



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA  
September 2014

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# THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA



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[www.ascensionelca.org](http://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

### Pastor

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

### Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Koutnik  
[Jennifer@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Jennifer@ascensionelca.org)

### Director of Music Ministries

Vicki Taylor  
[Vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Vicki@ascensionelca.org)

### Director of Youth Ministries

Tony Acompanado  
[Tony@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Tony@ascensionelca.org)

## SUPPORT STAFF

### Administrator for Joyful Worship and Spiritual Growth

Amy Stryker  
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### Administrator for Caring Relation- ships and Mission Outreach

Kate Mattson  
[Kate@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Kate@ascensionelca.org)

### Custodians

Don Malchow  
[DWMalchow@wi.rr.com](mailto:DWMalchow@wi.rr.com)  
and Tim Minkley

### Nursery Staff

Rachel Stemper  
Amanda Whitaker

### Wedding Coordinator

Lauri Eckmann  
[LEckmann@wi.rr.com](mailto:LEckmann@wi.rr.com)

## CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

### President

Eric Friedrichsohn  
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### 1st Vice-President

Nada Draeger  
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### 2nd Vice-President

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### Secretary

Katie Voss  
[katievoss@yahoo.com](mailto:katievoss@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

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[DWBue@wi.rr.com](mailto:DWBue@wi.rr.com)

### Members-at-Large

Steve Bonnell [Steve.Bonnell50@gmail.com](mailto:Steve.Bonnell50@gmail.com)  
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Roland Tonn [tonn41@ameritech.net](mailto:tonn41@ameritech.net)

### Director of Ministries

Vacant

### Director of Operations

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

## MUSIC STAFF

### Adult & Children's Choir Director

Vicki Taylor [Vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Vicki@ascensionelca.org)

### House Band Leader

Ben Janzow [Ben@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Ben@ascensionelca.org)

### Handbell Choir Director

Heidi Bischmann  
[Heidi@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Heidi@ascensionelca.org)

### Pianist

Ray Kinney [Raywk2003@yahoo.com](mailto:Raywk2003@yahoo.com)

### Organists

Vicki Taylor  
Rhonda Kwiecien  
[Rhonda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Rhonda@ascensionelca.org)

## CELEBRATE LIFE!

Where is God working in your life these days? Pastors and people alike should always be prepared and ready to answer such a question. If we are not able to point to the places where God is at work in our lives, our church, and our world – how will God's presence be made known?

As God's people, we have a responsibility to share the stories of God's love and God's presence in the world. We are called to announce such moments and we are invited to reflect those moments into the darkness of this world.

In our world, I am grateful to God for the agreed upon extended cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. I believe God is indeed present in the refugee camps dotted throughout Africa and Asia. I pray daily for the presence of God to be made known in the sufferings of the people of Syria and the dwindling populations of Christians in Iraq and throughout the Middle East.

In my life, God is at work in tending to the little things. I so often take for granted God's work in my life. In the temptations toward self-defeating thoughts; in the words of hope I share but sometimes struggle to believe; in the moments of walking with friends who are in the midst of deep pain for their children, their marriages, their health – God is at work! I believe that God is at work. I believe that part of this journey of faith we walk is to be reminded or remind ourselves that we are, each and every one of us, dependent on God. I need God's love. I need God's forgiveness. I need God's grace. I need God to remind me that in the midst of the daily, little deaths we experience that God is present, bringing about little resurrections that point us to the great resurrection of the one who has died for all of us. God is at work.

In our church, I see God at work. In every corner of our community God is doing a new thing. Do you see it? I do. How exciting to welcome a new pastor into our midst! Although, we are waiting on acceptance of the call by Pastor Angela at the writing of this letter – I believe God is at work inside Pastor Angela's heart to move her to acceptance. I see God at work in the painters who are renewing our sanctuary space. I see God at work in the deep and sometimes difficult work of our church council, mutual ministry team, and

ministry leaders. I see God at work in the continued blessing of generous hearts that support the ministry of this congregation, while at the same time continuing to pay down the mortgage. I see God at work in the fall programming that is preparing to take shape for every child of God of every age at Ascension. I see God at work in the small group leadership team preparing to launch *The Power of a Whisper*. Have you heard God's whisper? Are you listening for what God might be speaking to you? Where is God working in your life this day? Maybe God is more present than you know.

Sunday, September 14, 2014 will bring about the 65th anniversary of our congregation's life and ministry. Such blessings God has given to us. The Rev. Jim Bickel will join us to preach that Sunday. And it is our hope that we might install a new pastor that day to serve among us. How powerful is the presence of God and the movement of God's holy spirit among us in these holy days of life. That is, after all, what we are about – the gift and joy and promise of life! Whether we have life in this world or celebrate the eternal life that is ours in the Kingdom of God by the death and resurrection of Jesus – our purpose in this world is to celebrate life!

This past Monday, I went to visit a family who was anticipating the gift and miracle of new life in their midst with the birth of their third child. I was called to the hospital because an emergency c-section had taken place and the baby – a beautiful baby boy – did not survive. I always approach such moments with a sacred reverence. It is a privilege to be invited into such moments. The difficulty, for me, is in finding anything helpful or hopeful to say in such moments. It so happened that I met the dad and the two older brothers at the door to their mom's room. We talked and entered the holy space of a hospital room where a mixture of shock and grief had replaced the anticipation of a new life into the world.

The mom asked the nurse to bring the baby down and I was honored to sit and hold this baby. All I wanted to do in that moment was weep for this life lost far too soon – truly before his journey had even begun in this world. And as I felt my eyes well up with tears – as I rocked



*Photo by Ryan Watkins 2011*

*Continued on next page*

him – I began to answer the questions of his three-year-old brother. Questions were all over the place and I decided to be direct in my answers. Sometimes, we do not get to take our baby brother or baby sister home with us. Sometimes they go straight to God's arms in heaven. Where is God at work in your life these days? For me, on Monday, God was at work in my mouth and in my heart. I wanted to be strong for two parents who were being strong for their boys – and yet, it took every ounce of strength in my own soul to not shed my own tears over this baby boy and the perfection of his presence in my life even in his stillness. Even as my heart was breaking for this family, God was at work tending to them in ways I could not. There will be always be questions of "why." I have a long list for God including all the "whys" God allows in this world and yet there was a strength of love showing through these two parents that reminded me that God had long been pres-

ent in their lives and in that hospital room and would continue to carry them into the days ahead.

Where is God at work in your life these days? Everywhere dear friends, everywhere! We only need look for the moments of light in our darkness to see where God has touched us.

I am excited to look for God in my life, our church, and our world in the days ahead. Will you join me in the search? Where, in the midst of death, do you see life returning? "May you see resurrection ever about you," reads the blessing in worship some Sundays. We could just as easily change the word "resurrection" to the word "life" and hear the same blessing of God.

Come, join us in worship, and see where God is at work. Come and celebrate life!

Peace be with you.

## PASTOR BECKY'S FAREWELL

*Pastor Becky Fetters*



Dear People of God at Ascension,

What a pleasure and a blessing it has been to serve with and among you these past several months. I am grateful for the ways that you have welcomed me into your community of faith – from repeatedly, patiently reminding me of your names, to inviting me to join you for Bible studies, to sharing books or recipes or movie suggestions you thought I might enjoy – it has been a joy to get to know you and this place. I've also appreciated the chance to get to walk more closely with some of you through conversations about the questions and quandaries of life and faith, the rambunctious energy and events of JOLT, and the sad, yet holy times of loss and grief. The life of a pastor is always blessed by the ways that people allow us to share in the ups and downs of their lives, and I am thankful for the ways you have trusted me to be a part of those things.

Truly God is doing great things in and through you here at Ascension. This is the largest church I have been a part of in any ongoing capacity, and it has been wonderful to see the many and

various ways people are willing to give of themselves and their time, both to this congregation, and beyond in our community, our partner congregations in Milwaukee, and around the world. It's inspiring to see people stepping forward to offer their gifts in answer to God's call and to meet the needs of others.

Many of you have asked what is next for me. The answer for the time being is that I'll return to being a stay-at-home mom to Norah and Declan. I expect I'll get to share God's word as a supply preacher at congregations around the synod. And I'll wait to see what the Holy Spirit has up her sleeve for a longer-term call somewhere, when the time and the place are right.

Thank you all again for your gracious acceptance of me as your pastor, even for a short while. I will miss being here with you, but I am confident that you will be in good hands, and excited to see what the Holy Spirit has in store for you under two gifted and energetic pastors. May God continue to richly bless each one of you!

## PASTORAL ACTS



### Weddings

Aug. 3, Melanie Eckart and Justin Garrity  
Aug. 15, Paula Austin and Edward Schmidt  
Aug. 23, Nicole Ecker and Chris Rosenberg

**Funerals:** August 22, Lorraine Simon

### Baptisms

Aug. 3, Elise Galow  
Aug. 24, Tristan Rintala  
Aug. 31, Krystine Somerfield

# FINANCIAL REPORT

*Doug Bue, Treasurer*

July 31, 2014 Year to Date

Item	2014 Actual	2014 Plan	Variance to 2014 Plan	2013 Actual	Variance to 2013 Actual
<b>Income</b>					
Contributions	\$384,690	\$412,950	\$(28,260)	\$403,158	\$(18,468)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$38,131	\$33,412	\$4,719	\$27,191	\$10,940
From Restricted Funds	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$3,600	\$(3,600)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$422,821</b>	<b>\$446,362</b>	<b>\$(23,541)</b>	<b>\$433,949</b>	<b>\$(11,128)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Communications	\$16,436	\$16,250	\$(186)	\$14,725	\$(1,711)
Facilities	\$99,486	\$86,344	\$(13,142)	\$87,416	\$(12,070)
Financial Development	\$56,729	\$56,746	\$17	\$61,454	\$4,725
Leadership Development	\$3,438	\$5,350	\$1,912	\$1,944	\$(1,494)
Administration	\$116,303	\$145,583	\$29,280	\$166,229	\$49,926
Caring Relationships	\$10,758	\$14,171	\$3,413	\$7,044	\$(3,714)
Joyful Worship	\$34,757	\$34,008	\$(749)	\$28,331	\$(6,426)
Mission Outreach	\$37,188	\$37,475	\$287	\$43,479	\$6,291
Spiritual Growth	\$48,541	\$52,789	\$4,248	\$50,455	\$1,914
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$423,636</b>	<b>\$448,716</b>	<b>\$25,080</b>	<b>\$461,077</b>	<b>\$37,441</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(815)</b>	<b>\$(2,354)</b>	<b>\$1,539</b>	<b>\$(27,128)</b>	<b>\$26,313</b>
<b>Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>\$1,019,647</b>				
<b>Vision Ascension Contributions</b>	<b>\$48,759</b>				
<b>Ascension Arise Contributions</b>	<b>\$157,332</b>				
<b>Restricted Contributions</b>	<b>\$58,093</b>				
<b>Restricted Funds Balance</b>	<b>\$187,795</b>				
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$37,057</b>				

What the numbers mean:

- Our general contributions are 6.8% behind plan for 2014, and they are 4.6% behind 2013 actual.
- Our expenses are under plan due mainly to our pastoral and youth minister transitions.
- Based on our bottom line, we are ahead of plan by \$1,539.
- 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](mailto:dwbue@wi.rr.com).



## ASCENSION'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY



# 65 YEARS



*Worship with us on Sunday, September 14, 2014 as  
Ascension celebrates its 65th anniversary.*

*We welcome Rev. Jim Bickel as our guest preacher.*

*We will praise God in song as all of Ascension's choirs perform,  
and we will gather in revelry with a pig roast and potluck.  
Don't miss the fun.*

## MUSIC MINISTRIES



*Music is a fair and glorious gift of God.*  
(Martin Luther)

There are few sounds more beautiful to the ear than that of children singing beautifully and expressively. Children singing songs of faith and praise, with artistry and enthusiasm, touches the hearts of all who hear them.

Children's music ministry at Ascension is a joyful expression of praise as well as a commitment to developing a deep love of worshipping God through music. The songs children learn when young stay with them throughout their lives, giving them words and melodies of praise, thanks, faith, joy, and affirmation as a contrast to the abundance of negative influences in pop culture. Singing in worship allows them to express their faith

*Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministries*

through the songs they sing. It affords them the opportunity to play an active role in worship (leadership). It encourages them to make their best efforts for God (stewardship). It helps them gain confidence being in front of people.

Children's Choirs at Ascension resume on Thursday, September 4.

- Angel Choir (grades K-3), Thursdays, 5-5:40 p.m.
- Joyful Sounds (grades 4-8), Thursdays, 5:45-6:30 p.m.

All children are invited and will be warmly welcomed! Please email me ([Vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Vicki@ascensionelca.org)) with questions or to sign up.

With joyful anticipation!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Welcome back!

Fall is a busy time with back to school and returning to a routine. Despite the busyness, I hope you will plan to take a little time to volunteer at 10:45 a.m. Sunday School as a "Parent of the Day," to be a part of your child's faith journey, at least once during the year. We are always looking for extra hands to assist with projects at the 9 a.m. Children's Church. It is a great experience to see what your child is learning!

**September 7: RALLY DAY!** Sunday School begins! There is now online registration!

It is on the church website, [www.ascensionelca.org](http://www.ascensionelca.org), just click the Sunday School link. A separate registration form is needed per child. We are also requesting a \$15 donation per family to help offset the cost of Sunday School.

*Jennifer Koutnik, Director of Children's Ministries*

**2nd Grade Bible Stepping Stone:** Families of second graders please mark your calendars! Our Stepping Stone classes for 2nd graders receiving a Bible will be at 10:45 a.m., on September 21, and students will be blessed in church on September 28. We will walk through the Old and New Testament with Pastor Chris, and each child will be gifted a Bible during their blessing.

**3-Year-Olds:** Don't forget that Sunday School classes begin with 3-year-olds. It is the second Stepping Stone in their faith journey. On October 19, at 10:45 a.m., I will be hosting the Stepping Stone class. The following week, on October 26, the children will be blessed in worship!

Please contact me with any questions or if you would like to volunteer, [Jennifer@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Jennifer@ascensionelca.org). Blessings!



## JOLT

We are excited to see you Sunday, Sept. 7 at 3 p.m. for JOLT registration and orientation. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders should arrive at 3 p.m. 9th graders should come at 4:30 p.m. You'll learn about what's happening this year, help with the Food Pack for El Salvador, and get your new JOLT t-shirt. If you have questions, please contact Tony Acompañado at [Tony@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Tony@ascensionelca.org).



## CRASH: CHRIST REACHING AND SHARING HOPE

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)*

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

You are invited to join us on Sunday, Sept., 7, for student registration and the unveiling of what's new and exciting ahead for Ascension's CRASH high school youth ministry! We'll be completing registrations and sharing details about our 2015 Youth Gathering trip to Detroit, in addition to offering a taste of the opportunities to come throughout the year to grow in life and faith together.

*Tony Acompañado, Director of Youth Ministries*

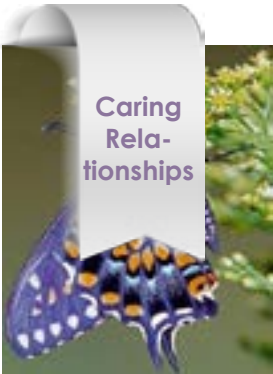
Our 2014-15 program year is filled with cross+generational opportunities designed to engage students in spiritual growth, fun, living a life of service, and developing a deeper connection with the larger world. Our journey continues...come and join us!

### September Schedule

- Sunday, Sept. 7, CRASH Orientation  
4:30 p.m. (9 gr.), 5-7 p.m. (10-12 gr.)
- Sunday, Sept. 21, 6-8 p.m., Youth Group  
- *The Power of a Whisper* small groups
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 6-8 p.m., Youth Group  
- *The Power of a Whisper* small groups



## CARE MINISTRIES



As kids return to school and routine comes back into our lives, our schedules fill up with things to do. Care Ministries has many new and exciting plans for this fall season!

*Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.*

(Galatians 6:9)

### "HEARTFELT THANKS" IN CARE MINISTRIES

Sally Wagner has resigned as the leader of "Touch A Heart Ministry." She has been in this role for many years and we appreciate her gift of time and talent to this important ministry. We pass on our blessings to her and thank her for everything she has done for us!

Carol Houston has resigned as the leader of Ascension's Bereavement Ministry. She also has been in this role for several years. Thank you, Carol, for your dedication and hard work to help others in their time of grief.

Susan Koefel has resigned as a Pastoral Assistant. Susan has a compassionate heart and she has been a wonderful asset to Ascension. Susan, we appreciate what you have done for our hospitalized and homebound members.

### SENTRY RECEIPT COLLECTIONS HELP OUR CARE MINISTRIES PROGRAMS

Please continue to collect Sentry grocery receipts and deposit them in the bins in the collection center in the West Hall. The receipts are only good from the Fox Run or Meadowbrook locations in Waukesha and they must be handed in by 4-6 months from the date of purchase.

### BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

All screenings are between the 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. Anyone interested in helping out with these please contact Brenda Lytle at [Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org).

#### Blood Pressure Screening Dates:

Sept. 14 (in West Hall)	Feb. 8
Oct. 12	March 8
Nov. 9	April 26
Dec. 7	May 3
Jan. 11	

### UPCOMING CARE MINISTRIES EVENTS

#### September:

Sept. 6, 10 a.m., Frame Park .....	Alzheimer's Association Walk
Sept. 9- Dec. 2 (13 weeks), 6-8 p.m., .....	Youth Room Grief Share Program
Sept. 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., .....	West Hall Flu Clinic West Hall
Sept. 14, between services .....	Begin monthly BP Screenings

#### October:

Oct. 18, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., West Hall.....	Blood Drive and Organ Registry
Oct. 18, Frame Park.....	Run for God 5K
Oct. 18, Tuesday nights, West Hall.....	Begin 6 week fitness classes, more information coming soon!
October.....	Military Ministry Collections

#### November:

Nov. 12.....	Assembly of Military Care Packages
Nov. 12.....	College Care Package Collection
Nov. 16, 10:15 a.m. ....	Living will/Power of Attorney

#### December:

Dec. 6.....	College Care Package Assembly
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## GRIEF SHARE

The Grief Share Program is a DVD-based Christian program that has 13 weeks of programming addressing different topics of grief. It encompasses a support group of people that are dealing with or have suffered loss. The death of a spouse, child, parent, family member, or friend 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.

Care Ministries will be hosting this program on Tuesdays, Sept. 9-Dec. 2, for 13 consecutive weeks, 6-8 p.m., in the Youth Room. The

cost is \$15/person for 13 weeks (includes materials for course). If this cost is challenging, please contact me, because we will make exceptions.

Our facilitator is Kathy Kuhn. She is an expert in the area of grief. She was the program director of Healing Hearts for several years and set up their program. She also has worked with the Grief Share program in other churches in our area and is familiar with it. We will provide workbooks, Bibles, and refreshments for the group.

If you or a family member is interested in this program please contact Brenda Lytle at [Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org) or call 262-547-8518 to sign up.



## PRAYER MINISTRY GROUP

It's time to pray—it's always time to pray!

The Prayer Ministry Team invites you to join them in prayer on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of September, in the Prayer Room, at 6 p.m., for a time of lifting up the concerns of our church, community, nation, and world to our LORD.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



## A SPECIAL THANKS FOR PRAYERS

Ed Haker wishes to send a word of thanks for all the prayers that people have been saying for his health. They are working!

## GIRLFRIENDS ACTIVITIES

What a summer! The Girlfriends' Board of Directors has been on summer break but we're excited to be back planning great events for Ascension's girlfriends.

**Watch for more info this fall, as we roll-out new activities to connect, learn and fellowship with other women.**

For those new to Ascension, Girlfriends activities are planned by the Girlfriends' Board of Directors and are open to any Ascension women and their friends. The Girlfriends' Board of Directors includes Cheri Ehrlich (leader), Kathy Bue, Robin Gallo, Amy Gilgenbach, Becky Murray and Kris Wiese.

There are four cornerstones ideas to Girlfriends.

*Befriend.* Give women connections. Outreach is easy with welcoming get-togethers.

*Belong.* Give women community. We invite women to a place where friendships deepen as women enjoy a true sense of belonging.

*Believe.* Give women Jesus. Women get to know Jesus through worship, study, experience, and faith exploration.

*Become.* Give women the opportunity for growth. Discover resources that guide and coach women into reaching their full potential as they grow in leadership skills, service, and outreach-or simply into the women God created them to be.



Girlfriends

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY: FALL CAMPAIGN

*Karen Schmiechen, Fall Campaign*



*Yes, I hear it. But it is just a whisper. God, that is you speaking to me, right? I'm listening. I want to do whatever you say. Help me. I cannot do it alone. Please. Whisper it to me again.*

Throughout history God has spoken. He has forged his children's faith by promising parted waters, empowering unlikely leaders, declaring world-changing prophecies. He has spoken to the prophet Elijah who despaired that he was ineffective, walked 40 days to hear God speak to him....not in a mighty wind, or a mountain-trembling earthquake, or by fire, but by a gentle and quiet whisper. And who could forget God's whispers to Moses, Isaiah, Samuel, David, Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, Saul/Paul, and even Jesus?

God is all-powerful, righteous, and holy too. He is sovereign, majestic, just, and magnificent. That same God who is all - everything - yearns to be in relationship with us. If there is a pattern in Scripture regarding whispers, it is that we serve a communicating God - a God of words. He created with a word, he healed with a word, he encouraged with a word, he rebuked with a word, he guided with a word, he prophesied with a word, he assured with a word, he loved with a word, he served with a word, and he comforted with a word. Throughout all of history, God has communicated, and he is still at it today. The issue isn't whether or not God is speaking; it's whether we will have ears to hear what he says.

The Power of a Whisper is our fall congregation-wide bible study starting the week of September 21 and continuing for four sessions. Ascension invites you to sign up with a group that meets at a convenient time for you. You can sign up at Ascension's Welcome Center, at our table in the narthex, or online at [www.ascensionelca.org](http://www.ascensionelca.org). Learn more about God's whispers to you, your family, your church, and your community.

## POWER OF PRAYER RETREAT AT ASCENSION



Are you wondering which path God wishes you would take? Are you contemplating an important decision in your life? We know God can guide us, but how does God communicate His desires for our lives? Through reading the Word and faithfully praying!

As a companion event to The Power of a Whisper small group campaign, Pastor Chris will lead a retreat on The Power of Prayer. Come learn about using God's Word to guide your prayer and the four methods of prayer which can be practiced to better listen to God. Pastor Chris will walk us through each method, step-by-step, so that you can find a method that works best for you.

Learn about the nature of prayer, finding the right space, creating a home altar and preparing to pray. We'll enjoy live music and read God's Word. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind retreat! The retreat is at Ascension on Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. We'll be having a potluck lunch; please bring a dish to pass. And bring your Bible, if you wish.

## SAVE THE DATE: ASCENSION'S 3RD ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL



Sunday, October 19th, 12 p.m.

Come for church, stay for lunch, tailgating and Packers game, Trunk or Treat, fall games and activities for all ages, and much more.

Run a small group or ministry? Please contact the Fall Festival Planning Committee at [supermomsofascension@gmail.com](mailto:supermomsofascension@gmail.com) and let us know how your group/ministry would like to participate.

## MILITARY FAMILY MINISTRY

*Diane Maasz, Military Family Ministry Leader*

### THE MILITARY FAMILY MINISTRY- ONE YEAR LATER

The Military Family Ministry will be celebrating its one year anniversary next month. We thought this would be a good time to highlight some of the works of this ministry. Over the past year we:

- Prayed for our troops and their families, our veterans, and our nation's leaders.
- Sponsored two care package collection drives collecting almost 200 pounds of food, toiletries, and games for the troops.
- Sent twenty care packages to service members both deployed and at their Permanent Duty Stations.
- Sent holiday banners at Christmas and Easter to our deployed servicemembers with greetings of love and support from members of the congregation.
- Promoted intergenerational involvement by inviting Sunday School children to make cards and small groups to write weekly letters to our deployed servicemembers.
- Presented a Bible during the blessing given prior to leaving for Basic Training.
- Participated in the Ascension Ministry Expo with the main focus of our display being a photo board of the veterans of Ascension.

●Organized an Honor Flight welcome home and letter writing campaign to honor two of Ascension's veterans.

●Established a memorial of flags on the front lawn over Memorial Day weekend to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

●Sponsored a flag collection to enable Ascension members to properly dispose of tattered and worn flags.

●Provided support to veterans and their families, servicemembers and their families, and anyone with a connection to the military.

We are currently in the process of planning a Veteran's Recognition reception for Sunday, November 9, preparing for our next care package collection drive in October for our holiday care packages, and are working on getting a group together to help with bingo at the VA.

As you can see the Military Family Ministry is a dynamic group of people with a heart for our military and our veterans. If you feel a calling to be a part of this group we meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hearth Room. All are welcome!



Please keep the following deployed servicemembers 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; Jacqueline VanderGraff, serving on the USS Bataan

## YOUNG AT HEART

The Young at Heart meeting is on Wednesday, Sept. 17, noon in the East Hall. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the afternoon.

Our next Young at Heart trip will be to see "Branson on the Road" on Thursday, Nov. 20. We will meet in the front parking lot of Ascension at 12:15 p.m. and arrive back at the church at 7 p.m. We will be going to the Schauer Center in Hartford for the afternoon performance and then to the Mineshaft Restaurant in Hartford for dinner after the show. Sign up at church after the 9 a.m. service on Sept. 7 and 14, or call Celeste Defenbaugh at 262-370-4522 to reserve a spot. Join us for an afternoon of fun and good music!



## QUILTERS AND CRAFTERS KNIT WITS



We have a new time for our group meetings: 4-6 p.m., on Thursdays, starting September 4.

On Sunday, Sept. 21, we will hold a bake sale at church, with the proceeds going to purchase the supplies we need to make shelter quilts, which are donated to the Sienna House, Jeremy House, Hebron House and the men's winter facility, all in Waukesha.

For this bake sale to be a success, donations from the congregation are necessary. Please bring your baked goods (packaged to sell) to church with you on Sunday morning. The bake sale will run from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Our church cookbook has been put on hold for now. Thank you to those who have sent in recipes.

This year's Quilt Sunday will be November 16. We can always use more people to help make quilts to make Quilt Sunday a success. If you have questions, please call Alice Bissett at (262) 547-6265.

Join the Knit Wits for our Knit-a-Thon, Knit Fest, on Saturday Sept. 20, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come when you can, leave when you must.

We spend the day knitting, crocheting, and looming charity hats. We have yarn for you!

Lunch is pot-luck. Business meeting will be around 11:30 a.m. If you have questions, call Maddie, 262-527-4013.

Other September events include:

- Thursday, Sept. 4, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Meeting at church
- Monday, Sept. 15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Meeting at church
- Monday, Sept. 9, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Lunch & knit; at Spring Garden Chinese restaurant, 821 W Moreland Blvd, RSVP to Maddie, 262-527-4013.

The annual blessing of hats will be Sunday, Oct. 19. We will be selling hats that day; ALL income goes to buy men's hats.

## OUR PARTNERSHIPS: CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



### CROSS FOOD PANTRY

During September, we will be collecting paper products. These items are not covered by Food Share and are in great need for family health and safety. Thank you to all of you who so faithfully donate to help supply the Cross Food Pantry. Over 200 bags are distributed each week.

### EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST

Job Readiness training is being provided by A Stepping Stone, LLC. It involves a

*Shirley Wehmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader* six-week training that includes assessment, assistance with putting together a resume, helping individuals to look at barriers within themselves that may prevent them from securing a job as well as retaining that job. For those that complete the training and are determined to be job ready, they will receive help to secure a job. The goal of this training is to assist motivated people to secure good jobs as well as to help them build confidence and to rebuild lives. Our support of the Bread of Healing Ministry helps to continue this important ministry.

## OUR PARTNERSHIPS: EL SALVADOR



Ascension has received thanks for the support of the Salvadoran Lutheran pastors who have been working without pay recently due to the hardships of the people in the area and world economic issues. They truly appreciate the support and prayers from the people of Ascension.



## OUR PARTNERSHIPS: MERU DIOCESE OF TANZANIA

Please pray for our brothers and sisters from congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod who will be traveling to the Meru Diocese for a mission trip. They will be working, worshipping, healing, laughing, and loving along with the people of the Meru Diocese. The coffee project that Ascension is a part of provides sustainability to the area through fair trade purchase of the coffee. Poor coffee farmers are able to receive a fair trade price so that they can better support their families. This becomes a hand-up rather than a hand-out. Through our partnership, we work together to improve their lives.



## IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

### FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Both the Waukesha Food Pantry and the Salvation Army Food Pantry are facing extreme needs for contributions. The end of the summer is always a hard time as donations are down. When you go to the grocery store, please consider picking up something extra and sharing it with one of the community food pantries.

### 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](http://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](#)

### 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.

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](mailto:ricsimon@yahoo.com) or 414-350-3805.

**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](mailto:jeffrey@kirks.us)

Dave McAdow  
414.550.3970 -or- [dmcadow45@gmail.com](mailto:dmcadow45@gmail.com)



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Room Key</b> EH = East Hall HR = Hearth Room K = Kitchen PL = Parking Lot PR = Prayer Room S = Sanctuary WH = West Hall YR = Youth Room	<b>1 LABOR DAY</b> Office closed 9:45am AI Anon WH	<b>2</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Run for God 7pm Mutual Ministry PR 7:15pm TGIT 107	<b>3</b> 9am YAH at Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 9:30am Staff Mtg. 6pm Sunday School 106 6:30pm Small Group Leadership Mtg. PR 7pm Wisdom Grp WH 7:30pm Daniel Plan 107 7:30pm Choir EH	<b>4</b> 10am AI Anon WH 1pm OFH Mtg. WH 4pm Quilting, Bissetts 5pm Angel Choir EH 5:45pm Joyful Sounds EH 6:30pm Knit Wits WH 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Outreach for Hope Bike Ride Food Pack Drop Off WH 8am Run for God
<b>7 Rally Day</b> 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 9am Children's Church EH 10:30 am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 10:45 Sunday School 12:15pm Spec. Friends Laser Tag 3pm JOLT 5pm CRASH WH 6pm AA mtg 7pm AA closed mtg	<b>8</b> 9:45am AI Anon WH 6pm Prayer group PR 7pm AMEN Guys Afraid of Bible Study 107 7pm Living Letters 106	<b>9</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 6pm Run for God 6:30pm Small Group Leader Mtg. 106 7pm Holloway 107 7pm Military Ministry HR	<b>10</b> 11:45am Men's Nurture Group 106 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH 7pm Choir S	<b>11</b> 10am AI Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 4pm Quilting at the Bissetts 5pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30 JOLT/CRASH Leader Mtg. Offsite 7pm Ballantyne 107 7pm Care Ministries 106	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8am Run for God 9am Reading Training S
<b>14</b> 7:30am Worship 8am Flu Clinic & BP WH 9am Worship 9am Children's Church EH 9am Spanish Worship PR 10:45am Worship 10:45 Sunday School 12pm Congregational Picnic 6pm CRASH YR 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>15</b> 9:45am AI Anon WH 6:30pm AMEN Guys Talking Christ 107 6:30pm Knit Wits WH	<b>16</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 6pm Run for God 7pm Church Council EH 7:15pm TGIT 106-107	<b>17</b> 9:30am Staff Mtg. 12pm Young at Heart Potluck EH & K 6pm Sunday School Mtg. 106 6:30pm Small Group Leadership Mtg. PR 7pm Wisdom Grp WH 7:30pm Choir S	<b>18</b> 10am AI Anon WH 4pm Quilting at the Bissetts 5pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30 JOLT S EH WH YR 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8am Run for God 9am Knit Fest WH 10:30am Folk choir rehearsal S
<b>21</b> 7:30am Worship 8:30am Puppet WH/EH 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 9am Children's Church EH 10am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 10:45 2nd Gr. Stepping Stone 10:45 Sunday School 6pm CRASH Small Groups YR 6pm AA mtg WH 6:30pm Supermoms 107 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>22</b> 9:45am AI Anon WH 6pm Prayer group PR 7pm AMEN Guys Afraid of Bible Study 106/107	<b>23</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 1pm Pastoral Assistants Mtg. 6pm Grief Share YR 6pm Run for God 7pm Holloway Small Group 7:15pm TGIT 106-07	<b>24</b> 7pm Wisdom Grp WH 7:30pm Choir S	<b>25</b> 10am AI Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 4pm Quilting at the Bissetts 5pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30 JOLT WH YR 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8am Run for God 9am Power of Prayer Retreat S WH EH
<b>28</b> 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 9am Children's Church EH 10am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 10:45 2nd Gr. Stepping Stone 10:45 Sunday School 6pm CRASH Small Groups YR 6pm AA mtg WH 6:30pm Supermoms 107 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>29</b> 9:45am AI Anon WH 12:30pm Knit Wits at Spring Garden Chinese 6:30pm AMEN 106-107	<b>30</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 6pm Run for God 7:15pm TGIT 106-107				