



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
July 2015

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THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA



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www.ascensionelca.org



1415 Dopp Street
Waukesha, WI 53188



MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Vacant

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Vacant

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Pianist

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Organists

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Rhonda Kwiecien
Rhonda@ascensionelca.org

PONDER ANEW WHAT THE ALMIGHTY CAN DO

Pastor Angela Khabeb



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Sometimes our world can be a rather depressing place filled with many occasions for despair. When we look around we see broken relationships, job loss, natural disasters, and increased violence. In the face of such dismal realities, words escape me, so I rely on God's sacred word. We trust God's promise that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39) Trusting in God's faithful presence, we have hope. If we look closely, even in our most difficult times, we can see God's hand - the hidden hand of God. If we are intentional, we can learn to recognize God's activity through the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. But it takes practice.

Fortunately, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses that encourage us to jettison the things that drain our spirits and to run the race that is set before us and to run with perseverance. (Hebrews 12:1) I don't know about you, but some days, I resonate with Paul's words to the church at Corinth. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9) Especially in challenging times, we walk by faith and not by sight. Once I asked a parishioner to embark on a nightly ritual. Every night, before going to bed, he should reflect on the day and recall at least one specific moment when he recognized the Holy Spirit's activity in his life. Obviously the aim of the "homework" was to exercise his spiritual eyes. Quite frankly, the more we see the Holy Spirit moving around us, the more we'll see the Holy Spirit moving in us. The more we look for God, the more we will find God. "When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you." (Jeremiah 29:13-14)

Recently, in worship, we sang the great hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty." In its lyrics, lay a simple but powerful invitation, "Ponder anew what the Almighty can do." This bold statement seeks to usher us out of the captivity of fear and into the freedom of faith. What if we began and ended each day with this directive on our lips and in our hearts? Certainly, we would begin to see it take root in our lives as well. Too often we are content with mediocrity - survival. But God promises us lives filled with abundance, joy, and grace. What if we stepped into the "big leagues" and began walking by faith and not by sight? Think about it. When was the last time you recognized the Holy Spirit moving and were amazed? What if we gave our imaginations to God and asked God to "blow our (collective and individual) minds?" For example, Paul, in Ephesians 3:20-21, writes, "Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."

I leave you with the uplifting challenge, "Ponder anew what the Almighty can do." AMEN.

Your sister in the journey.



GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

Pastor Chris Marien

I am writing this article as junior high students are preparing to scale the Tower of Terror at our JOLT Adventure Camp, near Crivitz, WI. It is an exciting time to watch them encounter the “challenge by choice” model. They are responsible for their own level of challenge, and almost all of them will choose to move far beyond their original decision to only go “so high” on the Tower of Terror. I often speak of this life we live as a journey of faith. We are certainly watching that journey unfold for our junior high students during this week of Adventure Camp. The Angel Gabriel said to Mary: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy.” In this adventure we travel as the people of God at Ascension, God has smiled on us with great blessing in these last weeks of June, and I can share joyful news.

First, I am excited to announce that Vicki Taylor, our Director of Music Ministries, has agreed to accept responsibilities and provide leadership as the Handbell Choir Director as of August 1. What wonderful news for our community!

Second, with the deep and abiding faithfulness of God by our side, we have pondered and prayed about the Children’s Ministry of Ascension. We have had a dedicated team of teachers and parents meeting, interviewing, and researching throughout the region best practices for children’s ministries. After several months, we are now ready to move forward.

I am thrilled to share with you that on August 1, our Director of Youth Ministries, Tony Acompanado, will accept the respon-

sibilities for the shape and direction of Children’s Ministry into the future. Council has invited and Tony has accepted a newly created position – the Director of Faith Formation. Tony will now oversee our children’s ministries, junior high JOLT ministries, and our senior high CRASH ministries. We are already looking to the fall with great anticipation.

The month of July will also see the next step in our 2025 Visioning Process. Caring Relationships and Mission Outreach will each present their current and future vision statements to the church council for review and reflection. Joyful Worship and Spiritual Growth are now in the second phase of redrafting their current and future vision statements for the church council to review a second time. In September and October, we will have the opportunity for the congregation to reflect on and ask questions about the statements and action plans to move us to 2025.

God is offering so much in the midst of these summer months. Please join us in the celebrations of the new design of staff positions and in the continuing visioning for Ascension’s future.

On a side note – July 7 is the day Tony and I leave for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI, which begins on July 15. We covet your prayers for the final planning, the 20 participants from our own congregation, and the 30,000 other high school students, adult leaders, bishops, and pastors who will join us on the journey. Peace and joy be yours in these summer days.



PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

May 31	Jacob Schroedl
May 31	Maya Adsit
June 14	Dalton Ludwig
June 21	Alexis Lytle (<i>pictured</i>)

Funerals

June 13	Dorothy Paulic
June 18	Arnold Pillsbury

YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

Nada Draeger, Council President

Our June 9 meeting began with devotions led by Pastor Chris. Craig Greenwood and Amy James, Wing Leader for Joyful Worship, joined us. Amy James and Pastor Chris, who is leading the Spiritual Growth Wing at this time of vacancy, gave the “Current and Envisioned States” of the Joyful Worship Wing and Spiritual Growth Wing. Council received this first draft presentation with enthusiasm and approval and with few recommendations for change. The revisions will be discussed at July’s meeting. Caring Relationships and Mission Outreach Wing leaders will join council in July to present their first drafts. (I am not trying to be intentionally vague by not sharing the specific content of these documents at this time. The council feels strongly that until we have the working statements of all four wings flowing smoothly and cohesively to present in their entirety to you, it is best to not report the specifics). The council will have listening sessions in September and October to review the working statements submitted by the Wing leaders, to answer your questions, and to receive your feedback for going forward. The energy and excitement felt during the leadership retreat and at the past two council meetings, while brainstorming the possibilities of “what Ascension COULD be,” has been pretty awesome to be a part of.

Speaking to the subject of “being a part of” - there will be many open positions on council that will need to be filled in the coming year: three Council-at-Large positions, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2nd Vice President. I would ask each of you to think about the possibility of being on council. It is an exciting time to be on council as our Vision ARISE 2025 evolves, and you will have input in a huge part of the process.

Have a wonderful Fourth of July! God Bless America!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

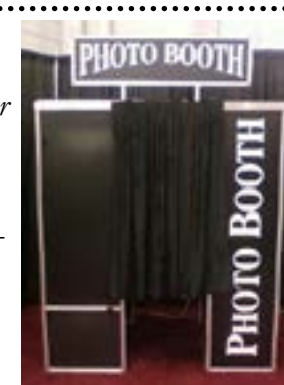
Linda Elder, Communications Leg Leader

We need your help! Who are we? As Ascension grows, our membership is ever changing: the addition of new members, families growing, members relocating, etc. There are so many new and changing faces that we have trouble putting names with our Ascension family members.

It’s been five years since we published our pictorial directory and, with your help, we can have a new updated directory for each member family. We will begin registration and picture taking on Sunday mornings (before, between, and after services) beginning on Sunday, August 16 through Sunday, October 18. During this 10-week period, we need volunteers for the following areas:

- Taking pictures – Sunday mornings only
- Calling member families during the week to schedule Sunday morning appointments
- Registering people at the table on Sunday mornings - before, between, or after services
- Updating of member information – at registration

Would you be willing to help in any of these areas? If so, please contact Linda Elder, Communications Leg Leader, at 262-650-9182 or labs4fun@wi.rr.com.



FINANCIAL REPORT

May 31, 2015 Year to Date

General Fund Activity					
Item	2015 Actual	2015 Plan	Variance to 2015 Plan	2014 Actual	Variance to 2014 Actual
Income					
Contributions	\$275,774	\$298,950	\$(23,176)	\$284,362	\$(8,588)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$26,960	\$27,092	\$(132)	\$26,693	\$267
From Restricted Funds	\$29,417	\$28,928	\$489	\$1,222	\$28,195
Total Income	\$332,151	\$354,970	\$(22,819)	\$312,277	\$19,874
Expenses					
Communications	\$10,758	\$10,042	\$(716)	\$12,851	\$2,093
Facilities	\$72,942	\$80,764	\$7,822	\$84,684	\$11,742
Financial Development	\$40,539	\$40,578	\$39	\$40,566	\$27
Leadership Development	\$951	\$1,367	\$416	\$2,759	\$1,808
Administration	\$108,524	\$108,599	\$75	\$82,003	\$(26,521)
Caring Relationships	\$11,594	\$10,872	\$(722)	\$8,675	\$(2,919)
Joyful Worship	\$43,249	\$40,412	\$(2,837)	\$25,769	\$(17,480)
Mission Outreach	\$20,171	\$21,606	\$1,435	\$22,462	\$2,291
Spiritual Growth	\$31,841	\$39,767	\$7,926	\$33,513	\$1,672
Total Expenses	\$340,569	\$354,007	\$13,438	\$313,282	\$(27,287)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(8,418)	\$963	\$(9,381)	\$(1,005)	\$(7,413)
Mortgage Balance	\$831,922				
Restricted Funds Balance	\$160,144				
General Fund Balance	\$(788)				
Ascension Arise Contributions	\$48,798				
Restricted Contributions	\$29,447				

What the numbers mean:

- Our general contributions are 7.8% behind plan for 2015, and they are 3% behind 2014 actual.
- Our bottom line is \$9,381 behind plan.
- Our general fund balance is currently at a small loss.

HYMN SING AUGUST 16

Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministries

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Ephesians 5:19-10

What wonderful words of encouragement from the apostle Paul! On Sunday, August 16, at 9 a.m. we will sing and make music from our hearts in a special way as we begin worship with a hymn sing of your favorites! I invite you to submit suggestions via email (vicki@ascensionelca.org) or write them on a blue prayer card with the label "Hymn Sing" and place them in the offering plate by August 9. We will begin singing at 8:50 a.m. and sing as many of the suggested hymns as time allows. I hope you will join us in worship to raise your voice in praise and adoration of our great God.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ~ Colossians 3:16



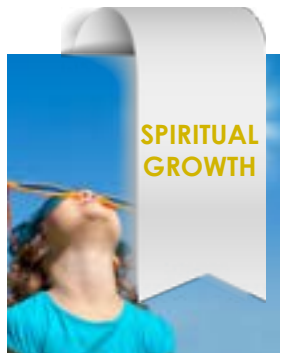
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CHANGES

Pastor Chris Marien

Due to the number of registrations, Ascension is making adjustments to Vacation Bible School. Instead of *Everest*, children and families will participate in *The Best of Bible Day Camp*. Participants will play games, share music, and learn about God and God's love for us.

Only one time slot is now available, July 27-31, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Please register your child(ren) at <http://tinyurl.com/AscensionBibleCamp>.

We still need volunteers! Sign up to volunteer at <http://tinyurl.com/BibleCampVolunteers>. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Chris at pc@ascensionelca.org; Tony Acompanado at tony@ascensionelca.org; or Vicki Taylor at vicki@ascensionelca.org.



RISE UP: ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Tony Acompanado, Director of Youth Ministries

The ELCA National Youth Gatherine is July 15-19 in Detroit, Michigan. Ascension is sending 16 youth and 4 adults to the event. The youth and adults are incredibly grateful for Ascension's support. Please join us at the 10:45 a.m. worship service on July 12 to bless the Detroit delegation and send them off to serve God and build relationships. Please pray for Ascension's group, all of the other adult and teen participants, and the city of Detroit during the Gathering.





**JOLT
students
enjoyed
the beauty
of God's
creation
on nature
hikes.**



**The Tower of
Terror was
conquered.**



**Students
took a
river walk
and did
devotions
on the lake
shore with
bubbles!**



CARE MINISTRIES

Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries

Summertime is a good time to celebrate Wisconsin's beautiful weather. My oldest daughter lives in Alaska; 10 months out of each year they experience darkness and do not have the chance to enjoy natural day light. However, she does not hibernate over the winter. Instead, she finds activities to keep her fit and happy, and she relishes the times when they do get beautiful weather. So be thankful for God's gift of sunshine, get outside, meet new people, take a walk, refresh your thoughts, and renew your energy!

RED CROSS BABYSITTING CLINICS

Babysitting certification classes will be August 17 and 19 for teens and pre-teens, ages 11 years-old and up. One full-day class is required 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 Ministry bulletin board, or contact Brenda Lytle, brenda@ascensionelca.org

GRIEFSHARE, DIVORCECARE, & DIVORCECARE 4 KIDS

Death and divorce are both times of struggle in personal lives. Christians with a solid faith still need ongoing comfort and encouragement during these difficult periods. Therefore, Care Ministries is planning new programs at Ascension called DivorceCare and DivorceCare 4 Kids. The programs are structured to help families dealing with all aspects of divorce. Care Ministries also plans to offer another GriefShare program for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

All these programs utilize facilitators, videos, workbooks, music, crafts, and activities that address grief in a biblical context, along with ongoing support and discussion groups. They are all 12 week programs that will be on Tuesday evenings, beginning September 1, from 6-8 p.m. DivorceCare programs will be held in the Spiritual Growth Wing, and GriefShare will be held in Ascension's Youth Room. If you, a family member, or a friend would like to join a program, please contact Brenda Lytle, at 262-547-8518 or brenda@ascensionelca.org

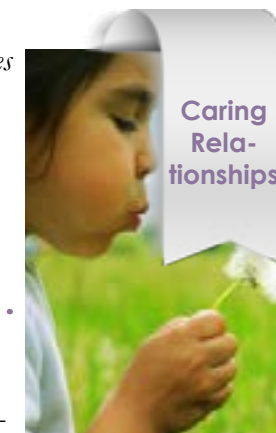
MEAL DONATIONS

Imagine a single parent rushing home from work, picking up children from daycare, rushing home to feed them, and trying to get to a meeting by 6 p.m. on Tuesday nights.

Now, imagine the recent loss of a spouse and the newly single adult making a meal for one - night after night - in the midst of grief.

Care Ministries wants to help people in these situations during the Tuesday night programs, GriefShare, DivorceCare, and DivorceCare 4 Kids. It would be nice for our DivorceCare families to not feel rushed and enjoy a meal when they come to our programs. It would be nice to provide fellowship and companionship to our GriefShare participants.

Therefore, Care Ministries is asking if Ascension small groups would volunteer to provide and serve a meal on a Tuesday evening. The programs are 12 weeks long, and the meals will be in West Hall, at 5:30 p.m. The meals can be as simple as pizza or subs. Please contact Brenda Lytle, if this is an opportunity you would like your group to help with, brenda@ascensionelca.org.



ADOPT A GRIEVING CHILD

With the new DivorceCare 4 Kids program (DC4K), Care Ministries needs help supporting children struggling with divorce. Waukesha County has the third highest divorce rate in the state. In 2014, the number of divorces in Waukesha County was 1,084 impacting 1,080 children younger than 18. 52 % of all Wisconsin divorces in 2014 involved couples with children, ages 18 and younger. DC4K will help children heal from the hurt caused by the separation or divorce of parents. They will make friends with other kids who understand how they feel and the things they are going through.

We would like to make this program affordable for participants, and we need your help. Please consider *adopting* a grieving child for \$25. Many participating families will have multiple children and so this *adoption* will be necessary for them to afford this program. The money for your *adoption* will provide the following: DC4K workbooks (\$15/each), activity supplies, facilitator or childcare fees, and snacks and drinks. Care Ministries is seeking 100 benefactors willing to help support these children.

If you would like to *adopt* a child, please contact Brenda Lytle, brenda@ascensionelca.org; put a check in the offering plate; or drop one off at Ascension's office and write *Divorce Care* in the memo line. Thank you for your support!



AMEN

COOKOUTS

AMEN Ministries is grilling out after the July 5 and August 2 outdoor worship services. Everyone is welcome to enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, and all the fixings after the 10:45 outdoor service. We will gather in the courtyard outside of West Hall. Mark your calendars, invite your friends for lunch, and enjoy some good food.

BIG GUY/LITTLE GUY CAMPING TRIP

Summertime is here! Have you planned your father/son camping trip yet? No? Well, you're in luck because AMEN has done it for you! AMEN has reserved a group camp site for the weekend of August 14, at the Pinewoods Campground, which is part of the Kettle Moraine State Park, by Ottawa Lake. It is less than 30 minutes from Waukesha. The trip is open to all men and their sons, grandsons, and nephews. Contact Kurt Burie, kburie3@gmail.com or 262-510-2150, with questions or to sign up.



Burt Weymier receiving welcome home kisses at the Honor Flight.

MILITARY MINISTRY

Supporting our men and women in the military and veterans is very important to Ascension's Military Ministry. On June 6, a small group of us gathered at Mitchell International Airport to welcome back WWII and Korean War veterans participating in the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. June 6 was the 71st anniversary of D-Day. It was an exciting and humbling experience to welcome the veterans back home.

Sheri Greger, Military Ministry Leader

Military Ministry is partnering with Knit Wits and Living Letters to provide support to our veterans and enlisted service personel. The USO is beginning an initiative to assist new moms, and Knit Wits is making baby blankets for the USO to distribute to new moms. Knit Wits is also making lapgans for local veterans. Living Letters is making cards and sending them to our current serving military. We are excited to partner with Ascension's other ministry groups to pray for and support our veterans and current military families.

There is a black crate in the West Hall Donation Center to place worn and tattered flags. We will retire the flags appropriately. Watch for future details about care packages! We will be looking for donations and people to help pack boxes.

If you have questions or want more information, contact Sheri Greger, at sherifrogs@yahoo.com or 262-424-6219.

KNIT WITS

Maddie Goetter, Ministry Leader

The Knit Wits went to Port Washington in May for our annual retreat and created many hats and several small afghans. Diane Pavletich showed Susan Otto that re-learning how to knit is easy, like riding a bicycle, as she completed squares for our afghans. Diane and Celeste Gantert helped Lois Blanchard arrange squares for another granny square afghan.

Although the weather is warm, the Knit Wits continue to knit and crochet. We're busy making 6-inch granny squares for lap afghans for veterans, baby blankets for the USO, and hats for the Hope Center and other local charities. If you'd like to be part of this mission or just knit a few baby items or a small afghan (lapghan), please contact Maddie Goetter.

Thanks to everyone for your support, especially Annette and Sally for your recent donations. For more info, contact Maddie Goetter, at 262-527-4013.

YOUNG AT HEART

Arlene Davis

On June 11, a YAH group enjoyed a trip to the Pabst Mansion and the Sprecher Brewery. It was amazing to hear the history of the Pabst family and mansion. The brewery was very interesting. Sprecher's sale of root beer supports the rest of its many beers and sodas. They now serve 40 states. Between the two tours, our group enjoyed lunch at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Port Washington Rd. An enjoyable extra trip was a ride to the lakefront to see the Art Museum and Discovery World up close. We have a great group for these events and trips, which we probably would not take on our own.

YOUNG AT HEART POTLUCK

Young at Heart hosts a potluck luncheon on Wednesday, July 15, from noon-3 p.m., in Ascension's East Hall. Bring a dish to pass if you are able. Most importantly, come and enjoy the fellowship as we dine together and socialize. Cards or other games will follow lunch.

A TASTE OF THE DANIEL PLAN

Steve and Carol Spieker



The Daniel Plan refers to it as *The White Menace*. Wow...sounds foreboding! It is. It is one of the biggest threats to our health. It is a contributor leading to the cause of ALL age-related chronic disease including: heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, cancer, type 2 diabetes, and dementia. By now, we hope you're begging to find out what we're talking about. Quite simply...it's SUGAR!

Hunter-gatherer populations consumed 22 teaspoons of sugar per year. Now, the average American consumes 22-30 teaspoons of sugar PER DAY! In 1800, the average person consumed 5 pounds of sugar per year. Today, Americans average 152 pounds per year.

You may be thinking, "Wait a minute. That's impossible! I have not purchased 600 pounds of sugar for my family of four this year." Sugar is contained, or may actually be *hidden*, in much of or even most of what we consume. As an example, a 20 ounce soda contains 15 teaspoons of sugar (that's 1/3 cup!). Right up there are many of those favorite Starbuck's coffee drinks as well. Processed foods like many grains, rices, and fruits are just as harmful. (Sugar is sugar)! Sugar is also *hidden* under many different pseudonyms, which makes it challenging even for someone making the conscious decision to lower or eliminate their amount of sugar intake. Google "different names for sugar." You will find lists numbering 50-60 different names for sugar.

When sugar enters your body, it triggers a

cascade of changes in your body that makes you sick and fat. Here's what happens: you ingest sugar or refined carbs like white flour or pasta; your blood sugar spikes; your insulin levels spike. Insulin triggers the storage of belly fat and increases your appetite and sugar cravings. The sugar turns on a cholesterol factory in your liver increasing LDL, lowering HDL, and raising triglycerides. This leads to a "fatty liver" now affecting 60-90 million Americans.

The Daniel Plan will help you sort through the mysteries of sugar and its toxic effects. In our house, we look at sugar like we look at the devil. We work diligently to keep it out of our lives. We know what is in everything we buy. As a result, we make most things completely from scratch because there is so little that does not contain one of the 50-60 sugars out there. In fact recently, we were horrified to find that our favorite protein powder that we rely on daily for our protein bars and smoothies now had a new ingredient - Maltodextrin - one of the most common pseudonyms for sugar. There was no change to the label...no "new and improved" stamp on the front, nor any mention of a "new formula." It was listed in the fine print of the ingredients. This has happened before to us with other products. That is why you have to hold a constant vigil just like with the devil.

Our prayer for our church family is good health. We pray that you will hear God's call to start you and your family on the road to health through The Daniel Plan.

SCINTILLATING SORBET

Ingredients

- juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 1/2 cup sliced fresh strawberries
- 1/2 cup fresh raspberries
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- Vanilla Crème Stevia: 5-10 drops to taste*

Preparation:

1. Add lemon juice, zest, and fruit to blender. Blend for 30-60 seconds.
2. Add stevia a couple drops at a time. Do not over sweeten or it will taste bitter. Blend until smooth.

*Stevia is a natural herb and can be found in the organic baking sections. We recommend Sweetleaf brand which is sold in ear drop style bottles. The contents go a LONG way and can also sweeten coffee or bottled or sparkling water...anything!



CROSS LUTHERAN PARTNERSHIP

CROSS FOOD PANTRY

Shirley Webmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader

During May, our food drive for Cross Lutheran Food Pantry came up empty! Our volunteers who serve a meal on the first Wednesday of the month had to go to Cross empty-handed. Our June "Fill the Bag" campaign has helped fill some bags. As everyone's schedule is different during the summer months, it is easy to forget that hunger knows no season. Please consider adding a few items to your grocery cart each time you shop. If everyone in the congregation participates, we can make a huge difference. The following items are especially needed: tuna, peanut butter, rice mixes, spaghetti and ravioli cans, soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, and any other one dish meals. Cross is also able to purchase perishable foods at a reduced price so a donation of cash can help support that part of the food pantry. Thank you for your outreach to our partners in ministry.



BREAD OF HEALING EMPOWERMENT MINISTRY

Dave Hammer

Once a month, members of Ascension help prepare and serve a noon meal at Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. This noon meal is just one element of the Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry (BOHEM) that has helped to bring hope and empowerment to people in the community served by Cross. Over two dozen Ascension members are involved in this ministry, and an average of 150 guests are served on the first Wednesday of each month. One of those guests wrote a poem to express her feelings about and thanks to the Ascension people who prepare and serve the meal. It is appropriate to share the feelings and gratitude of this guest to let, not only the volunteers but, all Ascension members know the kind of impact that this partnership ministry is having on people.

ASCENSION - the 1st Wednesday of each month,
You all come to serve us hot meals without a grunt.
We gladly appreciate everything you all are doing.
Especially coming to feed us; we all keep on growing.
We grow in LOVE, SPIRIT, and also health-wise.
On the 1st Wednesday, we know you all are coming; it's definitely no surprise.
Every time you all come, we grow closer together.
In LOVE and SPIRIT, we'll always be together "FOREVER".
You all come here,
The 1st Wednesday of the month is the day we all remember.
We will remember each other as the days go by,

Without anyone questioning; only GOD knows why.
When you all come, you come with LOVE and SPIRIT in your hearts.
When it comes to serving us, each of you does your part.
ASCENSION - keep on serving as you do, with LOVE and SPIRIT.
There's not enough cheerleaders in the world to even cheer it.
Your LOVE and SPIRIT will always be mentioned.
Thanks a lot for serving us, along with all members of ASCENSION.
WE LOVE YOU ALL; YOU ALL ARE SUPERSTARS!
Thanks again for coming from Waukesha, and being who you are.

EL SALVADOR PARTNERSHIP: FAMILY WELL-BEING

Sarah Webmeier de Aparicio

Ascension is tentatively planning our 2016 mission trip to El Salvador during Waukesha's spring break, the week of March 27, 2016.

If that week doesn't work for you, participation in a week-long, synod-wide Family Well-Being mission trip might be a great option for you. All gifts, talents, and skills can be of service. There will be a Greater Milwaukee Synod delegation serving from January 30-February 7, 2016. A second delegation will be traveling to another part of El Salvador from February 13-20, 2016.

What is a Family Well-Being mission trip? As healthcare in El Salvador has become more reliable and available for people in Salvadoran Lutheran Church communities, the Greater Milwaukee Synod has been transitioning away from accompanying the church with direct medical care and has increased our focus on teaching and other types of holistic healing. Therefore, "Mission of Healing" has taken on a new format and a new name: "The Family Well-Being Fair."

Doctors and nurses are welcome, as always, and will either be involved in teaching, basic health screenings, or working alongside Salvadoran physicians, who have taken over the medical service aspect of the trip. Musicians, artists, volunteers to play games and play with kids, healers of all types, Spanish speakers, pastors, and anyone with a healing spirit is invited to participate. Information is in the process of being posted at www.partnerswithelsalvador.org. The contact person is Linda Muth. You can reach her at info@partnerswithelsalvador.org.



TANZANIA PARTNERSHIP: STUBBS FAMILY MINISTRY

The Stubbs family will be traveling to the U.S. from Tanzania during July. As Ascension is one of their supporting congregations, they will be visiting us on Wednesday, July 8, at 6 p.m. Mission Outreach is hosting a potluck supper and an evening of the Stubbs family sharing their music and stories of their mission work in Tanzania. The entire family will be traveling together for what may be the last time; the older children are completing college and are preparing to move on to their own careers. Many Ascension members have been touched by their beautiful music and their stories of hope for the people of Tanzania. This is a unique opportunity to get to know them better in a casual setting. Invite your friends to share in this event. Please bring a dish to pass with enough extra to serve any guests.



IN OUR OWN BACKYARD: 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. For more information and to register online, go to www.HopeCenterWI.org. Registration deadline is July 6. Proceeds from the golf outing go to support Hope Center in its commitment to serving people in need in Waukesha County. Hope Center asks that you consider bringing articles of clothing to donate - particularly new underwear and men's jeans - on the day of the event.



GOD GIVES THE POOR HOPE AND SHUTS THE MOUTHS OF THE UNJUST. ~ Job 5:16



ASCENSION SUPPORTS OFH FAMILY BIKE RIDE FOR 8TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR: SEPTEMBER 12, 2015, ST. BRUNO PARISH, DOUSMAN

From a bike ride and picnic for 25 in 2008 at the Lloyd and Jo Buth property in Dousman, seeds were planted for what has become the signature fundraising event for Outreach For Hope, a Ministry of the Greater Milwaukee Synod - ELCA. This year, money raised will help fund programs and ministries that provide opportunities for transformation and hope among 19 congregations in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha. Ascension members have been leading contributors in ridership, volunteers, and donations since the event began.

2015 GOAL IS \$120,000

Our most ambitious goal yet has been supplemented this year by a special \$50,000 Challenge Grant in memory of Ned Bechthold, who played a pivotal role in the early years of Outreach For Hope. In this 8th year, this event will have generated nearly a half million dollars of support to ministries serving some of the poorest neighborhoods in southeastern Wisconsin.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

Everyone has a role they can play as a rider, fund raiser, contributor, or volunteer and it begins by following these easy steps:

1. Go on-line to www.ofhbikeride.com
2. Riders – Register as single or family. \$35/adult, \$25/youth (under 18), and \$70/family. **For the first 300 registrations, co-sponsors Brennan’s Market and Pavement Consulting LLC will donate \$10/registration to Outreach for Hope. Be one of the first 300 riders to help generate \$3,000 for Outreach for Hope!**
3. Fund Raising - Activate your personal web page to request donations from family and friends. Suggested fund-raising goals begin at \$100 or more
4. Volunteers – There’s always a need for extra hands to assist in event day organization and clean-up. A button on the website, www.ofhbikeride.com, will take you to a sign-up sheet.
5. Just Donate – The web page allows family and friends to conveniently contribute via a secure web portal to any rider of your choice or to the general OFH Family Bike Ride event.
6. Sponsorships - Cash or in-kind gifts that defray event expenses are available beginning at \$250. To participate, contact your Ascension Pacesetter, Dave McAdow, 262-544-9084 or dmcadow45@gmail.com.

WHAT DO PARTICIPANTS EARN FOR THEIR EFFORTS?

- A healthful, family-friendly activity that will be long-remembered
- Trail ride for families or road routes of 20, 30, or 50 miles
- Free t-shirt for pre-registered riders
- Free goodie bags to the first 350 registered
- Eligibility for drawings
- Breakfast snacks to send you on your way
- Conveniently-spaced rest stops on all routes
- Post-ride lunch to replenish your energy and share fellowship
- Satisfaction that you’ve done your part to *Pedal To Push Down Poverty*



Pr. Chris Marien with Lloyd and Jo Buth, original hosts of the OFH Family Bike Ride, and Jim Bickel, Director of OFH.

IN GRATITUDE

ASCENSION BLOOD DRIVE

Thanks to all of the Ascension members who donated blood for our drive on May 30. We gave 34 units and three dual red blood cells. This will save many lives and it is a true gift for those in need.

FROM LINDA HANSEN

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and support during my long illness. It meant so much to me! I couldn't have come through it without my Ascension family. I am feeling much stronger, and the surgeries are over. Prayer works!

FROM MICHELLE STOIBER AND KIDS

We want to say “thank you” for the donation for my benefit. I am always so amazed by the support and love people share! The donation truly changed my life!

DOROTHY PAULIC MEMORIAL SERVICE

Thank you so much for providing food and kindness after Mom’s service. We are grateful for your service. Of course, to those who shared in Dorothy’s prayer life and Christian walk ... thank you from our hearts and our lives, as benefactors from those prayers you shared in. We are grateful too for the support you extended to Dorothy, especially in her final months ... as she reached out to you. May you be blessed in the same presence of God, comforted in the friendships of Earth ... that you extended to her. God’s peace.

~ Bob Foxx, Pam Albee, Lynn Pense

THANK YOU FOR PRAYERS

Dear Ascension Church and Bonnie [Thiesenhusen], Thank you for your prayers of healing for my husband Pete for his cancer surgery. We are so blessed to have an “all clear” from his surgeon once his surgery was over. He is recovering nicely at home and looks forward to returning to work as a cancer survivor! God is great! ~ Pam Baumann

PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

Just a note to say thank you to the congregation at Ascension for the opportunity to share information about the Lakota on Pine Ridge. A huge thank you for the generous donations (Mission Outreach; Supermom; donors of winter items). They will definitely bring smiles. Thank you to everyone who stopped by the display and visited with us. Please pass on to everyone our appreciation and gratefulness. God bless ~ Gloria Klomsten and Donna Savin



Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

~Marcel Proust

JULY 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 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9am Young at Heart, Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 12:30pm Women's Nurture PR 7pm Wisdom Grp WH, HR	2 10am Al Anon WH 7pm Ballantyne 107	3 Office Closed	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
5 9am Worship 10:45am Outdoor Worship 12pm AMEN BBQ CY 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	6 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer Group PR 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Knit Wits WH	7 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6:30pm Mission Outreach 107 7pm Mutual Ministry PR	8 11:45am Men's Nurture Grp 106 6:30pm AMEN Leadership 107 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR	9 10am Al Anon 10am TGBG PR 7pm Ballantyne 107	10 6pm Girlfriends Movie Night	11
12 9am Worship 10:45am Worship/CRASH Detroit Send-off 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	13 9:45am Al Anon WH 1pm Living Letters 106 6:30pm AMEN 107	14 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR	15 12pm Young at Heart EH, K 12:30pm Women's Nurture PR 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR	16 10am Al Anon WH 7pm Ballantyne 107	17	18 9am Knit Fest WH 10:30am Folk Choir S
CRASH - ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN DETROIT						
19 CRASH - ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN DETROIT 9am Worship 10:45am Worship 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	20 9:45am Al Anon WH 6pm Prayer Group PR 6:30pm AMEN 107	21 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 7pm Council 107	22 9:30am Staff Mtg. 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR	23 10am TGBG PR 10am Al Anon WH 7pm Ballantyne 107	24 4:30pm Wedding Rehearsal S	25 2:30pm Wedding S, EH, N
26 9am CRASH Worship 10:45am CRASH Worship 12pm Celebration Band S 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	27 9:45am Al Anon WH 6:30pm AMEN 107	28 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR	29 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR	30 10am Al Anon WH 7pm Ballantyne 107	31	
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9am-12pm						