



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
June 2015

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THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA



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MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Rhonda Kwiecien
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A FUTURE UNFOLDING

Pastor Christian Marien

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

~ Jeremiah 31:31-34

Counting down the days to summer used to be a joy in the season of spring. In grade school, summer vacation meant long leisurely mornings and playing outside. In high school, summer days meant getting to my summer job by 8:30 a.m. and working until 5 p.m. if I wanted to fill my wallet and savings account. Now, as a parent, counting down the days to summer means navigating childcare, day camps, and new routines for drop-offs and pick-ups. Needless to say, I do not count down the days to summer vacation with the same enthusiasm as I did as a child.

The days are surely coming says the Lord, prophesies Jeremiah, reminding us God is not finished with God's people. It is a word spoken of a future yet to unfold. I am grateful for church council under the direction of Council President Nada Draeger as Vision ARISE 2025 begins to bring focus to the future direction of Ascension. Church council, staff, wing and leg leaders, and other ministry leaders gathered in May for the first substantial piece of our new vision of the future for the glory of God. The excitement was palpable. We are indebted to Craig Greenwood who lead the retreat and laid the groundwork for the months ahead. 2025 might be ten years away but soon enough we will welcome 2024 and look to the next ten years of ministry of Ascension. Daunting? Not at all! Exciting? Absolutely! The Church of God seeks new expression even as we love and live what we now know.

The days are surely coming says the Lord. Let them come, Lord God. A new covenant – yes! A renewing of your promise to be among your people – yes! As the Holy Spirit

moves among us, may we seek out those places and people where we realize the Lord's presence.

In the next few months, I will extend invitations to you to share in listening sessions to help shape ARISE 2025, Ascension's vision for the next ten years. The church council, wing leaders, and members serving in ministries of each of Ascension's butterfly wings are beginning the next step of the visioning process. So the excitement grows!

Where will the Holy Spirit lead? How will we be moved by the tending of our God? Interested in joining in the conversation? Let me know. Give Nada a call. Talk to any council member. We would all love to have you join us in this second leg of the journey towards the future.

Counting down the days to summer used to remind me that the school year was over. Now as an adult, the summer days find different shape and purpose. I am glad to share in this journey of faith with each of you. Join in worship inside and outside this summer. Find your summer days marked a by a moment of prayer – giving thanks to God for a day of rest or a time of renewal with family and friends. Finally, ask God to help you recognize the presence of God in those around you and in yourself. And instead of counting down the days to the end of summer, imagine counting down the days towards a fresh fall and a future filled with hope for our church and our world to the glory of God.

Peace be with you!





LIFE LESSONS FROM A PUZZLE

Pastor Angela Khabeb

My father loves to work on puzzles. Recently, a dear colleague, Rev. Larry Trover, shared a lovely article with me. Immediately, it reminded me of my dad. I thought it would be fitting to share its simple message because I think it speaks to all of us regardless of where we are in the many stages of life. June is a month filled with hope and excitement. Graduation and wedding celebrations abound. In the midst of the, sometimes, major life-changing situations, it is important to remember to focus on what really matters. As Father's Day approaches, I share with you an article as a tribute to my dear dad, James Ruffin, Jr., whose simple wisdom helps keep me grounded yet soaring.

EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM A JIGSAW PUZZLE by Jacquie Sewell

1. Don't force a fit - if something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
2. When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you return.
3. Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
4. Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece.
5. When one spot stops working, move to another. But be sure to come back later (see #4).
6. The creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. Refer to the Creator's guidebook often.
7. Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colors and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.
8. Working together with friends and family makes any task fun.
9. Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
10. Try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.
11. Take time often to celebrate your successes (even little ones).
12. Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed.
13. When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

Remember: Each of our lives is a masterpiece of God's creation. God isn't finished with us yet. Let the puzzles of our lives come together as the Holy Spirit works through us.



PASTORAL ACTS

Confirmed

Amy Birner
Jordan Christnovich
Mariah Fuller
Jonah Greenwood
Jacob Hausen
Ryan Pichler
Brady Walczak

Baptisms

April 26 Jonathan Boales
May 8 Isaac Poetsch

Weddings

May 2 Amber Castona
& Scott Walker
May 8 Jessica Carlson
& Paul Poetsch

YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

Nada Draeger, Council President

Much of our discussions this month centered around the Vision Arise 2025 retreat, the next steps, and the Children's Ministry program. The Arise 2025 retreat was well attended by pastors, staff, council, wing leaders and ministry representatives, and Children's Ministry committee members. The retreat was facilitated by Craig Greenwood. Wing leaders presented the current mission and activities of their wing; we brainstormed around the future of each wing; and common themes arose. Wing leaders and council are collecting data to craft a statement each wing leader will present at the next two council meetings. Then an action plan will be developed for each wing. Congregational listening sessions are planned for Sept. and Oct., at which the wing leaders will present their statements and action plans, answer questions, and receive feedback.

SUMMER WORSHIP

With the budding trees of May comes our summer worship schedule. Beginning Sunday, May 24, worship will be offered at 9 and 10:45 a.m. There is no 7:30 a.m. service during the summer.

While the choirs are on a summer hiatus, worship at Ascension offers opportunities to share the musical gifts with which our congregation is blessed. Please consider the following:

- Add your voice to an ensemble (one rehearsal and sing the following Sunday).
- Suggest a favorite hymn to be sung in worship.

Meg Douglas has resigned as Treasurer. Peter Laper, Matt Johnson, and Doug Bue will work together in the interim.

November 8, at noon will be our annual congregational meeting.

The Children's Ministry steering committee, comprised of parents and teachers, is creating a report for the congregation. Council has been excited with their presentations and feels that their research and discussions evolved and shaped an awesome concept that will take Ascension's littlest brothers and sisters to a new level.

These are very exciting times for Ascension!

Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministries

- Offer your instrumental talents to play on a hymn or as an accompanied solo. Many instrumental pieces, which students prepare for Solo & Ensemble festivals would make lovely additions to worship.

If you're willing to offer any of the above to God in worship or have other gifts to lift up in praise, please email or call Vicki Taylor, vicki@ascensionelca.org, 262-522-9136 (music office), 262-547-8518 (church office).



A MOMENT OF REFLECTION: AN EXCERPT FROM HEIDI BISCHMANN'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Dear Members of Ascension,

After many months of much prayer and discernment, it is with great regret and sadness that I write this letter to officially inform you that I am resigning from my position as the Handbell Choir Director at Ascension Lutheran Church, effective Aug. 1, 2015. I have not come to this decision easily, especially given the personal meaning the bell choir has had in my life. ... My time as director of the handbell choir has been filled with much love, learning, and growth. I am especially grateful for all of the ringer musicians throughout the years for all of their hard work and dedication. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Jan, Vicki, musicians, and leaders throughout the years as a small part of the highly regarded music ministry team at Ascension. As for why I am resigning at this time, the reasons are deeply personal and largely private. In general, I feel strongly that God is pointing me in a new direction in many ways, both in my faith life and personal life, and I need the time and space to listen to His call and be open to new possibilities. ... Finally I would like to formally thank the members of Ascension for giving me the opportunity to direct the handbell choir for the past 15 years. It has truly been a blessing that has enriched my life in countless ways. ... Prayerfully, *Heidi Bischmann*

It is our hope to take time this summer to celebrate Heidi's ministry during worship. Please give thanks to God for this incredible ministry and celebrate Heidi as you are able.

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 30, 2015 Year to Date

General Fund Activity					
Item	2015 Actual	2015 Plan	Variance to 2015 Plan	2014 Actual	Variance to 2014 Actual
Income					
Contributions	\$220,191	\$243,500	\$(23,309)	\$229,263	\$(9,072)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$21,204	\$21,683	\$(479)	\$21,068	\$136
From Restricted Funds	\$23,831	\$23,143	\$688	\$1,056	\$22,775
Total Income	\$265,226	\$288,326	\$(23,100)	\$251,387	\$13,839
Expenses					
Communications	\$8,608	\$8,033	\$(575)	\$10,486	\$1,878
Facilities	\$67,782	\$71,952	\$4,170	\$75,141	\$7,359
Financial Development	\$32,473	\$32,494	\$21	\$32,480	\$7
Leadership Development	\$951	\$1,333	\$382	\$1,520	\$569
Administration	\$86,848	\$86,879	\$31	\$65,691	\$(21,157)
Caring Relationships	\$9,393	\$8,698	\$(695)	\$7,036	\$(2,357)
Joyful Worship	\$36,458	\$32,330	\$(4,128)	\$21,541	\$(14,917)
Mission Outreach	\$16,880	\$17,943	\$1,063	\$18,414	\$1,534
Spiritual Growth	\$25,730	\$32,069	\$6,339	\$26,213	\$483
Total Expenses	\$285,123	\$291,731	\$6,608	\$258,522	\$(26,601)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(19,897)	\$(3,405)	\$(16,492)	\$(7,135)	\$(12,762)
Mortgage Balance	\$837,839				
Restricted Funds Balance	\$166,731				
General Fund Balance	\$(12,267)				
Ascension Arise Contributions	\$37,781				
Restricted Contributions	\$26,575				

What the numbers mean:

- Our general contributions are 9.6% behind plan for 2015, and they are 4% behind 2014 actual.
- Our bottom line is \$16,492 behind plan.
- Our general fund balance is currently at a loss.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Katie Voss, Children's Ministry Steering Committee Member

2015 is an exciting year for Children's Ministry at Ascension! Earlier this year, teachers, parents, and interested members of the congregation participated in an online survey and/or listening sessions about the future of the Children's Ministry program. Based on the helpful and exciting feedback, a Children's Ministry Steering Committee was formed. The members are: Kelly Hoeg, Katie Voss, Jennifer Werner, Rachael Medal, Ric Simon, Michael Jahner, Kurt Burie, and Jamie and Brian Zwicky.

This group has met monthly since February. We began by reviewing the needs of the program as well as the feedback from the survey and listening sessions. We developed a list of core characteristics that defines the future of Children's Ministry at Ascension. This includes:

- Fostering a family driven community of learners
- Providing an inclusive educational experience
- Activities that are active and engaging in the Word and tied to the message the congregation is receiving
- A group of well-trained and enthusiastic volunteers
- A multi-age, flexible format to accommodate different age groups working together when appropriate
- Learning that is service based and tied to church ministries
- A consideration of 21st century learning
- A child-centered and engaging environment

Then, we developed our mission statement:

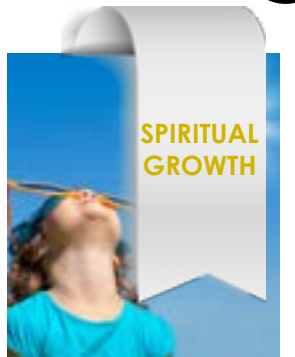
A church family engaging generations through faith experiences.

Each committee member then made site visits to churches to learn about what kinds of programs other successful churches are using to engage their children and youth. Using all of this information, we developed a list of recommendations for council that supports our mission statement, core characteristics, a strong family-based Children's Ministry program, and best practices in Children's Ministry. They are the following:

- A small committee of parents, teachers, and other interested members should remain as an advisory council for large decision making in regards to the Children's Ministry program.
- The *Sunday school* aspect of the Children's Ministry program should take place at one common time in which families and the congregation as a whole can participate together.
- *Sunday school* should take place in between services during a congregation-wide Education Time.**
- The age groupings used should be flexible; however, the *fixed* groupings will have two ages in one room. For example, the preK room will have 3s and 4s, instead of just a 3-year old room.
- The committee will form a plan with the goal of transitioning from a curriculum/lecture heavy program to a predominately experiential and family based program. The committee will continue to define future goals along the way.

The Children's Steering Committee would like to invite all interested members to learn more and discuss the future of Children's Ministry on June 14, in East Hall, after the 9 a.m. service or after the 10:45 service.

**One exciting aspect of our work was the realization that the changes that are being suggested for the Children's Ministry program can have a positive impact on and provide great opportunities for the rest of the congregation. This *Education Time* can also be used for providing adult education and forums, ministry activities, small group meetings, enthusiastic volunteerism and participation in the Children's Ministry program, promotion of interaction between those who attend different services, as well as opportunities for overall increased fellowship. The possibilities are very exciting.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: EVEREST

Pastor Chris Marien

JULY 27-31

Kids will embark on an icy expedition where they will overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. We will anchor kids in rock-solid Bible truths that will guide them through life's challenges. At Everest vacation Bible school, kids will experience God's Word in surprising and unforgettable ways!

Each day, leaders will reinforce one simple Bible truth, which makes it easy for kids to remember and apply to real life. Kids will learn about how God has the power to provide, comfort, heal, forgive, and love us forever. Bible Memory Buddies will make learning Bible verses fun and interactive. Buddies include:

Klymer the snow leopard; Cliff the marmot; Mallory the bar-headed goose; Pike the markhor; and Yeddy the Himalayan brown bear.

Every day, kids will trek through activity stations with their Climbing Crews (small groups). Every station is designed to reinforce the daily Bible Point in a hands-on, interactive way that keeps everyone engaged.

We are still praying about the schedule and want to invite people to register for the time slot that works best – again – the best solution would be to provide two VBS events...one from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and one from 5:30-8:30 p.m., including dinner. However, we need to have at least 25 students registered for the time slot in order to provide a quality VBS program.

Please register your child(ren) using this link: <http://tinyurl.com/AscensionVBSEverest>

If you want to volunteer, please use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/VolunteersVBSEverest>

Pastor Chris, Tony Acompanado, or Vicki Taylor will be in touch with registered volunteers.



JUNE SCHEDULE

June 7, 10:45 a.m.:

Graduate Toweling

June 7, 6-8 p.m.:

CRASH

June 28: Youth Gath-

ering pre-trip family BBQ

June 30, 6-10 p.m.:

\$5 Movie night & ice cream

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Tony Acompanado, Director of Youth Ministries

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our 9th grade students who took a leap of faith and celebrated their confirmation on May 17! We look forward to continuing to walk alongside you on this next step in your journey of life and faith. (Please see pg. 5 for the list of confirmands).

CRASH SUMMER SCHEDULE

Summer is just around the corner, and with school wrapping up, graduation parties, family vacations, mission and adventure trips, CRASH moves into its summer schedule. CRASH will continue to meet throughout the summer on a modified schedule. Be sure to check Facebook and emails for event updates. Look for the first of our Wild Card Wednesday's on Wednesday, July 1.

FACEBOOK

Be sure to check us out on Facebook, at *CRASH: Ascension Lutheran Youth Group*. Our Facebook page is the place to see what the group is up to and also find the most up-to-date information on upcoming events.

CARE MINISTRIES

Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries

Summer is a welcome thought after our long winter! We look forward to warmer, sunny weather, a break in schedules, and a time to enjoy the outdoors with golf, boating, camping, baseball games, or just simply enjoying a walk. As you take time this summer to refresh your thoughts and renew your energy, stay tuned for the new and exciting Care Ministries fall plans.

This summer, I will be attending a conference called The GrapeVine Project (Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation) to complete training on medical, evidence-based, women's health education and outreach programs. I plan to organize and present at least two community education sessions per year at Ascension for members and our community. Look for more information in the future about this exciting new project!

GRIEFSHARE, DIVORCECARE, AND DIVORCECARE 4 KIDS

Care Ministries is in the midst of planning new programs at Ascension called DivorceCare and DivorceCare 4 Kids (DC4K) to help members of Ascension and our community. The program is structured to help families dealing with all aspects of divorce.

Care Ministries also plans to implement another GriefShare program for people grieving the loss of a loved one.

Death and divorce are both times of struggle in our personal lives. Christians who have a solid faith still need ongoing comfort and encouragement during and after these difficult periods. These programs are facilitated with leaders, videos, workbooks, music, crafts and activities that address grief in a biblical context along with ongoing support and discussion groups. They are all 13-week programs that will be on Tuesday evenings this fall, beginning September 1, from 6-8 p.m. DivorceCare programs will be held in the Spiritual Growth Wing and GriefShare will be held in the Youth Room. If you, a family member, or friend would like to join this program, please contact Brenda Lytle, at 262-547-8518 or brenda@ascensionelca.org.

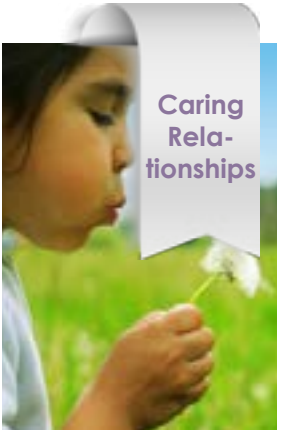
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

BABYSITTING TRAINING

Four babysitting certification classes will be offered this summer for teens and pre-teens ages 11-years-old and older. The classes will be held June 15 and 17 and August 17 and 19. June 15 is already full, so sign up ASAP as classes fill quickly.

One full-day class is necessary to become certified. Class runs from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., in Ascension's West Hall. Cost is \$35, which includes lunch, Red Cross Certification, and all course materials. Class size is limited to 10 students each day, so sign up now on the Care Ministries bulletin board.



Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. ~ 3 John 1:2



PLANT SALE

Care Ministries would like to thank all who purchased plants and flowers, assisted with the Plant Sale, and/or unloaded trucks on delivery day. The proceeds from this sale will assist Care Ministries in funding GriefShare and DivorceCare ministries in the fall. Thank you for making a difference!

BLOOD PRESSURE

Thanks to our health professionals who assisted with Ascension's free blood pressure screenings this past year. It is so great that Ascension can provide this service to our members to promote wellness.

NEW LIFE MINISTRY

Thank you to Jen Koutnik who created the New Life Ministry. She has stepped down from her leadership of this ministry and Kay Stone is the new leader. New Life Ministry provides baby baskets for Ascension's newest little members. Thank you to Kay for creating these special gifts!

YOGA IN FALL

No time to get to the gym? Signing up for a membership isn't in the budget? Join us once a week for yoga, with a YMCA instructor, in Ascension's East Hall. It is affordable, convenient, and helps promote good health and wellness. Our yoga classes will resume in the fall.



KNIT WITS

The Knit Wits are taking an active part in Ascension's Military Ministry. We will be the USO's first partner to provide baby items to new military moms in WI. We will knit and crochet baby blankets, hats, mitts, and booties. We're also making lap blankets for local veterans. The third part of our involvement is supporting the veterans in our own Knit Wits group.

We continue to make hats and scarves for other local charities. If you'd like to be part of this mission or knit a few baby items or a small afghan (*lapghan*), please contact us.

Upcoming activities include:

- Monday, June 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Meeting, at Ascension
- Monday, June 8, 12-2 p.m. - Lunch & Knit, at Ride & Dine, 801 W. Moreland Blvd., (next to Starbucks), RSVP to Maddie Goetter
- Monday, June 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Meeting, at Ascension
- Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Knit Fest, at Ascension

We are running short on yarn; keep us in mind if you clean out anyone's yarn stash. Donations of clean, unused yarns are always welcome (even leftover portions of skeins). We can especially use yarns in baby weights or colors and gender-neutral acrylic yarns for *lapghans*. For more info, contact Maddie Goetter, at 262-527-4013. Thanks for your support!

SPECIAL FRIENDS

In May, Special Friends visited the Horowitz Planetarium to see *Wish Upon a Star*. In June, we will do our community service project for the Salvation Army's Feed the Kids program. The project will be food prep for the lunch programs offered at Waukesha parks. We will also have our own picnic, games, and pond fishing. If you are interested in joining our group's monthly events, please call Marge Schroeder, 262-695-2384.

YOUNG AT HEART

We are going on a tour of the Pabst Mansion and the Sprecher Brewery on June 11. We will board the bus at 8:45 a.m., at Ascension, and we'll return by 5 p.m.

Young at Heart meets at Ascension for a potluck luncheon on Wednesday, June 17, at 12 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able. Join in for a wonderful lunch and play cards or board games after we eat. Call Celeste Defenbaugh with questions, 262-370-4522.

Maddie Goetter, Ministry Leader

A TASTE OF THE DANIEL PLAN

Steve and Carol Spieker



The Daniel Plan follows these five principals: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. With the warm weather finally here, it's fitting to talk about fitness. It seems easier to be active when we're not shut up in the house due to cold and slippery conditions, which are part of the Wisconsin climate.

What is the best exercise to help you get fit and stay fit? Running? Walking? Weight training? Zumba? Yoga? Actually, it's all of the above, and none of the above. The answer is THE ONE YOU WILL DO! This is one of the more memorable *take away* concepts we learned from The Daniel Plan. It is simple, but so true.

We have all probably heard about the benefits of doing something as simple as standing versus sitting when doing a task. Life has become more sedentary as things have become more convenient. That's why it is more important than ever to take charge of your health. (Of course, if you have any health issues, consult with your health professional before embarking on a fitness regimen). Here are a few tips from The Daniel Plan to consider when choosing a fitness plan.

First of all, know that you CAN do it! No matter what you did or didn't do in the past, know God is your training partner and your cheerleader. Take baby steps. Perhaps you or someone you know woke up one morning, maybe January 1, and decided, "Today's the day," grabbed ten-year-old shoes, and went for a one hour run. The next morning this person woke up and couldn't move and decided, "Never again!" Instead, start slow. There's plenty of time to ramp things up gradually.

Choose an activity that you enjoy doing. As The Daniel Plan says, get in touch with your *fitness personality*. If you're a person that enjoys the outdoors, by all means, choose an activity that you do outdoors. We, personally, would save a lot of money having a home gym, but we know we need the discipline of having a gym membership. For us, there is something about packing our bag and going someplace to exercise. We also find there is something motivating about the energy of a gym. Many other activities can be enjoyed while listening to music, praying, reading, or even watching TV. Spend some time asking yourself what you like and get in touch with your own *fitness personality*.

Finally...forgive yourself! Whether you have had false starts in the past or you miss a session in the future, don't beat yourself up. Remember, God is not keeping a scorecard. God is in your corner cheering for you. Maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle requires patience, persistence, and most importantly, forgiveness. Move!

ULTRA-METABOLISM ROAD MIX

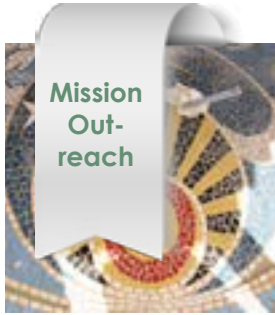
Ingredients

- 1/2 cup dried wild blueberries
- 1 cup cocoa nibs
- 1 cup raw almonds
- 1 cup raw cashews
- 1 cup raw walnuts
- 1 cup raw, hulled pumpkin seeds
- 1 cup raw, hulled sunflower seeds

Preparation:

- In a medium mixing bowl, add all ingredients. Store in a covered jar and keep in a cool, dark place.

Chef Tip: Cocoa nibs are simply roasted cocoa beans separated from their husks and broken in to small bits. The nibs can be used in recipes or as a stand-alone snack when nothing but chocolate will satisfy your taste buds.



CROSS LUTHERAN PARTNERSHIP

Shirley Webmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader

FILL THE BAGS CHALLENGE

Each Wednesday, Cross Lutheran's Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry provides food for the bodies and souls of people from the Cross neighborhood. A meal is served, food bags are distributed, friendships are formed, Bible studies and prayers are shared, and counseling and job coaching is provided - all in the name of Jesus. Ascension and Cross members practice accompaniment by working side by side to serve their community.

During June, each time you grocery shop, please pick up an item for the Cross Food Pantry. It can be soups, canned fruits or vegetables, peanut butter, meals in a box or can, etc. Grocery bags will be available to fill. If every family donates one or two items a week, Ascension should be able to fill many bags. 200 bags are needed every Wednesday for Bread of Healing. Please participate in the *Fill the Bags Challenge*.

CROSS CHURCH GOLF OUTING

This fundraiser benefits Cross youth and the Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry. Join the fun on Friday, June 19, at Willow Run Golf Club. The cost is \$75/golfer and includes 18 holes of golf, buffet dinner, silent auction, and raffles and prizes. Registration is from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. From 1 p.m. until sunset, participants will have a shotgun start (scramble format). A buffet dinner will follow. Non-golfers may attend just the buffet dinner for \$15. Register and pay online at www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org.



TANZANIA PARTNERSHIP: MT. MERU WELL UPDATE

This past fall, Ascension members contributed \$1,000 to the water project for our brothers and sisters in Mt. Meru through our waterpark raffle at Ascension's Fall Festival. The Mt. Meru locals have been hard at work in the months since looking for the optimum dig site for the well and getting bids from contractors. They are set to begin drilling for the well this month.

The money from Ascension will be used to hire an intern to learn the construction and maintenance of the well. Once the well is up and running, the intern will be responsible for the upkeep. This experience will allow the intern to take a leadership position if a second well becomes a possibility down the road. Thanks to Ascension's participation, there is a sustainable plan in place for affordable maintenance of the well as well as training and employment for a local worker.

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ~ Hebrews 13: 1-2

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AGAINST MALARIA

Beth Hoffman, Mission Outreach Committee Member

Malaria is a preventable, treatable disease. The ELCA Malaria Campaign goal was \$15 million by 2015. We are 94% there, which means \$900,000 would meet the goal. Here are some of the positive results so far:

- More than 2 million community members have been educated.
- Nearly 50,000 insecticide-treated bed nets have been distributed.
- More than 10,000 people have been trained in malaria prevention and treatment.
- More than 32,000 expectant mothers have received preventive malaria treatment during pregnancy.
- By joining global efforts to fight malaria, the ELCA Malaria Campaign has been a part of slashing the death rate in half in Africa since the year 2000.
- In malaria stricken areas, there are 45 million fewer infections per year.

Now, 13 African countries are better empowered to overcome malaria. Commitments to ten country programs are fully funded, but communities in three countries are still depending on our support. I invite you to make a positive difference with a gift to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764 or www.elca.org/malaria.



WORLD MALARIA DAY 2015

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Over the past four years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has given special attention to World Malaria Day on April 25. This year, on World Malaria Day, a massive earthquake struck Nepal.

As a church, you responded to this crisis immediately. I am grateful for the generosity of congregations and individuals who quickly offered assistance through Lutheran Disaster Response. Together, we have raised \$400,000 to support recovery efforts. It is in these moments that I am heartened to see the profound way our long history of mission has put us exactly where God would have us to bring help and hope. Our prayers continue for the people of Nepal, especially for those who serve neighbors through our partners and companions.

At the same time, opportunities to give continue for World Malaria Day – a time that traditionally raises a great deal of funds and awareness to help our sisters and brothers in Africa put an end to this preventable, treatable disease.

Our companions and partners are still counting on your support, and we could use your help now.

Five years ago the ELCA joined worldwide efforts to fight malaria by launching the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Our goal: \$15 million by 2015 to support the malaria programs of our Lutheran companions and partners. Today, we're 94 percent of the way there.

Together, our work has stretched into 13 countries throughout Africa. We have fully funded our commitments to 10 country programs with positive results underway, but communities in three countries still are depending on your support.

I give thanks for your past support and hope that you will prayerfully consider one more gift.

As we continue to celebrate new life in Christ, let us join together and ensure all of God's children live whole, healthy lives.

God's blessings,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





IN OUR OWN BACKYARD: HOPE CENTER

HOPE CENTER GREEN POWER GARDEN

The Hope Center garden is cultivated from spring into fall and provides fresh vegetables and fruit to those receiving meals through the Hope Center Day Center and Meal Program. The garden has provided over 5,000 pounds of fresh food, and we share any harvest surplus with the Waukesha County Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities both one time and ongoing. Please contact Shirley Wehmeier for more information.

TEE UP FOR HOPE

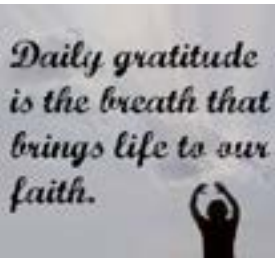
The Hope Center’s annual golf outing is Monday, July 13, at Broadlands Golf Club, in North Prairie. Registration is at 10 a.m., with an 11:30 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$100/golfer, which includes 18 holes and a light lunch. Register online at www.hopecenterwi.org.



SOPHIA

Iva Richards, SOPHIA Liaison

SOPHIA is sponsoring Poverty Awareness forums throughout the Milwaukee area during June. Dates are June 9, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Brew City Church; June 13, 9–11 a.m., at All Saints Catholic Church; and June 25, from 7-9 p.m., at Lake Park Synagogue. These forums will address how people of faith reflect on those who live among us in poverty and what God asks of us.



IN GRATITUDE

THANK YOU FROM SAN JORGE

The members of the Lutheran Church of the Miracle of God sent Ascension many thanks for the visit by our El Salvador delegation and the gifts that we shared with them. Thank you also to Joan Birner who made crocheted crosses for each of the families and Pastor Angela who was able to offer a blessing on many of the homes in the community. Please continue to lift our new partners up in your prayers.

SPIRITUAL CARE MINISTRY

When Paul Wehmeier called on me in Feb., he brought me the nicest bag, full of all kinds of goodies. I appreciate all my gifts. The cards and stamps, note pad and pen, hand lotion and lip balm, *Portals of Prayer*, the cross (wish I could do that), and the book, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, which is here on my table. I am thankful Paul calls on me and gives me communion. I think your ministry group is doing a super job.

My thanks for all the things and to all of you. ~ *Georgia Wilson*

CROSS LUTHERAN YOUTH

Thank you to CRASH for your gift of \$200 to support Cross Church’s youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit this summer. As we walk with and minister to others during thing year, our prayer is that your kindness to us is as much of a blessing to you as it is to us. From all of us at Cross, thank you. ~ *Brad Hausler, President*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful shawl that was lovingly made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry specifically for me. I am feeling better knowing that when I am lost, I can regain my strength in the Lord by wrapping myself in the angel wings of this soft, colorful, warm shawl. The colors match my favorite chair, so it is displayed and handy every day.

I very much appreciate the time and talent it takes to make a handmade shawl so, thank you to all you wonderful ladies that give to this important ministry. ~ *Celeste Gantert*

SUMMER NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Articles for the July newsletter are due Monday, June 15.

August newsletter articles are due Wednesday, July 1. Please note: this earlier deadline is for the August newsletter only.

Email your articles to Kate Mattson, kate@ascensionelca.org.

JUNE 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Room Key EH = East Hall HR = Hearth Room K = Kitchen N = Narthex PL = Parking Lot PR = Prayer Room S = Sanctuary WH = West Hall YR = Youth Room	1 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer Group PR 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Knit Wits WH	2 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6:30pm Mission Outreach 107 7pm Mutual Ministry PR	3 9am Young at Heart, Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 9:30am Staff Mtg. 7pm Wisdom Grp WH, HR	4 10am Al Anon WH 7pm Ballantyne 107 7pm Care Ministries 106	5	6
7 9am Worship 10:45am Worship/Graduate Toweling 6pm AA mtg WH 6pm CRASH YR, EH, HR, S 7pm AA closed mtg WH	8 9:45am Al Anon WH 12:30pm Knit Wits, Off-site 1pm Living Letters 106 6:30pm AMEN 107	9 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6:30pm Mission Outreach 106 7pm Council EH 7pm Holloway Group 107	10 11:45am Men's Nurture Grp 106 6:30pm AMEN Leadership PR 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR	11 10am Al Anon 10am TGBG PR 7pm Ballantyne 107	12	13 11am Dorothy Paulic Memorial Service S 12pm Dorothy Paulic Reception EH, WH, HR
14 9am Worship 10:45am OutdoorWorship 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am Babysitting Clinic EH 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer Group PR 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Knit Wits WH	16 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR	17 8:30am Babysitting Clinic WH 12pm Young at Heart EH, K 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR	18 10am Al Anon WH 6pm Quilting, Bissetts 7pm Ballantyne 107	19	20 9am Knit Fest WH 10:30am Folk Choir S
JOLT ADVENTURE CAMP						
21 FATHER'S DAY 9am Worship 10:45am Worship 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	22 9:45am Al Anon WH 6:30pm AMEN 107	23 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR	24 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR	25 10am TGBG PR 10am Al Anon WH 7pm Ballantyne 107	26	27
YOUTH GATHERING PREP EH, WH, S						
28 9am Worship 10:45am Worship 12pm Celebration Band S 12pm Youth Gathering Mtg. YR 1pm CRASH BBQ WH, K, CY 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	29 9:45am Al Anon WH 10am Staff Mtg. 107	30 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR				