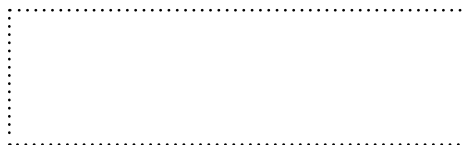




*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA  
November 2014

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# THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA



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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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### Nursery Staff

Rachel Stemper  
Amanda Whitaker

### Wedding Coordinator

Lauri Eckmann  
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## CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

### President

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### 2nd Vice-President

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### Secretary

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### Treasurer

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### Director of Ministries

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### Director of Operations

Peter Laper  
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### Handbell Choir Director

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[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)

## REACH OUT

*O give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.  
Sing to the LORD, sing praises to God, tell of all God's wonderful works.*

1 Chronicles 16:8-9

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, pastors everywhere write corny, predictable newsletter articles or devotionals about how we should be thankful and count our blessings. I have to tell you, this article will be no exception. This time of year, as we enter the holiday season, we tend to be a little more thoughtful and little more generous. This is a wonderful sign of the season. However, sometimes we can focus on our immediate household and not fully connect with relatives and friends who live far away. As we all know, life can be painfully and unpredictably short. This holiday season, let us make every effort to reach out to loved ones and family members. Most importantly, we should reach out to those with whom we might have a strained relationship. We have no idea what the future holds. Therefore, it implores us to be with family as often as possible. Here's a Thanksgiving story of a father who is challenged by his family's situation and is willing to go to extreme measures.

*A man in Tampa calls his daughter, Sue, in California just before Thanksgiving and announces to her that he is divorcing her mother after fifty years of marriage. The daughter exclaims, "What? You can't do that!"*

*"Oh, yes I can! We can't stand each other - irreconcilable differences and all. To be honest, we really hate even seeing each other. We're glad to be done and I don't want to talk about it. Please, do me a favor. Let your sister and brother know since I just don't want to talk about it anymore." The daughter frantically calls her sister and brother, both of whom also explode and vow that their parents won't be getting a divorce. Sue calls back her father and tells him, "There's no way you're getting divorced. We're all coming there tomorrow to sort this thing out. Don't do or say anything to mom before we get there."*

*The father hangs up the phone, turns to their mother and says, "Okay, it worked! We're finally going to spend Thanksgiving with the whole family and it won't even cost us a dime!"*

Sisters and brothers, let this lighthearted story serve as inspiration to motivate us to reach out to family members and loved ones. Let us make a concerted effort to reconnect with family members – especially if you're not on speaking terms. I know it can be severely challenging, but let bygones be bygones and agree to disagree, even if it means you have to say "sorry" first. This doesn't mean that we forget the past; but, rather, invite a more peaceful future. After all, we never know how much time we have left to make amends. So, this holiday season, let's seize every opportunity to repair broken relationships. That way, as we gather at our feasts, we can enjoy God's abundant blessings with hearts that are open and relationships that are restored. Now sisters and brothers, restored does not necessarily mean that the relationship will be perfect or overflowing with hugs and kisses. But the relationship will no longer be broken and will at least be on the path toward healing. What an amazing way to honor God this Thanksgiving - by living into a spirit of reconciliation!

Give thanks to the Lord for God is good.

Your sister in the journey.

Pastor Angela Khabeb



### PASTORAL ACTS

#### Baptisms

Oct. 19, Wesley Jahner

Oct. 26, Luisa Wehmeier de Aparicio

## WALKING TOGETHER



In the home of our friends, the parents have a saying that reminds the children that the family is all in everything together, "There are no secrets, there are only surprises." The phrase brought to mind the words of Jesus in the book of Matthew as he was preparing to send out the 12 disciples to share the message of the Kingdom of God. I offer verse 16 to give context and then verse 26 to complete the message...

*16 'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 26 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. 27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.*

Calling a new pastor to walk alongside a congregation is always an adventure. And with every adventure, comes new moments of discovery and opportunities for growth and for understanding.

I write these words to share with you the joy of working in partnership with Pastor Angela. In the body of Christ, there are no secrets there are only surprises. While Pastor Angela and I have promised in our ordination vows to "bear the burdens" of the people we serve and to "not betray the confidences" of the challenges of this life shared with us, your pastors do indeed walk together. What that means in our pastoral relationship is that conversations you have with one pastor are always communicated to the other pastor. When you speak to either pastor, you speak to both.

It is a joy to serve among you, and your pastors are at their very best, and are able to serve you to the very best of their ability, when we are able to walk with you in any given moment with as much of the story of your life as possible. So, dear friends, share your stories, invite our prayers, and know that you are loved, equally, by both your pastors.

Peace be with you!

## YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

*Eric Friedrichsohn, Church Council President*



The October council meeting began with a heartfelt devotion by a council member. We have continued the tradition of taking turns talking about our "God Moment" or dreams we have for Ascension.

We welcomed Pastor Angela to Ascension at the September council. It is truly a blessing to have both Pastor Angela and Pastor Chris at the council meetings, and it is nice to see a partnership at the table again.

We discussed the greatly successful Fall Festival. It was nice to hear visitors to Ascension talk about the community of our church and the joy of the event. It was a great event! A big *thank you* to all of those that were involved.

The Budget Team has been meeting weekly to discuss the 2015 budget. Council has unanimously decided on the budget for 2015, and this will be available for review prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. We are going to have a budget listening session on Sunday, Nov. 2, between the 9 and 10:45 worship services. This will give church members a chance to ask questions of the council and financial development teams. Please attend this session if you have any questions about the budget.

We are always in need of volunteers to fill leadership roles. Do you have an interest in council, or maybe you would like to lead a wing? Maybe you're a great recruiter and would like to take on a leadership development role? Whatever it is, please don't sit back and think "Well, what if?" Come talk to anyone that is in leadership and we will find a home for you. Ascension needs leaders like you!

A brief reminder: council approved the following changes to the constitution and bylaws last spring. These changes will need to be adopted by the congregation at the November 9 annual meeting.

*Continued on the next page.*

## CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

### C6.05

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

d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed or emailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless he or she is a voting member of the congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.

### C10.03.

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

### C17.04

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

The following are Bylaws changes:

### C11.02.01

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

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

The council passed the following changes to the By-Laws that will be brought to the congregation at the next Congregational Meeting:

#### C13.01.01 Administrative Leadership Teams

Administrative leadership teams shall be appointed by the Congregation Council as follows:

Communications Team

Financial Development Team

Leadership Development Team

Facilities Team

The leader for each administrative team shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. The administrative teams shall be coordinated by the Director of Operations, who shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. Team Leaders and the Director of Operations shall be appointed by the Congregation Council for a term of two years. ~~None shall be elected members of the Council.~~

#### C13.02.01 Ministries Leadership Teams

Ministries leadership teams shall be appointed by the Congregation Council as follows:

Joyful Worship Team

Spiritual Growth Team

Caring Relationship Team

Mission Outreach Team

The leader for each ministries leadership team shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. The ministries leadership teams shall be coordinated by the Director of Ministries, who shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. Team Leaders and the Director of Ministries shall be appointed by the Congregation Council for a term of two years. ~~None shall be elected members of the Council.~~



# FINANCIAL REPORT

*Doug Bue, Treasurer*

September 30, 2014 Year to Date

Item	2014 Actual	2014 Plan	Variance to 2014 Plan	2013 Actual	Variance to 2013 Actual
<b>Income</b>					
Contributions	\$487,113	\$522,300	\$(35,187)	\$514,356	\$(27,243)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$48,442	\$42,537	\$5,905	\$38,987	\$9,455
From Restricted Funds	\$5,673	\$2,250	\$3,423	\$3,600	\$2,073
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$541,228</b>	<b>\$567,087</b>	<b>\$(25,859)</b>	<b>\$556,943</b>	<b>\$(15,715)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Communications	\$20,749	\$21,650	\$901	\$22,424	\$1,675
Facilities	\$124,979	\$114,717	\$(10,262)	\$108,017	\$(16,962)
Financial Development	\$72,890	\$72,913	\$23	\$77,549	\$4,659
Leadership Development	\$6,616	\$8,650	\$2,034	\$1,980	\$(4,636)
Administration	\$151,702	\$187,178	\$35,476	\$203,502	\$51,800
Caring Relationships	\$20,144	\$20,470	\$326	\$13,405	\$(6,739)
Joyful Worship	\$49,130	\$43,695	\$(5,435)	\$34,813	\$(14,317)
Mission Outreach	\$56,365	\$56,575	\$210	\$55,503	\$(862)
Spiritual Growth	\$64,358	\$68,382	\$4,024	\$67,255	\$2,897
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$566,933</b>	<b>\$594,230</b>	<b>\$27,297</b>	<b>\$584,448</b>	<b>\$17,515</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(25,705)</b>	<b>\$(27,143)</b>	<b>\$1,438</b>	<b>\$(27,505)</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>
<b>Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>\$981,793</b>				
<b>Vision Ascension Contributions</b>	<b>\$48,759</b>				
<b>Ascension Arise Contributions</b>	<b>\$179,992</b>				
<b>Restricted Contributions</b>	<b>\$87,274</b>				
<b>Restricted Funds Balance</b>	<b>\$188,701</b>				
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$12,167</b>				

What the numbers mean:

- Our general contributions are 6.7% behind plan for 2014, and they are 5.3% 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 \$1,438.
- 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).

## MEET THE ASCENSION HANDBELLS

*Heidi Bischmann, Handbell Choir Director*

I'd like to introduce you to the Ascension Handbells – not the musician ringers who make up our small group, but the actual handbells and chimes.

Ascension owns five octaves of Malmark Handbells and five octaves of Malmark Choirchimes®. Nice, right? But there is so much more.

Over the last 14 or 15 years, the handbells and chimes have been gifted to Ascension or purchased in loving memory of, in honor of, and/or in support of our growing and vibrant music program by Ascension members, family, and friends.

The first three-octave set of chimes was donated in honor of former members Greg and Sue Harper around the year 1999-2000. The original set of handbells came in 2001 in memory of my mom and fellow ringer, Nanci Schwarzenbacher. Through the years, we have been fortunate to add to our equipment list and have rounded out our set of 61 bells and 61 chimes at five octaves each.

If asked, you might say that the bells are made of brass. Most likely, you would not like the sound if they were made of brass. Instead, Malmark craftspeople transform raw bronze (approximate proportions of 80% copper and 20% tin) into musical instruments of beauty and purity of tone. In the hands of bellringers, that beauty is released to ring out in joyful worship and praise to God.

Developed in 1982, the Choirchime® instrument consists of a square aluminum tube with comfortable, rounded exterior corners to produce the purest and cleanest sound. Shape does matter. In order to create the purest tone, the tube must have 90° angles to avoid undesirable, untuned overtones and extraneous “buzzing” vibrations. The chimes are rung gently, and are not meant to be very loud. A variety of techniques are used to produce different sounds from the instruments – including ring, pluck, let vibrate, mallet, martellato, shake, lift, echo, brush damp, mallet roll, ring touch, swing, thumb damp, tap pluck, bell tree, and table land damp.

Currently, 15 musicians ring in the Handbell Choir. Musical and technical skills are taught and friendships are developed through the team effort of our small group. Various levels of music allow for differences in musical ability and number of ringers at any given time. We share our musical regularly in worship, occasional concerts, education sessions including “summer bell camp,” and Mission Outreach events each year.

The handbell choir is open to participants from 7th grade to adult, with some experience reading music. We rehearse Wednesday evenings, from 6–7:15 p.m., September through May. New members are always welcome! For more information, contact Heidi Bischmann, [hbischmann@gmail.com](mailto:hbischmann@gmail.com) or 414-305-7812.



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday School students will present their Christmas pageant entitled *What Can I Give Him?* during at 9 and 10:45 services on Sunday, Dec. 21. All children are warmly invited to participate. They will learn and rehearse the music on three Sunday mornings, with a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 20. The complete rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- Sunday, Nov. 16, 10:45-11:15, East Hall
- Sunday, Nov. 23, 10:45-11:15, East Hall
- Sunday, Dec. 7, 10:45-11:15, East Hall
- Saturday, Dec. 20, 9-10, Pageant Characters, Sanctuary; 10-11, Everyone, Sanctuary

For those who normally attend Children's Church during the 9 a.m. service and desire to be a part of the pageant, please stay for the 10:45-11:15 rehearsals.

Children whose last names begin with A-M will present the pageant at the 9 a.m. service on Dec. 21; those with last names beginning with the letters N-Z will present the pageant at the 10:45 service on the same day. Please contact Jen Koutnik, Director of Children's Ministries ([Jennifer@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Jennifer@ascensionelca.org)), if your family would prefer to change services on pageant day. Ascension Children's and Music Ministries are excited to once again offer a Sunday School Christmas Pageant, and we look forward with great anticipation to sharing the story of Jesus' birth as told through the sweet sounds of children's voices.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Jennifer Koutnik, Director of Children's Ministries*



### DISTINCTIVE CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

I have had a lot of families ask me the difference between the two Sunday School times 9 and 10:45 a.m. What is offered at either is distinct. Here is a synopsis of what we do at each Christian formation time slot.

#### 9 a.m. Children's Church

This September, we began a new curriculum called Children's Church. In this model, students begin in worship, stay through the children's message, and then head to East Hall for a large group experience. Once the Pastor finishes the sermon, the students return to worship and join their family for Communion and Sending.

We have children from ages three to eleven participate in Children's Church. The curriculum is directed toward younger children (under 4th grade); however, it does include activities for children of all ages. (Unfortunately, at this time, we do not have the volunteer power to lead all of the suggested activities/games). Some of the older kids enjoy assisting the little learners in completing projects, which is an excellent way for them to demonstrate Christian discipleship and service. However, it is important to note that 4th and 5th graders are at a good age to stay in worship, if they choose, and listen to the sermon. Doing so will provide families with the opportunity to talk about the Bible readings and sermon together after worship.

As I noted above, we need more volunteers to make this model of Sunday School all that it can be. The commitment is small, but the reward of forming relationships with the children is priceless. If you can help, please contact me at [Jennifer@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Jennifer@ascensionelca.org).

#### 10:45 a.m. FaithWeaver

At 10:45 a.m., we use the FaithWeaver curriculum. This second model begins the same as the 9 a.m. model. Children begin in church and leave for class after the children's message. Students meet their teacher by grade in the narthex and walk together to their classroom in the Spiritual Growth wing. This is a more traditional Sunday School setting. Classes have a lesson each week. FaithWeaver runs on a 3 year scope and sequence (a fancy way of saying they go through the Bible in 3 years). Then families pick up their kids outside of their classroom once worship is over.

Both Sunday School settings have many positive attributes and teach children in different ways. If you would like more info please contact me, [Jennifer@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Jennifer@ascensionelca.org), I would be happy to explain further



### ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

We are bringing back Road to Bethlehem this month! On Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., the children will rotate groups and do activities pertaining to the birth of Christ. It is open to all Sunday School aged kids. Please mark your calendars to join us and/or volunteer! It is a great time!



## CRASH: YOUTH MINISTRY IS FOR ALL AGES

*Tony Acompanado, Director of Youth Ministries*

Passing faith from generation to generation in our world needs new structures for congregations to be effective. This new model of ministry must include ministry with and between all of the generations, not for or by only one or two of the generations. In other words, in order for congregations to effectively grow across the generations in the twenty-first century, the gifts of all people and all generations must be acknowledged and welcomed.

Given the real differences between generations, acknowledging the differences will lead to:

- A healthier sense of life together in community, where health is gauged by safe, trusting, and respectful relationships
- More effective communication between persons, where communication is understood as a mutual, reciprocal, and civil enterprise as well as a medium of God's Spirit.

Effective communication between persons of different generations is a clear path to more effective ministry together, and the practice of ministry together is a central part of the call that God places upon all of God's people.

Enter cross-generational ministry. Cross-generational ministry is not another program, but rather a ministry principle that intends to provide opportunities for adults to spend quality time with young people, where they gather in spaces defined by equity, mutuality, and reciprocity. Cross-generational ministry takes seriously that interactions between the generations happen as "brothers and sisters in Christ."

There is a lot that can masquerade as cross-generational ministry that, in actuality, amounts to not much more than a devaluing gesture, particularly to the younger generations. There is an appearance that the gifts, voices, and leadership of the younger generations is welcomed, accepted, and valued, when in reality they are not.

It should be reasonably obvious that cross-generational ministry is not simply a case of adults "allowing" or "expecting" young people to attend or help with events planned by adults. Rather, cross-generational ministry deeply and thoroughly involves young people from beginning to end and respects their involvement at all levels. It must be ministry with and between all of the generations, not to or for, or even by, any one generation.

So how are we doing things differently here at Ascension? For starters, students and adult leaders are invited into ministry development at every stage. We ask students and leaders what they'd love to be a part of and then together we try and craft ministry experiences that reflect that shared vision.

So what does this look like at Ascension? Throughout Ascension's youth ministry, you will see students engaged alongside adult leaders doing mission projects together, students and leaders together leading games and faith discussions, students and adult leaders together assisting with planning and implementation of service learning opportunities, retreats, mission trips, fun events, and more. You'll also see youth actively participating in Care Ministries, Joyful Worship, and in activities with our Mission Outreach partners. To find out more, we invite you to come, see, and be a part of Ascension's youth ministry!

Adapted from *Across the Generations – The Why and How* by Augsburg Fortress

### JOLT

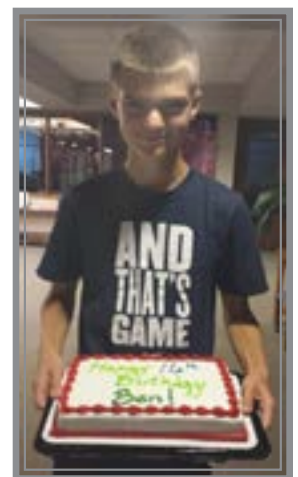
Nov. 6, 13, & 20

No class Nov. 27

### CRASH

Nov. 2 & 16, 6 p.m.

Retreat Nov. 21-23



## CARE MINISTRIES

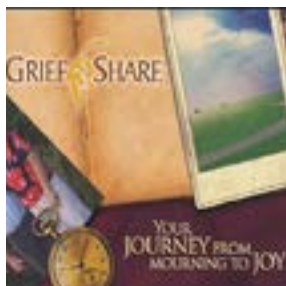


It has been a rewarding season for Ascension's Care Ministries. We have seen it grow, change, and take on a life that nourishes our church and community. We have seen growth in new ministries and the passion that the leaders have. We have created new programs for people to become involved in the church, provided fitness and pro-active opportunities to encourage healthy living, and provided programs to help heal those that have suffered intense grief. I look forward to 2015 as we continue to grow with new Care Ministries programs!

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. - Proverbs 16:3*

*Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries*

## CARE MINISTRIES NOVEMBER EVENTS



### GRIEF MINISTRIES

Grief Share Program continues. Attendance is 8-15 active participants. We meet Tuesday nights, from 6-8 p.m., in the Youth Room. We are noticing that people are lifting themselves up from their grief state and gaining a sense of community in the group. They are mending relationships, attending worship, and becoming involved at Ascension. The last class is December 3. Pastor Angela is planning a *Longest Night* holiday service around December 21 for those that are grieving over the holidays.

### TAI CHI/YOGA CLASSES

We have started a six week combination Tai Chi /Yoga fitness class, through the Waukesha YMCA. Our instructor is Ann Hurley. The class is on Monday nights, through November 24, from 6-7 p.m., in East Hall. Bring a mat and see if this is something that interests you! The cost is only \$12 for the six weeks.

### AMAZON SMILE

If you do any Christmas shopping online, please remember Healing Hearts of Waukesha County. Ascension supports Healing Hearts of Waukesha County, a community-based organization that serves grieving children and their families. Support Healing Hearts by doing your online shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Healing Hearts.



### YOUR HEALTH

Blood pressure screenings are in the Hearth Room between the 9 and 10:45 services on a monthly schedule. Our next BP screening is Sunday, Nov. 9.

Attorney Joanne Leifheit is scheduled to speak on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 10:15 a.m. about the Power of Attorney and Living Wills.

## PRAYER MINISTRY

*Bonnie Thiesenhusen, Prayer Ministry Leader*



### NOVEMBER IS A TIME FOR THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

We have so much to be thankful for! We have so much to praise the Lord for!

It is always a good time to thank and praise the Lord for the many, many blessings that are showered on us every day of our lives. During this month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, please make it your priority to think of something new each day to thank and praise God for.

Please join the Prayer Team on the first and third Mondays of every month, in the Prayer Room, at 6 p.m. for an hour of praying for our church; our friends and families; our community, nation, and world; and, most importantly, praising God from Whom all blessings flow!

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

*Jan Zastrow, Small Group Ministry Leader*

### FALL CAMPAIGN RECAP

October 19 marked the end of our fall congregational study for this year. It is very exciting to report that we had approximately 25 groups with 225 individuals attending study groups. This number includes our Crash high school youth. We are so glad that more groups are going to be meeting more than once a year and look forward to growing this ministry.

We read *The Power of a Whisper* by Bill Hybels, and learned tools that will help us listen for God's whispers and to act upon them. We also learned how important it is to practice being open to the presence of God by quieting down and finding our *special chair* each day. We found examples of whispers not only in the book, but also from the members of our groups:

- *Go and visit the prisoners.*
- *Bring shoes for that homeless person tomorrow.*
- *Buy that veteran a sub sandwich.*
- *Read this Bible verse; go to the conference in Beloit; share the verse with that couple.*
- *Go and speak to Alice now. She needs a friend.*
- *Help people feel like they belong at Ascension.*



### Many, many, thanks to all of the Small Group leaders and hosts for faithfully facilitating this four-week program

Tony Acompañado  
Keith Kallin  
Jim Ballantyne  
Noel Leopold  
Dave Bazinski  
Roger Nordberg  
Melissa Bissing  
Barb Nordberg  
Nada Draeger

Wayne Owens  
Linda Elder  
Karen Schmidt  
Craig Greenwood  
Karen Schmiechen  
Sheri Greger  
Amy Stryker  
Scott Greger  
Gil Wagner

Jim Hahn  
Sally Wagner  
Kathy Hahn  
Bob Zastrow  
Dave Hammer  
Jan Zastrow  
Chris Holloway  
Brian Zwicky  
Pastor Angela Khabeab

### KNIT WITS

For more information, see our webpage at <http://ascensionelca.org/small-groups/knit-wits>, or contact Maddie Goetter at 262-527-4013. Newcomers are always welcome! Donations of clean, unused yarn are always appreciated.

#### November events include:

- Monday, Nov. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Meeting
- Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Knit-a-Thon, Knit Fest, a day to make just hats
- Monday, Nov. 17, 12:30-3:30 p.m.: Lunch & Knit, at Golden Gate Restaurant, 1427 E Racine Ave., Waukesha. RSVP to Maddie Goetter
- Monday, Nov. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Meeting

### QUILTERS & CRAFTERS

The Quilters and Crafters continue to meet each Thursday, from 6-8 p.m., at Alice Bissett's house. Anyone is welcome. No quilting experience necessary.

Sunday, Nov. 16, will be Quilt Sunday. All quilts made this year will be on display. These quilts will be given to area shelters including the Sienna House, Jeremy House, Hebron House, and the men's winter shelter facility, all in Waukesha.

Anyone with questions about the Quilters and Crafters should call Alice Bissett at 262-547-6265.





# Girlfriends

## PREPARING FOR ADVENT

Join Girlfriends Friday, Nov. 7, at 6:30 p.m. for a night of fun and friends as we prepare for Advent. Pastor Angela will share stories about keeping your sanity during the holidays at this light-hearted but meaningful evening among friends. We'll also be entertained with music and enjoy a festive dinner together, all with no work for you! Please take this opportunity to focus your mind on what's really important this Advent season and join us.

All women of Ascension and their BFFs are invited to attend. To RSVP, register online at <http://tinyurl.com/BFFAdvent> or via form in the Girlfriends' mailbox #31. \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. Advance payments due by Nov. 2.



## SPECIAL FRIENDS & PUPPETS OF PRAISE

Special Friends will participate with the Puppets of Praise in the Waukesha Christmas Parade *Visions of Christmas Yet to Come* on Sunday, Nov. 23. Friends can ride on our *Blast off with Jesus* float or walk along sharing candy with the crowd. After the parade, we will meet back at Ascension for food, activities, and fellowship.

One of our goals is to have Friends connect with other Ascension members and we are very excited to have CRASH and JOLT join us in our events. The only way to have a friend is to be one! If you are interested in sharing God's love by joining us, please contact Sally Graser, 262-993-9545, or Marge Schroeder, 262-695-2384.

## MILITARY FAMILY MINISTRY

*Diane Maasz, Military Family Ministry Leader*

### THE ELEVENTH HOUR OF THE ELEVENTH DAY



I remember when I was in grade school stopping everything we were doing in class at 11 a.m., on November 11. We would observe two minutes of silence as a sign of respect for the mil-

lions of lives lost in WWI. I remember the principal's booming voice coming over the intercom explaining why he was interrupting our class time, so I knew it was important. After observing silence, our teacher would talk to us about Veterans Day, undoubtedly ask if any of us had family who had served, and then talk about honoring our veterans and the freedoms we enjoy because of their sacrifices. I would run home after school with a picture of a flag or a poem written about patriotism. I couldn't wait for my dad to get home from work to thank him for his service and beg him to get the box out of the attic with his Marine memorabilia.

I'm not sure when or why this tradition stopped being observed in the schools. I fear that to many of us go about our everyday lives without giving much thought to the thousands of men and women that are standing at the ready, for us, or

to the millions that have gone before them, fighting brutal battles in unthinkable conditions, for us. They miss holidays, anniversaries, birthdays, family weddings, and sometimes even a child's birth, for us. We are able to worship freely in this country because they have taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, for us. As Christians, we owe them a debt of gratitude for the freedom to worship at Ascension. As Americans, we owe them a debt of gratitude for the ability to sleep soundly each night in our homes.

This year, on November 11, stop for a few moments to give thanks for the veterans that have served in the past and those serving now. Please keep the following deployed servicemembers in your prayers for protection, strength, and a safe return home: Patrick Guthaus, serving on the USS Makin Island, and Jacqueline VanderGraff, serving on the USS Bataan. Prayers of thanksgiving for the safe return home from deployment for Kyle Maasz and David Schmiechen.

Attention Veterans! Many local stores and restaurants offer discounts on Veterans Day. Check out <http://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/> to claim your well-deserved discounts. Thank you for your service!

## A TASTE OF THE DANIEL PLAN

*Steve and Carol Spieker*

When we first became aware of the Daniel Plan, we were somewhat familiar with the story of Daniel in the Bible. Nonetheless, we were curious why Rick Warren would name his lifestyle plan after him. We found out the Daniel Plan is a healthy lifestyle based on the Old Testament story of Daniel because he rejected the king's rich food in order to honor God's best for him and his friends. Daniel was a young Israelite carried into captivity when the Babylonians invaded Israel. The Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, decided to train the best and the brightest of these captives so they could be placed in positions of authority within the government. King Nebuchadnezzar instituted a three-year training program, and while they were being trained, the young captives were to be fed the same food found on the royal table. But Daniel knew this wouldn't be a healthy diet, so he asked that he and three of his friends be allowed to eat healthier. At the end of ten days, they looked better and were more robust than those who ate the king's menu (Daniel 1:1-21).

Daniel's request was not about a diet plan; rather, he understood God wanted him to live a healthy lifestyle so he could serve God no matter where he was located. Healthy living requires faith as the foundation, trusting that God's way is the best way, while following his prescription for your health.

Personally, we have been on a decades long crusade to lead a healthy lifestyle. In the last several years, we have become more aware of the healing qualities found in certain foods. Our faith in God has become a more important component as we continue the journey. We ask you to consider studying the Daniel Plan with a group or by yourself. We are confident you will be amazed by the transforming power of this lifestyle.

### AVOCADO & BEAN BURRITO

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups shredded romaine lettuce
- 2 tablespoons yellow onion, chopped
- 1/2 medium avocado, peeled, pitted, and chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- 4 tablespoons chunky tomato salsa
- 1/2 cup nonfat, vegetarian refried beans
- 2 sprouted corn tortillas

#### Preparation:

Mix the lettuce, onion, avocado, cilantro, and salsa in a medium bowl until the vegetables are evenly coated. Smear half of the beans on each tortilla, fill with vegetable mixture, and wrap burrito style.

## YOUNG AT HEART

We had an exciting October luncheon. Vern Treitlow played his concertina for us. We had some dancers, including Pastor Angela doing the Chicken Dance with the group. What fun! We will NOT have a meeting in November as we are going on our trip to Schauer Center in Hartford on November 20. If you are signed up for the trip, please be in Ascension's front parking lot by 12 p.m. on November 20 to board the bus. We will return at approximately 7:15 p.m.



## THANK YOU LETTERS

Arlene Kelsey sends her thanks to everyone for the prayers, food, and support during her recent surgery and recovery.

Lin and Al Wollschlager and Ric and Gail Simon and our families, would like to extend our deepest, heartfelt thanks to everyone that contributed to memorials in our mom's name. Each was greatly appreciated. We will always remember the food; visits, prayers and thoughts that were extended to us and still are today. God Bless you, our dear friends in Christ.

~Lorraine Simon





## OUR PARTNERSHIPS: CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



### THANK YOU FROM CROSS

Thank you for your generous donation of \$205 to the Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry (BOHEM). This amount is above and beyond your regular giving. This money is greatly appreciated and needed in this vital ministry to ensure that people in the community surrounding Cross who are in need of basic necessities get fed.

Beyond being fed, the guests at BOHEM are able to find a safe and welcoming community in a neighborhood where this is often missing. Many of the guests participate in the Men of Faith and Women of Faith groups. These groups help people to grow and to find support and solutions for many of life's difficulties: drugs and alcohol dependency and abuse, but also the myriad issues that surround addiction and poverty.

Many of our guests also participate in a job

readiness ministry. This program works with anyone but is designed to engage those who have had chronic unemployment. It works closely with people to not only find work, but continues to work with them to maintain successful employment and even advancement. This ministry also works with local small businesses to help them remain viable and successful, thus ensuring future employment for more people.

Through BOHEM many people mired in addiction have also been referred to inpatient treatment, and, through that, find new life.

The food that you have helped us provide is often the invitation that people need to learn more about what BOHEM can offer. Once they enter the community, they receive so much more than they ever anticipated.

May God continue to bless Ascension Lutheran Church - *Pastor Arlen Solem*

## OUR PARTNERSHIPS: MERU DIOCESE OF TANZANIA

A big THANK YOU to all of you who bought raffle tickets or made a donation to the Water Project for Tanzania. This is our first step in working alongside our brothers and sisters in Tanzania to develop more easily available and safe water for their families

## OUR PARTNERSHIPS: EL SALVADOR



Food packages were given to families.



Emergency food packs

Greetings to our brothers and sisters from the Lutheran Church of the Miracle of God in San Jorge. We wish you God's blessings and His protection.

Thank you very much for the economic help that you sent us after the eruption of the volcano Chaparrastique. All of the people here are thankful to God for protecting our lives and for the help we received from Ascension. The photos of the food care packages are evidence of how the pastoral committee invested the economic help we received from you.

Our most recent activity was the 22nd anniversary of the death of our first pastor and founder of our church, Napoleon Vasquez. We celebrated with five baptisms, five first communions, and 13 confirmations with our Bishop, Medardo Gomez. We have included photos from the anniversary for you to share in the event with us.

We hope that God will permit you to visit us soon. We are happy with our partnership and want to welcome you with our arms open.

Sincerely - *The Pastoral Committee of San Jorge*



Confirmation



First Communion

## IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

### HOPE CENTER DINNER

The 16th annual Hope Center Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on November 20 at Country Springs Hotel. In addition to the special guest appearance of Mr. Dobie Maxwell, one of North America's top touring comedians, guests will enjoy a full course dinner, clergy serving dessert, silent and live auctions, short program, reverse bingo, and more. Tickets are \$85/person or \$850 for a table of ten, with \$55 of each ticket sold going directly to Hope Center.

Ascension has been a part of the ministry of Hope Center since its beginning. (Hope Center provides a multitude of services aimed

at preventing homelessness. There are free meals three times a day, free clothes, a day center, as well as connections with community resources. Project Move connects people with free furniture and appliances donated by people like you). Our goal this year is to occupy at least three tables! To join that delegation please send a check for \$85/ person made out to HOPE CENTER to the church office by Friday, Nov. 7.

This is a way for your small group, family, and friends to support this vital ministry. If you are not able to attend the event itself, you can make a donation to be an important part of Hope Center and its ministry



### REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

There is a possibility that a new refugee family from Burma may be coming to Waukesha. Helping a new family settle in requires a team of people. While it is a lot of work, it is also very rewarding. If you are interested in being part of the welcoming group and can give time toward helping this family get settled, please contact Jo Buth. Refugee families have been through a lot, and being surrounded by caring people can go a long way toward helping them adjust to their new country and new community. Support for the refugees is not only needed at their arrival but also after they settle in, when they need friends. We have several refugee families at Ascension who would welcome your friendship. Reach out to them with an introduction and a friendly smile. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ and full members of Ascension.



### THRIVENT BUILDS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SUCCESS

Saturday, Sept. 27 was Ascension's 9th Annual Mission Outreach Thrivent Builds with Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity event. Ascension's interior painting volunteers included: Al Wollschalger, Gary Draeger, Jim McDonald, Keith Kallin, Lisa and Scott Seamans, Steve Boyer, and Ric Simon. We were joined by other volunteers and two house leaders, which allowed us to apply two coats of paint to a brand new two-story home. We also observed two house dedications and blessings in the morning and were treated to a lunch by Thrivent Financial. It was a perfect day, with perfect weather, and the task was completed by 2 p.m.



The house we painted is at 2168 N. 38th St. and was the 507th house built by Milwaukee's Habitat for Humanity (H4H), one of the most successful and nationally recognized affiliates of H4H. They are building 15 new homes and 15 restored homes this year, their largest effort ever. If you would like to be involved with Ascension's effort next year, please contact Ric Simon at [ricsimon@yahoo.com](mailto:ricsimon@yahoo.com) or 262-547-6990.

## CHILDREN'S VILLAGE OF HONDURAS CLOSING



It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that I must share with you that we were informed a few weeks ago that the CVoH (Childrens Village of Honduras), home for homeless children, will no longer be in operation due to inadequate funding. The children currently at the home will be placed in other facilities or foster homes.

I personally would like to thank all of the wonderful people who have supported the *Hugs to Honduras* mission trips, these many years, financially, but more importantly, with your prayers.

The mission trips to Honduras started in 2003 with a vision that one of our former pastors, Jim Bickel, had to get involved in a foreign mission. Through the years, many members of Ascension, and many outside the Ascension family, have answered God's whisper to *Go!* and responded with an act of

*Bonnie Thiesenhusen, Hugs to Honduras Leader* faith and said, "Yes!" Many lives have been changed with this little word *yes!* – our lives, the lives of the children we met, and the lives of other Hondurans. Where our Spanish skills were lacking, we found that God's love is easily communicated.

We know many of you would have liked to have gone but for many reasons were not able. Please know that we always brought you down in our hearts.

The doors of the CVoH home are now closing but I am sure the Lord has many other open doors and paths in which to serve Him. It could be as near as your next door neighbor, or down the block, or... Listen for the whisper or nudge to be part of an experience that will change your life. You will never regret it!

Peace and love, joy and faith in Christ!

## RESPONDING TO A WHISPER



Many congregation members who have a heart for mission also participated in the congregation-wide *Power of a Whisper* small group bible study. During the small group campaign, Donna Savin shared a whisper she had and information regarding the plight of poverty on Native American Reservations in South Dakota.

Donna learned about the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Tribal government records show 38,000 enrolled members living on Pine Ridge Reservation. The poverty on Pine Ridge can be described in no other terms than Third World.

Redeemer United Church of Christ in Sussex is hosting a chicken dinner fundraiser on November 8. It includes half a chicken, parsley potatoes, beans, roll and butter, relishes, and beverage for \$10/adult and \$4/child. They are also collecting donations of winter items and gifts for a Christmas Party. They are hoping to take a trailer full of items to the Pine Ridge Reservation from Dec. 11 - 15. 100% of what is raised at the fundraisers goes to the reservation. Contact Donna Savin with questions.

The LORD performs righteous deeds and judgments for all who are oppressed.

Psalm 103: 6



November 2014

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>2</b> Daylight Savings Ends All Saints Sunday 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 10am Budget Listening Session 10:30am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 6pm CRASH YR 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg	<b>3</b> 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer group PR 6pm Tai Chi/Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Knit Wits WH	<b>4</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 7pm Mutual Ministry PR 7:15pm TGIT 107	<b>5</b> 9am Young at Heart Breakfast, Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 9:30 Staff Mtg 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wed Nt Wisdom Grp WH, EH, HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>6</b> 10am Al 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 Care Ministries 106 7pm Ballantyne 107	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Girlfriends, EH, WH, YR, S	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Veteran's Reception HR 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Children's Church EH 9am Spanish Worship PR 10am Blood Pressure 10:30am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 10:45 Sunday School 12pm Congregational Meeting 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>10</b> 8am Youth Gathering Prep, YR 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Tai Chi/Yoga EH 7pm AMEN 107 7pm Living Letters 106	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 1pm Pastoral Assistants 6pm Grief Share YR 7pm Holloway 107	<b>12</b> 11:45am Men's Nurture Luncheon 6pm Handbells S 6:30pm Military Family Mtg. HR 7pm Wisdom Grp WH, HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>13</b> 10am Al Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6pm Quilting, Bissetts 6:30 JOLT S, EH, WH, YR 7pm Ballantyne 107 7pm Mission Outreach HR	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9am Road to Bethlehem EH, WH, 106, 107, YR 10:30am Folk Choir S
<b>16</b> New Members Reception Quilt Sunday 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 9am Children's Church EH 10:15am Living Wills, EH 10:30am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 10:45 Sunday School 6pm CRASH EH, YR 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>17</b> 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Yoga/Tai Chi EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>18</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 6pm Military Ministry HR 7pm Council EH 7:15pm TGIT 106-07	<b>19</b> 9:30am Staff Mtg. 12pm Young at Heart EH, K 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp WH 7:30pm Choir S	<b>20</b> Young at Heart Branson Event 10am Al 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 & 106	<b>21</b> CRASH Retreat	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> CRASH Retreat 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 9am Children's Church EH 10:30am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 10:45 Sunday School 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>24</b> 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Yoga/Tai Chi EH 6:30pm Knit Wits WH 7pm AMEN 107	<b>25</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Grief Share YR 7pm Holloway 107	<b>26</b> 6pm AA/Wisdom EH 6pm Handbells S 7pm Thanksgiving Worship 7pm Wisdom Grp EH, WH, HR 8pm Choir S	<b>27</b> Thanksgiving Church Office Closed 10am Al Anon WH	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> College Care Package Collection Advent I 7:30am Worship 9am Worship 9am Spanish Worship PR 10:30am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 6pm CRASH YR? 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<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					