



Ascension
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
 ELCA
 October 2014

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What's in the *October* newsletter

CONTENTS

Pastor Angela: Hello, Ascension!.....	3	AMEN	12
Pastoral Acts	3	A Taste of the Daniel Plan.....	13
Pastor Chris: A Season of Change.....	4	Military Family Ministry.....	13
Financial Report.....	5	Special Friends Fall Fun.....	14
Ascension Wants You.....	6	Puppets of Praise.....	14
Memorial Gardens Updates	6	Prayer Team Ministry	14
Heartfelt Thanks	6	Quilters and Crafters	14
65th Anniversary Celebration	7	Knit Wits	15
Children's Ministry	8	Young at Heart	15
JOLT	9	Featured Mission: SOPHIA	15
Crash: ELCA Youth Gathering 2015.....	10	Our Partnerships: Cross Lutheran Church	16
Care Ministries.....	11	Our Partnerships: El Salvador.....	17
Small Group Ministries	11	Our Partnerships: Meru Diocese of Tanzania	17
Ascension's Annual Fall Festival.....	12	Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride.....	17
Respite Ministry.....	12	Calendar.....	18

THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA



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1415 Dopp Street
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MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Pianist

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Rhonda Kwicien
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HELLO, ASCENSION!

Pastor Angela Khabeb

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, we are finally here! My husband, Benhi, and our three children Konami (7), Khenna (4), and Khonni (2) are settling into new routines and new surroundings. Our son, Khenna and daughter, Khonni are attending Cloverleaf Preschool and they love it. Konami is attending an alternative school that specializes in autism. It has been quite a whirlwind, but we are so pleased to be here!



Of course, we owe a debt of gratitude to many. Thank you to all those who came together to clean the house for us. That was such a blessing. But your generosity did not end there.

You went above and beyond the call of duty and left us with a wonderful treasure of pantry and household items. We are also grateful for the “dynamic duo” who delivered the washing machine and clothes dryer. Please know that we appreciate your hospitality.

A special word of thanks to all who made the 65th anniversary and my installation service an unforgettable worship encounter! I loved the choir, handbells, percussion, folk choir, and house band! Every detail was remarkable – even the bulletin was in color! What an incredible, inspirational, joyful event. Thank you for calling me to serve with you as pastor in this vibrant ministry.

Sisters and brothers, God is so good. We are thrilled to be in Waukesha at Ascension. I am learning how to be a part of an extremely active ministry. I am excited to get to know the Ascension community more deeply. I am eager to become part of this faith family. I am reminded about our work together as the body of Christ in the words of St. Paul: “For we are laborers together with God, you are God’s field, you are God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9). We look forward to beginning our ministry with you. We are eager to see what the Holy Spirit has in store for the ministry of Ascension. Our God truly works in mysterious ways. Thank you again for the warm reception and exceptional hospitality. Our hearts are so filled with thanksgiving that they overflow.

PASTORAL ACTS

Weddings

Sept. 14, Jessica Erdman and Steven Lang

Funerals

Sept. 21, Edward Sadowski



A SEASON OF CHANGE



*Sing a new song unto the Lord,
let your song be sung from mountain high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing alleluia.*

In mid-September, someone passed me in the hallway of the spiritual growth wing and said, “PC, isn’t it about time for another change here at Ascension?” Has it finally happened that there has been so much change for the rest of you that you keep expecting more and I am ready for a break from all the change - no way! Summer was slammed! Summer went too fast and September arrived like a snowball rolling down a mountain. Now October finds us in the crisp days of autumn.

I write this article in the afterglow of our 65th Anniversary celebration and the great and wonderful service of installation for Pastor Angela. What more could we ask for? I believe the very best of Ascension showed up on Sunday, Sept. 14. We gave thanks for charter members still present with us in ministry and mission – namely Elmer Sedivy and Gert Ullsperger. We celebrated the increase in hours for the Director of Music Ministries position and gave thanks for a mortgage balance that has finally fallen under \$1,000,000. Every single moment of joy - a testament to what God is doing in and through the community of Ascension. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Angela’s arrival brings about a sense of excitement for me personally and perhaps just a bit of relief. We are so excited to have her gifts and skills for ministry at Ascension. If you see her poking her head into a meeting or asking a question, please invite her in and share the story of your ministry with her. She is eager to engage and more eager still to walk alongside the important ministry being done, by God’s grace, through so many of you. Please also keep her and Benhi and their whole family in your prayers as they settle into life at Ascension in Waukesha.

Pastor Chris Marien

During the month of October, the small group campaign entitled “The Power of a Whisper” has been invited to engage in small group discussions around the developing vision for Ascension’s future. ARISE 2025 is about who we are now and who we want to be in 2025. All are welcome to join in the conversation. If you are unable to be in a small group this fall, please feel free to pick up a copy of the vision document in the church office, fill out the devotions and dreams sections, and return them to the church office. If you would like to be a part of a large group discussion where we tackle all four of the wing devotions, please consider joining your pastors and council members on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m., in East Hall.

October brings the celebration of the Reformation on the 26th. While some of us are working on budgets and preparing for the Harvest fest on Oct. 19, our celebration of the Reformation still reigns as one of the most important days in our church year—indeed in our Lutheran heritage. We live out our identity as Lutheran Christians always as a reflection of our history through the lens of the Reformation. We are reminded that Luther’s intent was never to leave the Catholic church—the hope was always to reform the church from within its own walls. As Luther came to the realization that the reforming of the church was not possible from within, he simply began to write and explore the Scriptures for the true Gospel message of Jesus Christ. What Luther found was a message of grace. A message still desperately needed in the world we live in today. Luther changed the world by placing into the hands of the people of God the Scriptures in their own language—German specifically. And the world was forever changed.

May we live in the light of that change for our whole lives and learn to sing a new song unto the Lord again and again and again. Peace be with you.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Doug Bue, Treasurer

August 31, 2014 Year to Date

Item	2014 Actual	2014 Plan	Variance to 2014 Plan	2013 Actual	Variance to 2013 Actual
Income					
Contributions	\$437,618	\$471,950	\$(34,332)	\$460,669	\$(23,051)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$41,661	\$37,125	\$4,536	\$34,068	\$7,593
From Restricted Funds	\$3,132	\$2,000	\$1,132	\$3,600	\$(468)
Total Income	\$482,411	\$511,075	\$(28,664)	\$498,337	\$(15,926)
Expenses					
Communications	\$18,546	\$18,300	\$(246)	\$17,455	\$(1,091)
Facilities	\$110,662	\$97,771	\$(12,891)	\$95,288	\$(15,374)
Financial Development	\$64,807	\$64,830	\$23	\$69,508	\$4,701
Leadership Development	\$5,536	\$7,450	\$1,914	\$1,954	\$(3,582)
Administration	\$132,089	\$166,381	\$34,292	\$189,854	\$57,765
Caring Relationships	\$16,418	\$18,195	\$1,777	\$11,010	\$(5,408)
Joyful Worship	\$40,525	\$39,051	\$(1,474)	\$30,782	\$(9,743)
Mission Outreach	\$45,076	\$45,325	\$249	\$50,090	\$5,014
Spiritual Growth	\$56,637	\$60,646	\$4,009	\$58,858	\$2,221
Total Expenses	\$490,296	\$517,949	\$27,653	\$524,799	\$34,503
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(7,885)	\$(6,874)	\$(1,011)	\$(26,462)	\$18,577
Mortgage Balance	\$999,245				
Vision Ascension Contributions	\$48,759				
Ascension Arise Contributions	\$169,525				
Restricted Contributions	\$80,128				
Restricted Funds Balance	\$205,533				
General Fund Balance	\$29,986				

What the numbers mean:

- Our general contributions are 7.3% behind plan for 2014, and they are 5.0% 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 \$1,011.
- 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.

ASCENSION WANTS YOU

Amy Gilgenbach, Director of Administration



DISCOVER ASCENSION

If you've been attending Ascension for a while and haven't yet become a member, please join us next month for a short new member class. Benefits of membership include a sense of belonging and deepening faith experience.

The new member orientation is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 19, 4-6 p.m. RSVP to Director of Administration Amy Gilgenbach, admin@ascensionelca.org, or call the church office, 262-547-8518.

If you can't attend the meeting but still want to join, please let us know. Becoming a member is as easy of saying, "Yes, with the help of God."

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar to attend the annual congregation meeting Sunday, Nov. 9, 12 p.m. We will meet to review the past year and look forward to 2015. We'll elect the church council and approve the 2015 budget.

MEMORIAL GARDENS UPDATES

Steve Van Voorhis, Memorial Gardens Ministry Leader



I am happy to report that Thrivent Financial has acknowledged a \$150 donation for the Helping-Hands project: "Spring Clean-up." Thanks again to everyone who volunteered to get our Memorial Gardens looking beautiful this spring and summer. Although the weather is now turning cooler, October is a good time to transplant perennials, so I'm seeking donations of white daisies, black-eyed Susans, and Russian sage from home gardens. Unfortunately, the deer feasted on our new hostas this year, but I want to try hostas again in 2015 and fight back the deer with chemicals. If you can donate any of these plants, please contact me at stebarvv@yahoo.com.

HEARTFELT THANKS



Thank you for all the prayers, cards, words of comfort and memorials for my dad Donald Schumann. My heart is overwhelmed by the love and support from my Ascension family. -- *Sally Wagner*

Thank you greeters! Providing a friendly welcome to visitors, guests, and members has proven to be a vital link in church growth and continued involvement of people in church worship, events, and spirit. As illustrated in His words to His disciples, Jesus considered welcoming each other a very

important gesture.

We have had a willing group of volunteer greeters during 2013-2014. We extend our Thanks to them for their help in sharing and making Ascension's hospitality possible.

Welcome Team Coordinators:

Sue Matthews

Mary Thorp, 262-574-5153 (9 a.m. Greeters)

*10:45 a.m. Greeter Coordinator needed.
--*Mary Thorp*

65TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Rev. Jim Bickel preached and presided over Pastor Angela's installation.



Welcome, Rev. Angela Khabebe!



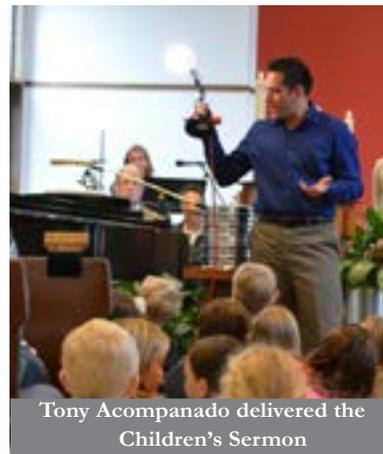
Shout for Joy to the Lord!



The Krueger family gifted new communion ware to Ascension.



Pr. Chris presided over the meal.



Tony Acompanado delivered the Children's Sermon

Worship the Lord with Gladness.



Founding Member Gert Ullsperger



Founding member Elmer Sedivy



Pig Roast and Potluck



Fun and fellowship for all ages



The Lord is Good and His Love Endures Forever!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jennifer Koutnik, Director of Children's Ministries

3-YEAR-OLD STEPPING STONE

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

Please contact me with any questions or if you would like to volunteer, Jennifer@ascensionelca.org. Blessings!

RALLY DAY IN REVIEW



Let the little children come to me..



And do not hinder them..



For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.

JOLT

Tony Acompanado, Director of Youth Ministries

THE JOURNEY OF CONFIRMATION

At Ascension, Confirmation is considered the continuation of one's spiritual development, the beginning of "living out" one's own faith in new ways. Confirmation is the opportunity to learn, explore, and develop a personal faith, which began at our baptism. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 have the opportunity to begin to explore their own faith through large and small groups, faith exploration events, an annual retreat, and family faith practices at home. The primary goal of our Confirmation program is to share with students the joy of a deep and rich relationship with God through the building of community and individual relationships and the careful instruction of students with regard to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



FOOD PACK UPDATE

As part of orientation, students and their parents took part in a food pack service learning project to benefit our brothers and sisters in El Salvador. Great job!



Students worked in teams to pack food.



They poured, measured, weighed, and sealed bags of food.



Students got acquainted as they worked.



Team work, servanthood, and fellowship

JOLT IN OCTOBER

JOLT will meet the following: Oct. 9, 18, and 23.

No classes on Oct. 2 and 30.

CRASH: ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2015



Next summer Ascension's youth will join 40,000 other ELCA Lutheran students and their adult leaders in Detroit for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Here's a snippet about The Gathering:

What is the ELCA Youth Gathering?

The ELCA Youth Gathering is a ministry of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to, with, and for high school-aged youth and their adult leaders. The Gathering, as it is known, is a triennial event that takes place over five days – Wednesday to Sunday – and includes opportunities for worship, service, fellowship, study, and holy play.

What sets the Gathering apart from what some call “arena ministry” is its multi-month, pre-event curriculum designed to plunge teens deep into the Scripture texts around which the ministry is built, and prepare them socially and emotionally for what, for many, is a pivotal moment in their life of faith, and understanding of vocation. After-care is also an exemplar of this ministry. Young people will return to their congregations and synods with a renewed witness to God's action in the world, and The Gathering tries to help congregational leaders receive the witness of young people and incorporate them into the ongoing ministry of their congregations and synods as vital members of the body of Christ.

Why is it important for Ascension's youth and leaders to participate in the Gathering?

When Ascension's group accompanies 40,000 of their brothers and sisters in Christ

Tony Acompañado, Director of Youth Ministries

in worship, service, fellowship, study, and holy play they will discover unique opportunities to re-imagine what it means to be the church and the body of Christ. The Gathering focuses on a model of accompaniment. Accompaniment - defined, walking together side by side - is a mutual relationship. In the accompaniment model of mission, “receiving” is as important as “sending.” We recognize in each other special gifts and talents and we strive to be open and appreciative of the gifts of our companions in mission. While being immersed in the diverse spirit of Detroit, Ascension's youth and adult leaders will have their eyes opened to God's unfolding story for their lives and the rest of the world.

How can we “accompany” Ascension's youth on their journey to The Gathering?

Over the next ten months, Ascension's youth invite you to walk alongside them by taking time to dive deep into the same pre-Gathering Scripture texts they will be using to prepare for the journey ahead. Additionally, your partnership through prayer, as well as your generosity in supporting their fundraising efforts will go a long way to helping them on their journey to The Gathering.

When is the next Gathering?

The next ELCA Youth Gathering is July 15-19, 2015, in Detroit, Michigan.

Who can attend the Gathering?

The Gathering welcomes youth entering the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades in the fall of 2015 and 2015 high school graduates.

CRASH SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Oct. 5	Sunday, 6-8 p.m.	Youth Group: <i>The Power of a Whisper</i> small groups
Oct. 12	Sunday, 6-8 p.m.	Youth Group: <i>The Power of a Whisper</i> small groups
Oct. 19	Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Ascension's Fall Festival
Oct. 25	Saturday, 5-10 p.m.	Lapham Peak Fright Night Hike

CARE MINISTRIES

Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries

We have been blessed with abundant, quality programs and events that Care Ministries is offering this season. In August, 15 youth were trained as Red Cross babysitters. It was a joy teaching teens the skills necessary to care for children. Our next classes will be held in June and August of 2015.

Also in August, LifeLine Health Screening came to Ascension. We had a great turn out with 91 participants, several from our congregation. LifeLine is looking forward to coming back next year.

In September, we began our Grief Share Program. It is a special program that will run for 12 consecutive weeks, until December 2, from 6-8 p.m in the Youth Room. Kathy Kuhn is the professional facilitator. Our participants are grateful that such a quality program has come to Ascension for those suffering the loss of a loved one.

In September, we also offered a flu clinic put on by Wheaton Franciscan. Plus, our monthly blood pressure screenings began. In October, we have the following planned:

- Ascension Blood Drive, Oct. 18, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m., in West Hall. Schedule an appointment at www.bcw.edu/Ascension. Walk ins are also welcome.
- Six week combination Tai Chi/Yoga fitness classes are set to begin Monday nights, starting Oct. 20, 6-7 p.m, in West Hall. The cost is \$12 (bring to the class). YMCA Instructor Ann Hurley will run these sessions.
- We welcome Sally Wagner to our Pastoral Assistant Team. May God's blessings be with Sally as she begins this new role.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Small Group Ministry Team

Are you listening for whispers from God?

It takes patience to just listen, to quiet your mind and heart to just listen, listen without first asking. Bill Hybels, in *The Power of a Whisper*, tells us that there are two levels of whispers that we are likely to hear: whispers that offer comfort for the concerns of our own lives and whispers that introduce discomfort. Discomforting whispers may be as simple as, "Offer to help the Sunday School," or "Join that small group," or "Find the funding to take that mission trip."

How do you know if the whisper promptings are truly from God? Ask yourself: Is it scriptural? Is it wise? Is it in tune with your own character?

What do the people you most trust think about it?

The Power of a Whisper sessions conclude the week of Oct. 12. The Small Group Ministry is excited that there are 25 study groups, with 219 participants. Five of the groups are youth groups comprised of 40 teens!

On Sunday, Oct. 19, we will celebrate the Spirit of God who has encouraged us to listen for whispers. There will be small group recognition and prayers for whispers heard. Many participants from the groups will take part in the Fall Festival following the late service.



*"Like the garden of the Lord, joy and gladness will be found
in her thanksgiving, and the voice of song."*

Isaiah 15:3

ASCENSION'S ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL



This fantastic and popular church-wide event is back. We are looking for families and ministries/small groups to help in the following ways:

Decorate a trunk and provide candy for the kids in costumes

Participate in the bake-off

Run a game

Help with set-up/take-down

Help with the trunk or treat

Any other way in which you feel moved to participate



If you run a small group or ministry and you would like your group/ministry to participate or help, or if you are an individual who can help, please contact the Fall Festival Planning Committee, supermomsofascension@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 19, 12 p.m.

Games for all ages! Packer tailgate!

Trunk or Treat! Bake-Off! Costume Contest!

Sign up at www.ascensionelca.org/events/fall-festival/.

RESPIRE MINISTRY



I hope that all of you enjoyed a relaxing and re-energizing summer. Now that we are settled into a new school year and fall schedules, Respite Ministry is looking for a few (and by few, I really mean many) good men (and women, teens, and even, well behaved dogs) to join our fairly newly developed ministry. Whether you are retired, have some extra time while your children are in school, are bored or disgusted by evening's choices on TV, looking for a service project, or curious and want to learn more about Respite, our next meeting will be held on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. Respite is all about giving a break to a family member who is the primary caregiver to someone with an acute, chronic illness or injury, or is on their end of life journey. I am looking for more Ascension members interested in doing this. I'm also looking for volunteers who would be willing to make a meal, run errands, perhaps do some yard work - the possibilities are endless and very much appreciated by family who are in a caregiving role. Please call Nada Draeger, 262 548 0351, email me at njdraeger@msn.com, or talk to me at the upcoming Oct. 2 meeting.

Nada Draeger, Respite Ministry Leader

AMEN Ministries

AMEN Men's Ministry is having a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 4, 8-10:30 a.m. Our *guest speaker* (via DVD) will be Darrin Patrick, author of *A Dude's Guide to Manhood*. We will be sharing Darrin's 2014 No Regrets Men's Conference message, *A Man after God's Own Heart*, and follow it up

with discussion of the video. There is no cost to enjoy the breakfast, but a free-will offering will be accepted to defray the cost of the food.

In addition, this breakfast will be your first opportunity to get ticket vouchers for the 2015 No Regrets Men's Conference, on Feb. 7, 2015 at Elmbrook

church. This awesome event sells out quickly every year, so don't miss a chance to get a voucher and join us at the conference.

Looking forward to seeing you at the breakfast!

A TASTE OF THE DANIEL PLAN

Steve and Carol Spieker

Recently, a group of Ascension members, led by Sarah Anderson, formed a small group to study *The Daniel Plan*. *The Daniel Plan* is a 40 day study written by Rick Warren and his team of experts. It is a groundbreaking healthy lifestyle program founded on biblical principles and focused on The Five Essentials: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends. The members of the group found great benefits from all they had learned from the study. Collectively, we feel compelled to encourage others to embark on this study. Each month, we will share a “taste” of *The Daniel Plan* in the newsletter along with a simple recipe so you can see how easy and desirable it can be to move toward a healthier lifestyle.

We have heard people sometimes confuse *The Daniel Plan* as “just another diet.” Actually, the program offers an innovative approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle where people get better together by embracing “The Five Essentials.” Each essential supports and influences the others, offering a practical step-by-step approach for anyone to follow.

The essentials of Faith and Friends are thought of as the “secret sauce” that makes *The Daniel Plan* so effective. The program benefits are accelerated when done in a supportive community of friends because God designed us to thrive in relationships. It has been learned that the process of getting healthy and staying healthy relies on the support and encouragement of friends. With the support of God and a group, people have far more than willpower. The added support and encouragement helps you to make positive changes so you can be consistent and sustain your new healthy lifestyle.

The primary message of *The Daniel Plan* is about abundance, not deprivation, and this is why the plan is both transformational and sustainable. *The Daniel Plan* teaches a step-by-step approach and offers simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into your current lifestyle. Throughout the program you are encouraged to rely on God’s power, and the application of dependable biblical principles.

FOUR MINUTE CHICKEN

Ingredients

- 1 large chicken breast cut Skinny Chicken Style (medallions)
- 2 Tbl olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp. All Purpose Seasoning
- 1 Cup Asparagus, sliced very thin on a bias
- 1 Cup Mushrooms, sliced very thin
- Kosher Salt, ground to taste
- Ground Pepper, fresh to taste

Preparation:

In a bowl, combine olive oil and all-purpose seasoning. Add chicken medallions and massage coating the chicken evenly. In a hot skillet, place chicken in pan, cover and let cook 2 minutes. Turn chicken over. Cover chicken with asparagus and mushrooms. Cover pan and cook 2 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve. Optional: Zucchini, onions, tomatoes and most easy to cook vegetables work well with this recipe.

MILITARY FAMILY MINISTRY

OCTOBER MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

Diane Maasz, Military Family Ministry Leader,

Please keep the following deployed servicemembers in your prayers for safety, strength, and a safe return home: Patrick Guthaus, serving on the USS Makin Island; Kyle Maasz, serving in the Middle East; and Jacqueline VanderGraff, serving on the USS Bataan.

The Military Ministry will be sending out care packages in November to our deployed servicemembers and those serving on the Homefront. Sending care packages is one way to show them they have the love and support from their home church that they so deserve. If you know of someone you would like to receive a care package from Ascension, please forward their contact information to Diane Maasz at ddmmaz@gmail.com, or put it in Box 45 by Nov. 1. Due to the frequency of address changes in the military, addresses must be submitted for each care package shipment.



SPECIAL FRIENDS FALL FUN



Zoo Spooktacular

Special Friends had a busy summer with golfing, boating, and fishing. We did a service project for Feed the Kids by baking cookies for their lunches. We went to Adventure Lasertag for our September event and had a blast! We were very fortunate to have Ashton Keene as our guide. This will definitely be on our to-do list for a winter activity.

Oct. 25, we will go to the zoo for the annual "Halloween Trick-or-Treat Spooktacular." November will be the Christmas parade, and in December, another service project for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Brookfield Square.

If you are interested in joining our group, contact Sally Graser at 993-9545 or Marge Schroeder at 695-2384. Everyone is welcome!

PUPPETS OF PRAISE

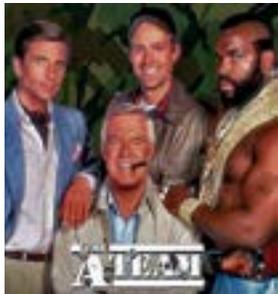
As the weather cools down, we are getting warmed up for the fall season and Waukesha Christmas parade on Nov. 23. Join us as we plan for Sunday School and our Christmas float.

- **Oct. 5:** Home visits. Meet at 9 a.m., WH
- **Oct. 12:** Practice 10:30-11:45 a.m. with new members, EH, Lunch, Skateland.
- **Oct. 19:** Children's Time and Sunday School, Meet 8:30-11:30 a.m., EH
- **Oct. 26:** Puppets practice, 10:30-11:45 a.m., EH

Our website is also up and running at www.ascensionelca.org/care-ministries/puppets-of-praise/. Thanks to Kate for all her hard work! Check it out. Any questions, please contact Cheryl Ades Anspach at puppetsofascension@gmail.com or 262-527-8905.

PRAYER TEAM MINISTRY

Bonnie Thiesenhusen, Prayer Team Ministry Leader



The A-Team. . . actually, the A. P. Team. . . more importantly, the Ascension Prayer Team. You are never too young or too old to participate. You need not be a saint to join—in fact, sinners, and those who feel that they are not quite good enough are welcomed to join. You need not be a picture of health. You don't need good knees or a strong back because you can participate while standing, sitting, kneeling, or walking—or even standing in the shower.

What you do need is the "faith the grain of a mustard seed", a love of the LORD, and a love of your church and your fellow human.

No one is rejected from being a member or participating in this team—the Ascension Prayer Team. Your prayers are important!

The prayer team meets on the first and third Mondays of most months from 6-7 p.m. in the Prayer Room. If you are unable to attend the meetings at church please call the church office to be part of the prayer chain. Again, your prayers are very important!

QUILTERS AND CRAFTERS



Due to unforeseen circumstances, our meeting time has been changed back to 6-8 p.m., on Thursdays, at Alice Bissett's house.

Thank you to all of those who donated baked goods to help make our bake sale a success. The proceeds will be used to buy supplies to complete our shelter quilts.

Sunday, Nov. 16 has been designated as Quilt Sunday. We will have on display the shelter quilts made this year. We continue to need volunteers to assemble these quilts. No quilting experience necessary. Any questions, please call Alice Bissett at 262-547-6265.

KNIT WITS

The Knit Wits' mission is to help keep the less-fortunate warm, one stitch at a time, and so we make hats for charity. We are proud to announce the Third Annual Blessing of the Hats on Sunday, Oct. 19, during both the 9 and 10:45 services. The pastors will bless the hundreds of hats we have made for charities since our last delivery in April. The hats will then be delivered to Cross Church, The Salvation Army, The Hope Center, Hebron House (homeless shelters), Waukesha Public School System, Waukesha Memorial Hospital Regional Cancer Center and their NICU, and Waukesha's Christmas Clearing Council.

Other October events include:

- Monday, Oct. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Meeting at church
- Monday, Oct. 13, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Lunch & Knit; at Kim's Garden Chinese Restaurant, 137 W. Sunset Dr., RSVP to Maddie Goetter
- Monday, Oct. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Meeting at church
- Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Knit-a-Thon, Knit Fest at church

Donations of clean, unused yarn are always appreciated. Any funds we raise are used to buy basic men's hats, in bulk, from Menard's.



YOUNG AT HEART

We will have a potluck lunch at 12 p.m., on Wednesday, Oct. 15, in East. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able. Vern Tretlow will provide toe-tapping music for us. We will play games after the music. Call Arlene Davis, 262-542-9119, with questions.



FEATURED MISSION: SOPHIA

Iva Richards, Ascension's SOPHIA Representative

SOPHIA is an acronym for Stewards of Prophetic Hopeful Intentional Action, or more simply stated, we are congregations united by people actively living their faith and values. Members of 13 faith communities in Waukesha County are, through SOPHIA, united to advocate for social justice. The four areas we are concentrating on right now are health care; treatment instead of prison for non-violent offenders; workforce housing; and immigration reform. If you are interested in knowing more about SOPHIA or the task forces propelling the work forward please check our website www.sophiawaukesha.org or call me, Iva Richards, at 262-542-5840.

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest wall of oppression and resistance." - Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.



The SOPHIA Prophetic Declaration

We stand together in our faith:

We believe in the God-given dignity and infinite worth of each and every human life.

We believe that we are each and all part of a sacred community, to which we have responsibility and from which we gain sustenance.

We believe that our faith calls us to work for justice and liberation, standing against all forms of oppression and inequity.

We believe we are called to be stewards of the natural world in all its bounty and diversity.

We believe in shared abundance and stand against the dominant culture of reckless consumption and consumerism for some and deprivation for others.

We believe in the triumph of love and hope over hate and fear.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS: CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shirley Wehmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader



CROSS FOOD PANTRY AND BOHEM

BOEHM (Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry) is the outreach program at Cross Lutheran Church that serves those most in need in the area surrounding Cross. It is more than a hot meal or the food pantry; it is a holistic approach to care for those whom society often deems as undesirable. Through our working alongside the members of Cross, we are able to actively share God's love with people from the Cross neighborhood and, as Pastor Jim Bickel said, assure them that they are loved by God. This is true accompaniment. These are the activities of BOEHM:

Serving a hot meal every Wednesday to more than 300 people living in poverty

Distributing an additional 200 bags of food each week from our pantry

Providing meaningful community for people who may be disconnected from any community

Offering a strong spiritual support for those who have lost hope, through a weekly Bible study, which numbers from 80-100 persons each week

Providing care and support for 60 men and women who are on a path of sobriety, as well as helping them to grow to a place of strength and positive self-esteem as they manage other life issues.

Cross welcomes you to stop in on a Wednesday and discover what a powerful and special place this is, one where all are guaranteed to receive great food, while experiencing laughter, warmth, and love. In the words of one of the regular guests, "Lives are being changed. People are being delivered from addictions, and hope is being restored."

As the weather cools down, fresh fruits and vegetables are less available at affordable prices. During October, we will collect canned fruits and vegetables for the Cross Food Pantry. "When I was hungry, you gave Me food to eat," said Jesus. "Whenever you minister to the least of these, you do it unto Me."



THE GIFT AND GOAL OF ACCOMPANIMENT

Nickie Fuller, Mission Outreach Committee Member

Each person on Earth is an individual, with their own personality, talents, wants, and needs. The only people who are trying to transform themselves into someone else are groupies and victims of plastic surgery.

As a member of Mission Outreach, I am learning that the goal of our missions is to accept the cultural ways of others and to learn from them. In this way, they can learn from me and accept my cultural ways. This is the goal of accompaniment.

We learn; we accept each other; we are treated to the knowledge that we are all individuals. We are unique gifts from God, no matter where in the world we live. It is not our purpose to create "Ascension Mini-Me's" at Cross, or in El Salvador, or on Mt. Meru, not even in our own backyard. It's give-and-take - reciprocity! It is not throwing money at problems; not telling others how they should live. If we can understand, trust, learn, and help others, the same understanding and trust and help can be a gift coming back to us. That is the gift.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS: EL SALVADOR

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP

If you would like to establish a connection with people from another culture, it's always good to offer a few gifts as a gesture of friendship. But, an even better way to forge a lasting bond is by creating something together. Whether it's a meal, an art project or a spontaneous dance party, when you create with others, you create a connection that lasts a lifetime. - The Blue Man Group

“But what will we be doing?” A mission trip based on the philosophy of accompaniment can be a hard thing to understand. On our mission trips to El Salvador, we create together, we learn together, sometimes we cry together, often we laugh together.

Join us this spring break as we embark on a new journey of partnership with the people of San Jorge. In addition, we will meet the scholarship students sponsored by Ascension in Rutilio Grande and visit the Agroferreteria. The tentative dates for the trip are Monday, April 6 - Saturday, April 11, 2015. Financial assistance will be

available to Ascension members. Contact Sarah Aparicio with questions, weh22@hotmail.com.

SAN JORGE PARTNER CHURCH

During the Imagine Ascension campaign, Ascension committed to partner with the Agroferreteria in Usulután. Through our involvement, the Agroferreteria has become successful and is growing. It now provides more jobs and items for families to shop for at a fair price. While we will continue to be a resource for the hardware store, we are now ready to take the next step in establishing a partnership with San Jorge, a congregation in the area where the volcano hit. This will give Ascension more ways to learn about our brothers and sisters of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church, by being directly involved with the people of the church. Watch future newsletters for articles on San Jorge and what we, as an entire congregation, can do as a part of this partnership.



OUR PARTNERSHIPS: MERU DIOCESE OF TANZANIA

WATER PARK RAFFLE FOR CLEAN WATER

We often take access to clean water for granted. In the months to come, we will be learning about a water project that is a joint effort between the Greater Milwaukee Synod and the Mount Meru Diocese. We will also be organizing some fun activities to raise funds to support this project, starting with a raffle for various water park vacations at the Fall Festival on Oct. 19. Funds raised will support this important project. Donations will also be accepted!



OUTREACH FOR HOPE FAMILY BIKE RIDE

As founders of the original Outreach For Hope Family Bike Ride seven years ago, Ascension support as riders, volunteers, and contributors, continues to lead the way for what is expected to be another record-breaking year.

At the event held Sept. 6 in Dousman, Lloyd Buth's contributions were acknowledged as a founding planning team member and for the continued support from Lloyd and his wife, Jo. For the first two years of the event, the Buths provided the venue at their Utica Lake property in Dousman.

Early totals for this year's event reported 32 registered riders from Ascension, plus many volunteers who helped stage the event and served a breakfast and celebratory lunch following the ride. 47 congregations from

throughout southeastern WI were represented among 307 registered riders, ages 1-84.

Through your support of the Outreach For Hope Family Bike, as of Sept. 15, approximately \$62,000 has been raised toward our \$75,000 goal. (Final totals will be available mid-October.) People are being fed and clothed, children are being taught and loved, and everyone experiences the welcome of a community of faith. Most importantly, children and adults learn about and experience the hope and promises God has for their lives.

Thank you, Ascension for your generous support of this life-changing ministry in Southeastern WI. For more information go to www.outreachforhope.org



Lloyd Buth, Rev. Jim Bickel, Jo Buth, and Rev. Chris Marien

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 9am YAH at Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 9:30am Staff Mtg. 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp WH 7:30pm Choir EH	2 10am AI Anon WH 11am Clean-up S 5pm Angel Choir EH 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6pm Quilting, Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	3	4 7am AMEN Breakfast EH, WH 8am Run for God
5 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 9am Children's Church EH 9am Puppets WH, Home Visits 10:45am Worship 10:45 Sunday School 6pm CRASH YR 6pm AA mtg WH 6pm Supermoms 107 7pm AA closed mtg	6 9:45am AI Anon WH 6pm Prayer group PR 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Knit Wits WH	7 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 6pm Run for God 7pm Holloway 107 7pm Mutual Ministry PR 7:15pm TGIT 106 & 107	8 11:45am Men's Nurture Group 106 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Group WH, EH, HR 7:30pm Choir S	9 10am AI Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6pm Quilting, Bissetts 6:30pm JOLT EH, WH, YR, S 7pm Ballantyne 107 7pm Care Ministries	10	11 8am Run for God
12 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Children's Church EH 9am Spanish Worship PR 10am Blood Pressure HR 10:30am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 10:45 Sunday School 6pm CRASH EH, YR 6pm Supermoms 107 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	13 9:45am AI Anon WH 7pm AMEN 107 7pm Living Letters 106	14 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 6pm Run for God 7pm ARISE 2025 EH 7pm Holloway 107	15 9:30am Staff Mtg. 12pm Young at Heart Potluck EH & K 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp WH 7:30pm Choir S	16 10am AI Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6pm Quilting, Bissetts 6:30 JOLT S EH WH YR 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	17	18 8am Blood Drive 8am Run for God 10:30am Folk choir rehearsal S
19 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 9am Children's Church EH 10:30am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 10:45 3 yr. Stepping Stone 10:45 Sunday School 11:45am Fall Fest WH, CT, PL 4pm New Member HR 6pm CRASH EH YR 6pm AA mtg WH 6:30pm Supermoms 107 7pm AA closed mtg WH	20 9:45am AI Anon WH 6pm Prayer group PR 6pm Yoga/Tai Chi EH 6:30pm AMEN 6:30pm Knit Wits WH	21 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 7pm Council EH 7:15pm TGIT 106-07	22 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp WH 7:30pm Choir S	23 10am AI Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 4pm Quilting, Bissetts 6:30pm JOLT EH WH YR S 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107/106	24	25 CRASH Retreat 8am Knit Fest & Hat Sale WH
26 CRASH Retreat 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 9am Children's Church EH 9am Hat Blessing HR 10:30am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 10:45 3 yr Blessing 10:45 Sunday School 6pm CRASH Small Groups YR 6pm AA mtg WH 6:30pm Supermoms 107 7pm AA closed mtg WH	27 9:45am AI Anon WH 6pm Yoga/Tai Chi EH 7pm AMEN 107	28 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 7pm Holloway 107	29 6pm AA/Wisdom EH 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp EH WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	30 10am AI Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 4pm Quilting, Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne Small Group 107	31	