear
Each whisper of your Word;
Like him to answer to your call
And to obey you first of all.*



YOUNG AT HEART

Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014, at noon, in East Hall, we will be having a special Young at Heart and youth potluck. Ascension Youth will provide a musical program following our pot luck. Come and enjoy. Bring a dish to pass if possible!

Our June Lake Geneva trip was a huge success. God provided a perfect day for our Young at Heart group. Watching the "Mail Girl" jump off and on the boat to deliver mail was awesome.

BIRTHDAY CARD BLITZ

It's time to celebrate! Mrs. Wally Poth will turn 100 years old on Aug. 6. She is a resident of Waukesha Springs nursing home and a friend of Ascension. Her brain is sharp and she loves the kindnesses she receives from the folks at Ascension. So let's blitz her with birthday cards for her special day. You can mail cards to:

Mrs. Wally Poth
1810 Kensington #150
Waukesha, WI., 53188

Please note that Wally was born in Germany and never Americanized her name. She doesn't like it one bit when she gets mail noting her as "Mr." instead of "Mrs."





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

FATHER/SON CAMPING TRIP - AUG. 8-10

There are still some spots available for this year's Father/Son Camping Trip sponsored by AMEN ministries. This event is open to all men and boys and will include all the great activities that both big guys and little guys enjoy, like swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, going on outdoor adventures, and of course, eating campfire cuisine. AMEN has camping equipment and tents to borrow if needed. For more information or to sign up, contact Kurt Burie, at kburie3@gmail.com or 262-510-2150.

PUPPETS OF PRAISE

Cheryl Anspach, Puppets of Praise Leader



Serve your community while having fun! The Puppets of Praise team performs for Sunday School, visits homebound members, and participates in special events throughout the year. If you have any questions about the August events listed below, please contact Cheryl Anspach at 262-527-8905 or puppetsofascension@gmail.com.

LOCK-IN

Everyone starting 6th-12th grade in fall is welcomed to the summer Puppet of Praise Lock-In at church on Saturday, Aug. 9 at 6 p.m. to Sunday, Aug. 10 at 10:15 a.m. Try out puppets, blacklight and audio recording, followed by games and a movie. Subs and light breakfast will be provided. Bring a snack or 2 liter bottle to share and overnight stuff.

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

The Young at Heart group is showing their youthful spirit by inviting the Puppets of Praise team and the youth of Ascension to join them for a potluck on Wednesday, Aug. 20, at noon. It would be wonderful if you would share a talent as part of the entertainment. Let Cheryl Anspach know if you can join us. Rides can be provided.

NOAH'S ARK

It's time for the Puppets of Praise excursion to Noah's Ark waterpark. Families are invited and drivers are appreciated. Bring a lunch, ticket, and/or money for purchases. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 25 to carpool. We start our return around 5 p.m., and may stop for dinner. Please RSVP to puppetsofascension@gmail.com or contact Cheryl Anspach 262-527-8905.

MILITARY FAMILY MINISTRY

Diane Maasz, Military Family Ministry Leader



Attention Veterans!

Wanted: Military Uniforms. The Military Family Ministry would like to have one uniform from each branch of the service on display for Veteran's Recognition Sunday, Nov. 9. If you have a uniform you're willing to let us display, contact Diane Maasz at 262-542-7507 or ddmaasz@gmail.com.

State Fair is offering free admission to veterans/military plus three family members on Sunday Aug. 10, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. with Military ID (DD214, VA ID, Military Common Access Card, or, Dependent ID). All veterans are invited to join in the Annual Veteran's and Military Recognition Day Parade at the fair which starts at 2 p.m. Please report to the Westside Marketplace to join your division of the military at 1:30 p.m.

There is also a Veteran's and Military Recognition Program at 11a.m. in the Bank Mutual Amphitheater that you won't want to miss.

Ascension's Flag Collection was a success! The Military Ministry collected 30 full-sized American Flags for proper disposal. Special thanks to Lyal Lauersdorf and VFW Post 5158 in Hartland for respectfully disposing of our flags in a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Finally, but importantly, please keep the following deployed service members in your prayers for a safe return home: Patrick Guthaus, serving on the USS Makin Island; Kyle Maasz, serving in the Middle East; David Schmiechen, serving in Afghanistan; and Jacqueline VanderGraff, serving on the USS Bataan.

CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

Shirley Wehmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader

CROSS FOOD PANTRY

During August we will be collecting breakfast cereals for the Cross Food Pantry. Please put your donations in the marked bins in the East Hall.

CROSS YOUTH PROGRAM

As you look ahead to fall, please consider becoming a tutor to help students live up to their academic potential. Students in 4th-12th grade meet Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:45-8 p.m. for individualized tutoring, plus a meal and fun activity. There is an emphasis on reading proficiency, math and science. Vocational career field trips are part of the curriculum. A 9 month commitment is necessary, and participation is limited, so don't wait. Contact Pastor

Michelle Townsend de Lopez at revmichelle@crosslutheran.milwaukee.org.

CROSS LUTHERAN MEAL

We will be serving our spaghetti meal at Cross Lutheran Church on Wednesday, Aug. 6. We will meet at Ascension at 9:30 a.m. and leave for Cross at 9:45 a.m. We will need five people to cook 10 lbs of ground beef for the spaghetti. Please call or email Arlene Davis if you can help. We again need people to provide desserts. Desserts may be dropped off at church before 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 6. Thanks to all of you who serve and support this ministry. Our church is doing a great ministry to those in need in and around Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. If you have questions, contact Arlene Davis, 262-542-9119.



THE MT. MERU COFFEE PROJECT

Dave Hammer, Mt. Meru Team Leader

A Partnership Ministry: Doing Justice through a Cup of Coffee

In 1999, a coffee farmer in the Mt. Meru region of Tanzania asked a visiting Milwaukee pastor the simple question: "We grow coffee; you drink coffee; would you buy your coffee from us?" With an answer of "Yes," the Mt. Meru Coffee Project was born.

Similarly, the Project asks the same simple question: Do you drink coffee? Why not drink Mt. Meru Select Tanzanian Coffee? Here are some reasons why you should:

- **QUALITY** - Mt. Meru coffee is a quality Arabica bean coffee, shade grown in the volcanic soil on the slopes of Mt. Meru.
- **CONVENIENCE** - Mt. Meru Coffee can be purchased every Sunday between worship services.
- **SELECTION** - Mt. Meru Coffee is available in:
 - o Regular and Decaf
 - o Whole Bean, Drip Grind, Perk Grind, and even Green (unroasted beans)
 - o 12 oz. (\$10) and 4 lb. (\$45) bags

- o 10 oz. bags (\$10) Drip Grind in four flavors - French Vanilla, Hazelnut, Butter Pecan, Chocolate Raspberry - in Regular and Decaf
- o Single Cup Servings (K-cups) of Regular (12 cups for \$9)

- **MINISTRY** - The Project is a ministry, doing justice and a relationship with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania.
- **MAKING A DIFFERENCE** - Almost half of the cost of a bag of coffee goes back to Tanzania to do economic and social justice. The justice-based pricing has enabled the farmers to:

1. Support their families
2. Send their children to school
3. Access healthcare
4. Sustain and improve their farms
5. Support their local cooperatives, villages and churches

Where else can you get/do all of this? At the supermarket? At the convenience store? At coffee shops? Doing justice never tasted so good.



TANZANIA WATER PROJECT



We take for granted that we turn on our faucet and clean drinking water comes out, or we go to our refrigerator and dispense filtered water, or we open a bottle of purified water. We don't realize that safe water is not available to many people in the world. Our synod partnership with Tanzania lifts up the need for safe water for our brothers and sisters in Tanzania. The Mission Outreach Committee is sponsoring a fun way to raise money for wells in Tanzania by presenting water games at the Rally Day picnic. There will be a dunk tank, mini boat races, water balloon game, and more. Don't miss all of the fun events while supporting this worthwhile project.

EL SALVADOR PARTNERSHIP

EMERGENCY FOOD KITS FOR PASTORS



The El Salvador Committee of the Greater Milwaukee Synod received word that many pastors and their families in El Salvador are going hungry. They are struggling to live within their means and are working to develop income streams. In the meantime, the majority of pastors are working without pay. The committee committed to raising emergency funds to provide food to help the pastors through this difficult time. Ascension sent some money from the El Salvador fund to assist in this, and we have received these photos as a thank you. We continue to support the Endowment Fund which helps support some of the pastors. As we strengthen the communities in El Salvador, we strengthen the church, and the Salvadoran Lutheran Church is then able to do more ministry within the community.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SUCCESS STORIES

Iva Richards, Ascension Resettlement Committee Member



The Umarov Family

On June 25, 2005, the five member Binali Umarov family from Krasnodar, a town on the Turkish Russian border, arrived at Mitchell Field weary and overwhelmed. Binali; Nargiza; Farida, age 10; Mickail, age 9; and Firuza, age 6, came into the welcoming arms of the Ascension Resettlement Committee. The town is part of neither Turkey nor Russia, and the residents are persecuted by both. The Umerovs can share hair-raising stories of their difficult lives there. Little Firuza had not yet started school because of fears of what could happen to her if she left the house.

Fast forward to 2014. Both dad and mom, Binali and Nargiza, have been steadily employed for years, he at Phoenix Industries and she at Harken Marine. Farida finished one year at Carroll University, was married on June 20 to a Russian/Turkish man, and they will live in Louisville, KY. Farida will finish her degree in nursing at the University of Kentucky. Mikail and Firuza are doing well in the Waukesha Public School system.

The Umerovs own their home in Waukesha.

Many families of relatives and friends of the Meskhetian Turks (as they are known) have followed them to Waukesha so that now there is a thriving supportive enclave of Meskhetian Turks right here in Waukesha.

Four years ago, Nargiza became a US citizen which means the children are also citizens. She has traveled to Moscow to visit her family and she has participated in the Cross meal program with Ascension members.

When he arrived nine years ago, Binali Umerov said, "We want to live in peace, and we want to support our children. We want a quiet life." Thank you God, they have found that.

Burmese Families

This past month, three Burmese refugees became US citizens and another Burmese family moved into their brand new Habitat for Humanity home. Thank you to Jo Buth for her unwavering assistance to these families as they make the US their new home.

OUTREACH FOR HOPE FAMILY BIKE RIDE

Join the Ascension Biking Team in supporting the **2014 OUTREACH FOR HOPE FAMILY BIKE RIDE**

Ascension has been a leader for the past six years in planning and participation in this signature event that benefits 21 financially challenged ministries in Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha.

DDD This year Donation Dollars Double! Major Matching Gifts will double your contributions, and five \$5,000 Challenge Gifts provide \$25,000 toward our \$75,000 goal.

Help us achieve this \$25,000 Challenge by joining these five generous donors in supporting Outreach for Hope.

How to Get Started:

1. Go to www.outreachforhope.org
2. Click on the "Bike Ride" tab at the top
3. Click on the "Register Here" logo
4. In the upper left corner you'll find four options:
 - **Register Here**
 - **Sponsor Rider**
 - **General Donation**
 - **Volunteer Here**



Four Ways You Can Connect to the Family Bike Ride

If you are a bicycle rider, we hope you will consider being part of this year's bike ride. But, you don't have to ride to enjoy the fellowship and offer your support. There are many ways to be part of the Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride on September 6.

- 1. Register to Ride** – You will enjoy being with people of all ages enjoying a great event to support the ministries in Southeast Wisconsin funded by Outreach for Hope.
- 2. Sponsor a Rider** – If you know someone riding and you want to show your support for them, you can make a donation in their name.
- 3. Make a Donation** – Don't have anyone to sponsor? You can make a general donation to Outreach for Hope. The first \$25,000 in Donations will Double with Challenge Grants.
- 4. Volunteer** – Are you a "hands on" person? There are lots of volunteer jobs you can sign up for, or you can offer to help "where needed". Visit the Volunteer page.

The 2014 Bike Ride

Date:

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014

Place:

St. Bruno Parish, Dousman, WI

Ride Options:

Trail Ride – up to 14 paved miles

**Road Ride – 30 or 50 miles
on rural Kettle Moraine roads**

* * * * *

For more information contact

Ascension Team Leaders:

Jeff Kirk

262.349.7312 -or- jeffrey@kirks.us

Dave McAdow

414.550.3970 -or- dmcadow45@gmail.com

Rider Registration Match Opportunities



Registrations: For every person who registers to ride in the Family Bike Ride, Water Doctors in Waukesha has pledged to donate \$10 to Outreach for Hope. Water Doctors has been a sponsor of the Bike Ride for the past four years. This year, Water Doctors took another generous step by providing a match for the first 250 riders.



Sponsorship Donations Online:

Bike riders are encouraged to gather sponsors for their ride. Each rider is given a personal website and can set a personal fundraising goal. Every time someone goes to their website to make a donation, an anonymous donor will donate another \$5 to Outreach for Hope – for the first 500 online donations.



Thrivent: The West Waukesha County Chapter of Thrivent Financial has pledged to match \$1,200 to the funds raised by the Family Bike Ride on September 6, 2014.



With your help and commitment, we can meet this year's goal of raising

\$75,000 for Outreach for Hope

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD



The Mission Outreach Committee has decided to focus our local community missions and partners under the title In Our Own Back Yard. We will try to keep you up to date with needs in the community as hands-on (volunteer), in kind (donations), or financial support. We will continue to highlight different programs each month.

BACKPACK COALITION

Backpack Coalition is receiving donations of school supplies to be distributed to families in need in our county. Children from kindergarten through 12th grade will be better equipped to have educational success when they have the supplies they need. Donations can be delivered to the County Health and Human Service building on Riverview Drive. Contact Shirley Wehmeier if you have questions.

HOPE CENTER

Hope Center is in need of volunteers for the meal program and Project Move. Small groups are encouraged to provide and serve a meal as a service project. Project Move is in need of several people who can move furniture throughout the county. If you are interested in either of these, contact Shirley Wehmeier.

ASCENSION'S 9TH ANNUAL THRIVENT BUILDS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MISSION OUTREACH



On Saturday, Sept. 27, for the ninth consecutive year, Thrivent Financial is committing \$12 million to stabilize, strengthen, and secure communities in 2014 through its unique partnership called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans announced that in 2014 it will fund the construction and rehabilitation of 126 Habitat for Humanity homes in 35 states through a \$7.8 million contribution. Additional funds will support the Thrivent Builds Repairs and Thrivent Builds Worldwide programs.

From the partnership's inception in 2005, Thrivent and its members have now committed more than \$200 million and more than 4 million volunteer hours. These programs allow Thrivent to partner with Habitat and families with limited resources in the construction, repair, and rehabilitation of affordable housing in communities across the United States and abroad. More than 4,300 homes have been built or repaired with the Thrivent Builds programs since 2005.

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity has confirmed Saturday, Sept. 27 for Ascension's 9th Annual Thrivent Builds Mission Outreach. We will be doing our favorite task, final interior painting. As in the past, we will carpool, leaving church at 8:15 a.m. and working until 3 p.m. Please contact Ric Simon to volunteer or for more information, ricsimon@yahoo.com or 414-350-3805.

Websites for more information:

www.thriventbuilds.com/

www.milwaukeehabitat.org/

www.milwaukeehabitat.org/pages/view/restore/



ASCENSION AUGUST AT A GLANCE

JOYFUL WORSHIP

Sunday Worship

9 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

9 a.m. Spanish language worship PR

10:45 a.m. outdoor worship, Aug. 3, 17

Monday Night Worship 7 p.m.

Choir Rehearsals

Folk Choir: 10:30 a.m., Aug. 16

Handbells: 7 p.m., Aug. 13, 20

Backpack Blessing, 9 & 10:45 a.m., Aug. 24

Reception for Pr. Becky, between services,
Aug. 24

Weddings:

Rehearsals, 3 p.m., Aug. 2; 5 p.m., Aug. 14

Ceremonies, 4 p.m., Aug. 3; 5 p.m., Aug. 15;
10:30 a.m., Aug. 17, EH;

Worship Leader Training, 9 a.m., Aug. 15, S

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

AMEN Early Bird Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.,
Tuesdays, SG107

AMEN Outdoor Service Grill Out, Aug. 3, 17

AMEN Guys Afraid of Bible Study, 7 p.m.,
Aug. 11, 25, SG107

AMEN Guys Talking Christ, 6:30 p.m., Aug. 4,
18, SG107

AMEN Father/Son Camping Trip, Aug. 8-10,
Ottawa Lake

Babysitting Class, 8:30 a.m., Aug. 12, 13,

Ballantyne Small Group, 7 p.m., Thursdays,
SG107

Care Ministries Meeting, 7 p.m., Aug. 7, SG106

The Daniel Plan Small Group, 7:30 p.m.,
Wednesdays, SG107

Golf Outing, Aug. 10, Brookfield Hills

Health Screening, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 16

Knit Wits Pool Party, Aug. 2, Scheffler's

Knit Wits Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Aug. 12, Pavlet-
ich's

Living Letters, 7 p.m., Aug. 11, SG106

Men's Nurture Group Luncheon, 11:45 a.m.,
Aug. 13, SG106

Prayer Group, 6 p.m., Aug. 4, 18 PR

Puppets Lock-in, 4 p.m.-10:15 a.m., Aug. 9-10

Puppets Noah's Ark Trip, Aug. 25

CARING RELATIONSHIPS (cont.)

Respite meeting, 6 p.m., Aug. 7, PR

Run for God, Saturdays, 8 a.m., & Tuesdays, 6
p.m., parking lot

Small Group material pick-up, 10 a.m., Aug.
24, WH

Small Group leadership meetings, 6:30 p.m.,
Aug. 13, 27, SG106

Special Friends picnic & ice cream social, 12
p.m., Aug. 17

TGBG Women's Small Group, 10 a.m., Aug.
13, 28, PR

TGIT Women's Bible Study, 7:15 p.m., Aug. 5,
19, SG107

Quilting at the Bissets, 6 p.m., Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Tuesdays, HR
Young at Heart

Breakfast at Denny's, 9 a.m., Aug. 6

Potluck, 12 p.m., Aug. 20, WH

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Youth Gathering Prep Meeting, 8 a.m. to 6
p.m., Aug. 18 & 19, WH, SG106-107

CRASH Servant Event, 12:30 p.m., Aug. 17

MISSION OUTREACH

Cross Meal, 9:30 a.m., Aug. 6

Meru Golf Outing, Aug. 17

SOPHIA, 6:30 p.m., Aug. 13, EH

Wanablee Servant Trip, Aug. 4-16

ADMINISTRATION

Church Council, 7 p.m., Aug. 19, WH

Mutual Ministry, 7 p.m., Aug. 5, PR

Sanctuary Clearing, 12:30 p.m., Aug. 17

Sanctuary Painting, Aug. 18-Sept. 5

Staff Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Aug. 6

COMMUNITY GROUPS

AA Beginner Mtg., Sundays, 6 p.m., WH

AA Closed Mtg., Sundays, 7 p.m., WH

Al Anon, Mondays, 9:45 a.m., WH

AA Wisdom Group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m., WH

Al Anon, Thursdays, 10 a.m., WH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				Room Key EH = East Hall HR = Hearth Room K = Kitchen PL = Parking Lot PR = Prayer Room S = Sanctuary WH = West Hall	1	2 All Day Knit Wits Pool Party, Scheffler's 8am Run for God, PL 4pm Wedding Rehearsal
3 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 10:45am Outdoor Worship 11:30am AMEN Grill Out 3pm Wedding 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	4 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer group PR 6:30pm AMEN Guys Talking Christ 107 7pm Worship	5 6:30am AMEN Early Bird Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Run for God 7pm Mutual Ministry PR 7:15pm TGIT 107	6 9am Young at Heart Breakfast Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 11:30am Staff Mtg. 7pm Wisdom Grp WH 7:30pm Daniel Plan 107	7 10am Al Anon WH 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107 7pm Care Ministries 106	8	9 8am Run for God PL 4pm Puppet Lock-in EH
					AMEN Camping	
10 Golf Outing Brookfield Hills 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 10:45am Worship 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH Trip	11 9:45am Al Anon WH 7pm AMEN Guys Afraid of Bible Study 107 7pm Living Letters 106 7pm Worship	12 6:30am AMEN Early Bird Study 107 8:30am Babysitting Class WH 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Run for God PL 6:30pm Knits Wits at Pavletich's	13 8:30am Babysitting Class WH 11:45am Men's Nurture Group 106 6:30pm Small Group Meeting 106 6:30pm SOPHIA EH 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7pm Bell Rehearsal 7:30pm Daniel Plan 107	14 10am Al Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Wedding Rehearsal 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	15 3pm Wedding	16 All Day Health Screening EH, WH, HR 8am Run for God PL 9am Worship Leader Training S 10:30am Folk choir rehearsal S
17 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 10:30am Wedding Reception EH 10:45am Outdoor Worship 11:30am AMEN Grill Out 12pm Special Friends Ice Cream Social 12:30 pm Sanctuary Clearing 6pm AA mtg - WH 7pm AA mtg WH Meru Golf Outing	18 8:30 am Youth Gathering Mtg. WH 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer Group PR 6:30pm AMEN Guys Talking Christ 107 7pm Worship EH	19 8:30am Youth Gathering Mtg. WH 6:30am AMEN Early Bird Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Run for God PL 7pm Council WH 7:15pm TGIT 107	20 12pm Young at Heart Potluck WH, K 7pm Bell Rehearsal EH 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7:30pm Daniel Plan 107	21 10am Al Anon WH 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	22	23 8am Run for God PL
	Sanctuary Painting					
24 Backpack Blessing 9am Worship EH 9am Spanish Worship PR Reception for Pr. Becky 10am Fall Campaign Pick-up WH 10:45am Worship EH 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	25 9:45am Al Anon WH 7pm AMEN Guys Afraid of Bible Study 107 7pm Worship EH	26 6:30am AMEN Early Bird Study 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Run for God PL	27 6:30pm Small Group Meeting 106 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7:30pm Daniel Plan 107	28 10am Al Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 6pm Quilting at the Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	29	30 8am Run for God PL
	Sanctuary Painting					
31 9am Worship EH 9am Spanish Worship PR 10:45am Worship EH 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH						
	Sanctuary Painting					