



Ascension

LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
November 2015

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THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA



(262) 547-8518



admin@ascensionelca.org



facebook.com/ascensionlutheran



www.ascensionelca.org



1415 Dopp Street
Waukesha, WI 53188



MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Christian W. Marien
PC@ascensionelca.org

Pastor

Rev. Angela T. Khabeib
PA@ascensionelca.org

Director of Administration

Amy Gilgenbach
Admin@ascensionelca.org

Director of Care Ministries

Brenda Lytle, RN
Brenda@ascensionelca.org

Director of Faith Formation

Tony Acompanado
Tony@ascensionelca.org

Director of Music Ministries

Vicki Taylor
Vicki@ascensionelca.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Administrator for Joyful Worship and Spiritual Growth

Amy Stryker
AmyS@ascensionelca.org

Administrator for Caring Relation- ships and Mission Outreach

Kate Mattson
Kate@ascensionelca.org

Nursery Staff

Carli Boyer
Rachel Stemper

Wedding Coordinator

Lauri Eckmann
LEckmann@wi.rr.com

MUSIC STAFF

Praise Band Leader

Ben Janzow Ben_janzow@yahoo.com

Pianist

Ray Kinney Raywk2003@yahoo.com

CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

President

Nada Draeger
NJDraeger@msn.com

1st Vice-President

Paul Wehmeier
pwehmeier@wi.rr.com

2nd Vice-President

Cynthia Carlson
cynthiac1966@live.com

Secretary

Katie Voss
katievoss@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Vacant

Members-at-Large

Alan Gilgenbach al@gilgenbach.net
Sheri Greger sheri_frogs@yahoo.com
Becky Klotz Becky.Klotz23@yahoo.com
Jeremy Poling polingi@alumni.msoc.edu
Cathy Rapp catherinerapp@sbcglobal.net
Marcy Schaefer marcymyschaefer@yahoo.com

Director of Ministries

Kelly Hoeg khoeg@wi.rr.com

Director of Operations

Peter Laper
PLaper@oldenburggroup.com

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

Pastor Chris Marien

Two very important moments in the life of your church occur in these November days. First, Sunday, Nov. 1 is All Saints Day. This is the day we spend time in worship remembering those who have gone before us. You will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones. This day is a gift of God reminding us of the cloud of witnesses that surrounds us. Please consider inviting family members to join you in giving thanks to God for loved ones who now rest in the Kingdom of God.



Second, we are incredibly blessed by the committed leadership at Ascension. Church council, staff, wing leaders, and ministry leaders have spent more than 170 hours over the past eight months preparing ARISE 2025, Ascension's vision for the next 10 years. It is ready for your review and reflection.

We are excited to find ourselves at this moment looking into our future. The next ten years at Ascension will prove to be years that shape the future of, not only our church community but, the world in which we live. How we live out our faith shapes the world around us. I am hopeful that you have had an opportunity to review the vision statements and actions plans for each wing of ministry at Ascension. However, if you have not had the opportunity or are interested in reading them with time to pray over them, I want to make sure that opportunity is available to you as well. As we look towards 2025, these are the visions statements that give us direction, bring us hope, and offer us a path to the future.

JOYFUL WORSHIP ENVISIONED STATE

The sanctuary is bursting at its seams, and every room is filled during the week with a variety of worship opportunities. [There is a] continued variety of music with more members of the congregation sharing their talents. [Ascension provides] regular communication through a multitude of channels in order to engage all generations and styles. [There are] more volunteers than opportunities to serve during worship and through outreach. The makeup of our congregation begins to better reflect the neighborhood and surrounding community.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ENVISIONED STATE

Our Spiritual Growth mission statement reads: A church family engaging generations through faith experiences. Children's ministries are experiential, relevant, and multi-generational. JOLT (Journey Of a Life Time) and CRASH (Christians Reaching And Sharing Hope) ministries extend far beyond the walls of our church due to rampant outreach and enjoy extensive investment by the congregation. Faith formation empowers our entire community, regardless of where people may be in their faith journey, to claim their identity as disciples of Jesus. Our stewardship ministries teach the power of God's presence and work among us and invite all to dream about the next step in our journey as Ascension.

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CARING RELATIONSHIPS ENVISIONED STATE

Caring Relationships has a strong foundation of care ministries that require minimal budgets. They are growing rapidly and are open to people of all ages. Passion fuels new ministries, but replenishment of resources for existing offerings stretch the core group of volunteers as they represent only a small subset of our worshippers. As the offerings expand, it is always a struggle to communicate what is available to the congregation and the community. Ascension offers a unique small group experience with a church-wide program every fall; however, while some groups have been together for years, many people feel left out or don't know how to build groups for themselves. There are also numerous social groups for members to get involved with. Fellowship activities occur throughout the year for special occasions, but the kitchen facilities are limited and hamper our ability to make this a regular occurrence.

MISSION OUTREACH ENVISIONED STATE

Ascension has a vibrant Mission Outreach Wing, with all congregation members finding a way to serve. Mission Outreach is woven into each of the wings so that it is an integral part of the culture of the congregation. Members realize that all Christians have a calling to participate in mission and justice issues. We live out our baptismal promise of following Jesus by serving others, especially those who are vulnerable and most in need. Through our actions and ministries, the good news of Jesus is shared in word and deed. Ascension is a welcoming community to people of all races and backgrounds and actively reaches out into the community through volunteering and hospitality. We have a vibrant Hispanic ministry, and the neighborhood sees Ascension as a place to participate in worship, fellowship, and education events. Our mission partnerships are active, many people engage in trips to visit our partners, and we welcome visits from them. Members seek to include partnership activities in our normal congregational experiences.

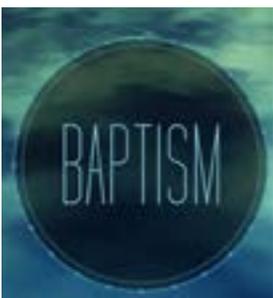
Our annual meeting of the congregation is Sunday, Nov. 8, at 12 p.m. We will share in a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share. We hope you will join us. At our annual meeting, as required by our church constitution, we will approve a slate of candidates to serve on the church council for the 2016-2017 term; we will bless the ARISE 2025 vision for Ascension; we will hear a report on the finances of the congregation through the end of October 2015; and we will approve a budget for 2016. It is my hope you will make time for this important conversation in the life of your church and in the growing of your relationship with our God and this community of faith.

Peace and joy be yours in these days of crisp winds and falling leaves.

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

October 4	Timothy Rach
October 25	Audrey Poling



BEYOND THANKSGIVING

Pastor Angela Khabeb



*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.
Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.
Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving,
and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God's holy name.
For the LORD is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,
God's faithfulness endures to all generations.*

~ Psalm 100

November is here and Thanksgiving is right around the corner. As Thanksgiving Day approaches, pastors everywhere write corny, predictable newsletter articles or devotionals about how we should be thankful and count our blessings. They will prattle on about how crucial it is for us to focus on the riches we have in Christ. They will stress the importance of discerning between the things we want and the things we actually need. This article will be no exception. During this time of year, as we enter the holiday season, we tend to be a little more thoughtful and little more generous. Certainly this is admirable. But what if the spirit of thanksgiving inspired us to do more? What if our thankful hearts prompted us to concrete action? What if being thankful propelled us to do something beyond our comfort zones? After all, being thankful may lead us on a journey of sorts.

For some of us, our journey to thankfulness is rather brief. It goes something like this: *Dear God, I am so thankful that I have so many blessings (read luxuries). I sure am glad that I don't live in _____ (insert the name of any so called third-world country). God, you really have been good to me! Amen.* While on the surface it is great to give God thanks, our thankful hearts should at least spark a curiosity that inspires us to ask questions. What if our journeys of thankfulness led us to questions like, *Why do we have so much while other countries have so little?* What if our journeys of thankfulness led us to a quest for justice? What if, in addition to being thankful, we could be thankful advocates? What if our thankful hearts extended beyond the turkey and the trimmings, even beyond the Christmas decorations and gifts. What if our thankfulness connected us to our baptismal identity? During the baptismal rite, we enter a covenant with God to *proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.* We are sealed in that covenant by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Our faith is not passive, private, or privileged. But rather, our faith is proactive, public, and powerful!

The ELCA is a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. We stand up for policies that create opportunities to overcome poverty, promote peace and dignity, and defend God's creation. As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. God uses our hands, through our direct service work and our voices, through our advocacy efforts, to restore and reconcile our world. Through faithful advocacy, the ELCA lives out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good. When we act as a coordinated network of advocates and reach out to officials on relevant, timely issues, we effectively impact public policies. Together, we achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do otherwise. ELCA advocacy works for change in public policy through political channels on behalf of the following biblical values: peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

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So this holiday season, as we gorge ourselves at family feasts, and as we begin the rapid descent into unfettered consumerism, may we embrace the magnificent luxury that we most often forget - the luxury we have to affect policy change, the luxury we have to walk in justice. Please prayerfully consider joining thousands of ELCA members by signing up for the ELCA e-Advocacy Network on the ELCA website (elca.org). And let us join our voices with the Psalmist's, *Let us enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving, and the courts with praise. Give thanks and bless God's holy name. For the LORD is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.* That, my friends, would truly be a Happy Thanksgiving.



YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

Nada Draeger, Council President

Council had a very full agenda at their October meeting. Pastor Chris led devotions. Doug Bue joined us to give an update on the progress of the Stewardship Committee. Matt Johnson presented the recommendations of the Budget Committee. Questions and concerns were addressed. Council voted to approve the 2016 budget proposal. There will be copies for the congregation to review, with a budget listening session planned for Nov. 1, in between church services. This will be your opportunity to ask questions and understand the process of developing the budget for 2016 before our annual Congregational Meeting on Nov. 8. Please mark these two very important dates on your calendar.

Craig Greenwood and Shirley Wehmeier joined us for the final draft of ARISE 2025 and to plan the final listening session scheduled for Oct. 25. We are very excited to present ARISE 2025 in its completed form at our Congregational Meeting on Nov. 8 and receive the congregation's blessing moving forward.

I want to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the Ministry and Mission Survey. We want to hear from those of you who haven't done so yet. There is still time and the survey is available online at ascensionelca.org/membership/. Also, thank you to everyone who had their pictures taken and updated their address and phone numbers for the new photo directory. You can still submit your own pictures and home information by sending an email to Amy Gilgenbach, Director of Administration, admin@ascensionelca.org. We would like 100% participation from our Ascension family. When the 2016 pledge cards become available, please read over the information that the Stewardship Committee has spent much time preparing and pray over your giving possibilities. Let's all make 2016 the year that Ascension members participate 100% in the stewardship campaign as well!

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ~ Collosians 2: 6-7



FINANCIAL REPORT

Doug Bue, Acting Treasurer

September 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	\$449,913	\$492,750	\$(42,837)	\$487,113	\$(37,200)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$43,131	\$43,725	\$(594)	\$48,442	\$(5,311)
From Restricted Funds	\$52,463	\$52,071	\$392	\$5,673	\$46,790
Total Income	\$545,507	\$588,546	\$(43,039)	\$541,228	\$4,279
Expenses					
Communications	\$20,430	\$18,075	\$(2,355)	\$20,749	\$319
Facilities	\$114,068	\$110,388	\$(3,680)	\$124,979	\$10,911
Financial Development	\$72,837	\$72,912	\$75	\$72,890	\$53
Leadership Development	\$1,050	\$1,500	\$450	\$6,616	\$5,566
Administration	\$195,749	\$195,478	\$(271)	\$151,702	\$(44,047)
Caring Relationships	\$20,077	\$19,570	\$(507)	\$20,144	\$67
Joyful Worship	\$73,970	\$73,107	\$(863)	\$49,130	\$(24,840)
Mission Outreach	\$42,640	\$45,510	\$2,870	\$56,365	\$13,725
Spiritual Growth	\$61,914	\$71,411	\$9,497	\$64,358	\$2,444
Total Expenses	\$602,735	\$607,951	\$5,216	\$566,933	\$(35,802)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(57,228)	\$(19,405)	\$(37,823)	\$(25,705)	\$(31,523)
Mortgage Balance	\$787,209				
Restricted Funds Balance	\$159,914				
General Fund Balance	\$(49,598)				
Ascension Arise Contributions	\$85,689				
Restricted Contributions	\$63,225				

WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN:

- Our general contributions are 8.7% behind plan for 2015, and they are 7.6% behind 2014 actual.
- Our bottom line is \$37,823 behind plan.
- Our general fund balance is currently at a loss of \$49,598.



MUSIC MINISTRY: PERUVIAN CHOIR VISIT

Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministries

Ascension is delighted to be hosting the premier children's chorus from the Andean city of Cusco, Peru here at Ascension in January. Coro Arpegio Musical includes children and young adults ages 10-19 from public and private educational institutions who are passionate about singing. They are embarking on their first international concert tour to the United States and are eager to share their culture through songs and dances presented in traditional Peruvian costumes.

Coro Arpegio Musical will sing during worship on Sunday, Jan. 31, followed by a concert at Ascension in the afternoon. The greater Waukesha community will be invited to attend the concert, and we are hoping to fill the sanctuary to capacity for this rare and exciting cultural opportunity.

Mission Outreach and Joyful Worship are co-sponsoring this event and are looking for support and assistance in the following ways:

- Spread the word! Plan to attend the concert and invite friends and neighbors to join you.
- Consider opening your home to host members of the choir for two nights (Jan. 30/31).
- Concert tickets will be available in January, as well as more specific information for host families.

We are looking forward to working together to welcome our guests from Peru!



CRASH FUNDRAISER

Tony Acompanado, Director of Faith Formation

CRASH students will again be hosting an O&H Kringle fundraiser. If you missed this back in March, then you won't want to make the same mistake this time around. These delicious pastries will arrive just in time for all your Thanksgiving celebrations, and they also make excellent gifts or Packers party desserts! Students will be taking orders after services on Nov. 1 and 8, with pick-up taking place at church on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Cost is \$13/each, and eight delicious flavors will be available: almond, apple, blueberry, cherry, cream cheese, chocolate, pecan, and raspberry. Your generous support is greatly appreciated! All proceeds will benefit the 2016 CRASH Summer Adventure Trip.

URBAN PLUNGE RETREAT NOV. 13-15, 2015

For three incredibly fun, mission-packed days, CRASH participants will join forces alongside friends from Cross and All People's churches in Milwaukee to make a difference in the lives of people in Milwaukee's inner city, gain valuable missions experience, build stronger relationships with their faith family, participate in a cross-cultural worship experience, and learn new ways to reach their communities. Please keep them in your prayers and be sure take time to ask them all about their experience after they return.

CRASH NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

1 & 8	Kringle Fundraiser	13-15	Urban Plunge
1	6-8 p.m. CRASH Youth Group	21	Retreat
3	5-6 p.m. CRASH Hosted GriefShare Meal	12-2 p.m.	College Care Packages

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

- 1 No Children's Ministry – School Break
- 8 Puppets – Large Group Gathering / The Widow's Offering (Mark 12:38-44)
- 15 Christmas Program Rehearsal / Be Ready (Mark 13:1-8)
- 22 Christmas Program Rehearsal / Christ the King (John 18:33-37)
- 29 Christmas Program Rehearsal / Large Group Gathering

NOVEMBER JOLT

- 5 6:30–8 p.m.
- 12 6:30–8 p.m.
- 19 6:30–8 p.m.
- 26 No JOLT – Thanksgiving Break

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Doug Bue, Stewardship Team Member

MANAGING GOD'S BLESSINGS, GOD'S WAYS, FOR GOD'S GLORY

God's Blessings – It is easy to say that everything we have comes from God. However, it is not easy to live like everything we have comes from God. One of our recent Gospel messages was on the parable of the rich young man from Matthew, chapter 19. He thought he was doing pretty well by following God's commandments. Then Jesus put him to the test. Jesus knew exactly what this person was holding on to and needed to let go of to enter the kingdom of heaven. In the end, the young man would not let go of his worldly wealth and went away despondent.



We all have those things in our lives that we claim as our own and do not want to let go of. Some of those things are wealth, possessions, relationships, position, status, and control. That last one is a challenge for me. If I feel like I have control over things or situations, then all is good. However, to follow Jesus we need to let go and trust in Him alone. That doesn't mean that we become a puppet, yet it does mean that we get the proper perspective. After we put God first, then we can walk forward in faith and make choices that bring glory to God's blessings in our lives.

Another message in this parable is that we cannot, by our own efforts, earn our way into heaven. That is only possible through God's saving grace. When we stop trying to earn God's grace and we start by honoring God's gift of grace, it becomes easier to live like everything we have is a blessing from God. We are on a journey of faith, and change doesn't happen overnight. Continue striving to trust God, and soon you will see yourself changing for the better.

2016 MINISTRY SUPPORT

Thank you for your support of Ascension's ministries. We are grateful for every gift we receive, and we are excited by the results of our ministries that those gifts support. You are making an impact on people's lives.

From lifting up praise in worship to comforting someone who is hurting. From sharing encouragement with our partners in faith to sharing our faith with our children. From studying God's word to sharing God's word. From feeding the hungry to visiting the sick or lonely. All of our ministries carry with them a message of God's love, forgiveness, and grace.

As we look to the future, we would like to continue the great work we are doing and increase the impact our ministries have on our members, our community, and the world. We have clarified our vision for the future and put a game plan together to guide us into the next 10 years. If you have not read our vision statements and action plans, please take some time to do so. We are excited about where God is leading us, and we want to share that excitement with everyone. More information showing how your financial resources support our ministries and have a positive impact on others will be available on Sunday, Nov. 8. If you are unable to join us at church that day, you will receive information in the mail the following week. Please read through the materials and prayerfully consider how you will commit to engage your faith in 2016.





CARE MINISTRIES UPDATES

Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries

AUTUMN YOGA

Yoga is back before the holidays! De-stress your life, clear your mind, and improve your core strength and balance. Keeping active and fit is not always an easy thing to do in Wisconsin with our cold winter months. If you are looking for ways to keep or get your bodies back in shape, come join our new Yoga Classes Monday nights, through Nov. 23. You can afford an hour a week of your time, and the cost is only \$12 for 6 weeks. Bring your fee and mat to the class. Our instructor is Jessica Popp from the Waukesha YMCA.

LOOKING FOR COOKS

Do you enjoy cooking for others? Are you passionate about providing comfort for those in need? Well, we have a place in our Care Ministries Meal Ministry for you! If you are looking for some great volunteer opportunities please contact Iva Richards, at 542-5840, to help!

GRIEFSHARE PROGRAM THIS SEASON

We are providing an adult grief support group at Ascension Lutheran Church. This program is for those that have suffered significant loss and features biblical concepts for healing from grief through a DVD series, workbook, and support group. This program is on Tuesdays, from 6-8 p.m., through Nov. 17, in Ascension's Youth Room. We meet weekly for 12 weeks and people are welcome to attend at any time. Pastor Angela facilitates this group.

NEW DIVORCECARE PROGRAM FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

This program is for those that have experienced divorce and also features biblical concepts for hope and healing through a DVD series, workbook, and support group. This new program runs on Tuesdays, from 6-8 p.m., through Nov. 17, in Room 107. Kathy Kuhn facilitates the adult DivorceCare group, and Pamela Hamm facilitates the DivorceCare 4 Kids program. If you or someone you know could benefit from programs like these, please call Brenda Lytle with any questions.

MONTHLY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Get your blood pressure checked for free, between services, in the Hearth Room. If you are interested in helping with the screenings please contact Brenda Lytle at Brenda@ascensionelca.org.

Nov. 15

Feb. 21

April 3

Dec. 6

March 13

May 1

Jan. 3



Join us as we continue our discussion on the future of Supermoms on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Watch the Supermom's bulletin board for a posting on the location. Also new this year: all are invited to join Supermoms gathering the first Sunday of every month during Faith Formation, between worship services, at Ascension. Watch the Supermom's bulletin board for more information.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

ASCENSION'S COLLEGE STUDENTS NEED YOU!

With the Christmas holiday and final exams right around the corner, this is a great time to show our college kids that Ascension is thinking about them. We want to send care packages to remind them that we love them; therefore, we are collecting donations until Nov. 20, so we can send the packages just in time for finals. We will be assembling the care packages on Saturday, Nov. 21, at noon.



Care Package Items Needed (Please place items in the marked bin).

- o Homemade cookies and treats are always a favorite (please no nuts)
- o Package(s) of fun-sized candy, cookies, crackers, or snacks
- o Subway, Starbucks, or iTunes gift cards
- o Gum/mints
- o Coffee, tea, or hot chocolate packets
- o Stain remover or laundry detergent pods
- o Lip balm, toothpaste/toothbrush, or lotion
- o Pens, Sharpies, highlighters, or Post-Its
- o Razors and shaving cream
- o Silly toys like slinkys, silly putty, playing cards, Rubik's cubes, or silly string

A card and a devotional will also be included in each package.

Don't have time to shop? Consider donating money to help with postage or for us to purchase items on your behalf. Checks can be made payable to Ascension Lutheran Church with *College Care* on the memo line.

Do you have a child in college? Please complete the below information and return to Becky Klotz at church (box #21) or contact Becky, at 414-750-7866 or becky.klotz23@yahoo.com. For your child to receive a care package, please plan on participating in some way – either help assemble packages and/or donate items or money for postage.

Student Name _____

School Attending and Year in School _____

Student Mailing Address _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Email _____

I will help with (check one or more):

- o Donating items for care packages (Please put donations in the marked bin by Friday, Nov. 20).
- o Donating \$ for postage (Each USPS Priority Mail pre-paid box is \$12.65).
- o Assembling packages (Saturday, Nov. 21, starting at noon)



MILITARY MINISTRY

The Military Ministry gathered on Oct. 13 and packed boxes to send to our currently enlisted service personnel. We greatly appreciate everyone who donated items for the military care packages. Thank You!

On Nov. 7, at 4:30 p.m., there is a Salute to Veterans at Waukesha North High School. Please join us as we honor all veterans with a concert and fireworks. On Nov. 8, we will take a moment during both worship services to recognize Ascension's veterans and bless the lapghans and baby items made by Ascension's Knit Wits for donation to the VA hospital and USO respectively. In September, 15 baby blankets, 6 sweaters, 1 gown, 1 bunting, 10 hats, and 4 pair of booties were donated to the USO to be given out to families.

Our group has a new ministry to make catheter bag covers for patients at the VA hospi-

Sheri Greger, Military Ministry Leader

tal. These are pretty easy to make, so if you enjoy sewing, please contact Sheri Greger, at sheri_frogs@yahoo.com, or Maddie Goetter, at 262-527-4013, for a pattern and more information.

We are also looking to expand the veteran's plaque in the Hearth Room. Marv Goetter organized and gifted the first plaque, but we are running out of room. Please contact Sheri Greger if you would be interested in helping us expand the plaque.

We always welcome new members to join our ministry in support of military personnel and families. If you have further questions, or would like more information, please contact Sheri Greger at sheri_frogs@yahoo.com or 262-424-6219.



KNIT WITS

It's time to get busy making charity hats. The cold weather will be here before we know it. The Christmas Clearing Council, Cross Lutheran Church, and Hope Center need lots of children's hats for Christmas, and the Salvation Army always needs hundreds of hats. If you'd like to knit or crochet a hat, but don't have time to join us, feel free to bring your hats (and scarves or mittens) to church any Sunday and give them to Maddie Goetter. If hats aren't your passion, the VA and the USO can always use lapghans and baby items.

Thanks to your generous support, we now have a great supply of yarn, so knitting, crocheting, or looming these items can be done at no cost to you because you can use our yarn stash. All it takes is some heart-time. Join us in our mission to keep the community warm. We always welcome new members. Please contact Maddie Goetter, at 262-527-4013, with any questions.

Our upcoming activities include:

November

- Monday, Nov. 2, 12-3 p.m. - Meeting, at Ascension
- Sunday, Nov. 8, at the 8:30 and 10:45 worship services: The Annual Hat Blessing and Veterans Day blessing of lapghans and USO baby items
- Monday, Nov. 9, 12-3 p.m.- Lunch & Knit, The Spot on Broadway, 500 E Broadway St.
- Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Knit Fest, at Ascension
- Monday, Nov. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Meeting, at Ascension

December

- Monday, Dec. 7, 12-3 p.m. - Lunch & Knit, The Spot on Broadway, 500 E Broadway St.
- Monday, Dec. 14 - Christmas Party

YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart is our group for people over 55 years of age. We all enjoy getting together to socialize and meet new people and feel God's presence in our lives. On Wednesday, Nov. 4, Young at Heart will meet at Denny's Restaurant on Grandview Ave., at 9 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Then on Wednesday, Nov. 18, we will meet in Ascension's East Hall, at 12 p.m. for our monthly potluck luncheon. If you are able, please bring a dish to pass. After lunch, we'll play games. We'll end at 3 p.m. If you have questions, contact Celeste Defenbaugh, 262-370-4522; Beth Hoffman, 262-542-7447; or Arlene Davis, 262-542-9119.



SPECIAL FRIENDS

We have had a busy few months:

- Boating, swimming, and fishing on Pewaukee Lake with a picnic
- Miniature golf, with Colleen O'Grady getting the most *hole in ones*
- Green Meadows petting farm with CRASH youth and a devotional from Tony Acompanado
- Annual zoo visit for Halloween Spooktacular

Other news:

- Paul Bennett graduated from high school. Congratulations, Paul, and best of luck for your future plans.
- New member, Matt Grulke, Amber Whitstone's fiancé. Welcome Matt!
- New member Avi Niedercorn and her family Sara, Drew, and Asher. Welcome all! Avi was quite the fisherwoman at the lake!
- Alan Ludyjan moved to a group home in Oconomowoc. He likes his new home and will continue to be with us on weekend events.
- Art Thiesenhusen and Sally Wagner *retired* from volunteering. Both of you will be missed very much - Art's cookies and Sally's hugs/smiles for everyone!
- Karen and Michelle Schulfer lost their apartment to a fire in August. We continue to pray for them during their time of establishing a new home.

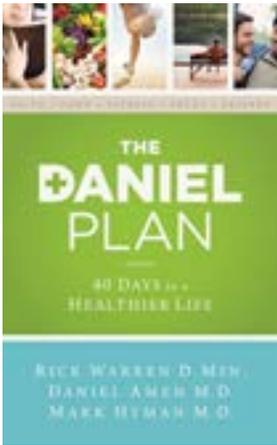
Please always remember our group is open to everyone!

AMEN MEN'S MINISTRIES

Ascension's AMEN Ministries will be purchasing a block of tickets to next year's No Regrets Men's Conference at Elmbrook Church. The conference is Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016. The theme is *Take Root*. AMEN Ministries will be selling a limited number of vouchers for tickets on Oct. 25 and Nov. 1. Join the Monday

Night with Ascension Men small group on Nov. 2, at 5:30 p.m., in room 107 for our Pre-Game Huddle featuring pizza and a preview of the 2016 No Regrets speakers. Tickets to No Regrets are \$35. The price includes lunch, a wide variety of breakout sessions, music, and inspirational messages. Vouchers can be purchased at the Welcome Center from AMEN Ministries. Check out the conference at www.noregretsconference.org.





A TASTE OF THE DANIEL PLAN

Steve and Carol Spieker

“When you are surrounded by people who have the same values, goals, and health habits, you are going to progress farther than you could on your own,” says Rick Warren in relation to The Daniel Plan study. That statement describes the importance of the *Friends Essential* of The Daniel Plan. The prophet Daniel understood this principle too. He didn’t make the commitment to God’s ways and healthy choices by himself. He did it with three friends. (The full story can be found in Daniel 1).

Over and over the Bible states that we are better together. “Two are better than one,” Ecclesiastes 4:9. The New Testament uses the phrase *one another* over and over. *Love one another. Serve one another. Support one another.* In fact, the word *support* means to increase one another’s potential. Members of The Daniel Plan support each other by loving, listening, and liberating each other by showing grace to each other.

Making the decision to lead a healthy lifestyle is a desire most people probably have. Making the decision to throw away lifelong unhealthy ways is a daunting task. It means giving up parts of your being that are as much of yourself as your career or your name. Unhealthy habits have come from YEARS of traditions that are tough to give up.

Making a life change is not easy to do. You are more likely to achieve your goal of getting healthy if you have others supporting you along the way. As an example, Rick Warren cites research indicating “that people getting healthy together lose twice as much weight as those who do it alone.” The sense of community is why fitness classes, support and activity groups, and Bible study groups are so popular. People thrive where they are supported!

Friends are waiting for you to support you. Join the six week The Daniel Plan study that begins on Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, contact us at cspieker@budgetblinds.com or call 414-419-2699.

BERRY ALERT SMOOTHIE

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Frozen Organic Blueberries
- 1 Scoop Vanilla or Berry Flavored Protein Powder
- 8 oz Pure Coconut Water or Almond Milk
- 1 T Freeze Dried Greens (We like Dynamic Greens).
- Large Handful Organic Baby Spinach
- Vanilla Crème Liquid Stevia (to taste)
- ½ Avocado

Optional ingredients: Bee Pollen, Aloe Gel, 2 T Flax Seed

Preparation:

Add all ingredients to blender bowl. Turn blender on low then increase speed. Add additional water or coconut water as desired to achieve desired consistency. Pour into glasses and serve chilled.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Every three years, the Salvadoran Lutheran Church hosts an event called *The Encuentro*. They invite a representative from any congregation that has a sister parish relationship. While many congregations in El Salvador are partnered with congregations in Milwaukee, others have partnerships with churches in Germany, Scandinavia, and other parts of the US. It is a chance for all of the partners to learn from each other. Edwin Aparicio has received a scholarship from the Greater Milwaukee Synod (GMS) to represent Ascension. In addition to his participation in *The Encuentro*, Edwin will be visiting both branches of the agroferreteria and visiting our sister congregation, San Jorge. Edwin will give a sermon at San Jorge while he is there, in addition to carrying our prayers for peace and prosperity.

Sarah Aparicio, Mission Outreach Team Member

In October, the GMS hosted a delegation of seven from Mt. Meru, Tanzania. The delegation included their bishop, the general secretary, the doctor from the hospital the GMS helps sponsor, the retiring manager of the coffee project, and three pastors. We were honored to have Pastor Lema visit Ascension. During his visit, we agreed to form a partnership with the three congregations that make up the Samaria Parish. There is much that we have to learn from the people of Samaria and we have much to offer them, starting with the means to build a new roof for their church.

There are many opportunities to participate with our global partnerships, both for those that love to travel and for people that prefer to stay close to home. Stay tuned for information about our next steps with our brothers and sisters in both Tanzania and El Salvador.



TANZANIA PARTNERSHIP

Three ways of confronting poverty and injustice are Relief, Rehabilitation, and Development. Relief is an urgent and temporary action to reduce immediate suffering. It is something done *to* or *for* others. Relief can also be characterized as doing charity - providing a hand-out. Rehabilitation is restoring people and communities to a positive, pre-existing condition. It is about working with victims who participate in their own recovery. It is more about a hand-up than a hand-out. Development is a process of on-going change and improvement. It is also about promoting a sense of empowerment, which leads to reconciled relationships with self, others, God, and the rest of creation. (Ideas expressed here are taken from *Helping Without Hurting* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, 2009, Moody Publishers, pp. 103-105).

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project has focused on rehabilitation and development from its beginning, over 15 years ago. First, it helped rehabilitate coffee growing in the Meru region of Tanzania. Many small farmers had given up on growing coffee due to the low market prices. By paying a fair price for quality coffee and updating processing equipment, the Coffee Project encouraged small coffee farmers to again grow coffee and to

Dave Hammer, Mt. Meru Team Member

change their processing methods to improve overall quality.

Second, the Coffee Project has promoted development by encouraging coffee farmers to receive training on how to improve their yields and quality. According to members of the Meru Delegation, who visited the Greater Milwaukee Synod in October, farmers who have attended training sessions feel better about themselves and their prospects for growing more and better coffee. Those who attended training sessions are training other farmers and setting up demonstration plots to show the benefits of improved fertilization and mulching.

The ongoing purchase of Mt. Meru Coffee is the single most important way in which we can participate in this Partnership relationship. Mt. Meru Coffee can be purchased every Sunday between the 8:30 and 10:45 worship services and is available in: Whole bean, drip and perk, in both regular and decaf; 4 flavors of regular and decaf drip; Single cup servings

Drink Mt. Meru Select Tanzanian Coffee -
DOING JUSTICE NEVER TASTED SO GOOD!

Mt. MERU
COFFEE PROJECT
COFFEE PROJECT



IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Ascension has a new date for our 10th Annual Mission Outreach event. It will be Saturday, Nov. 7. We will be doing interior painting. Meet at Ascension to carpool. We'll leave at 8:15 a.m. We'll work until 3 p.m.

Anyone 16 years or older is welcome to join. Contact Ric Simon, ricsimon@yahoo.com, to sign up.

OFH'S BIKE RIDE PUMPS UP MINISTRY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating its 20th year, Outreach for Hope has surpassed the \$120,000 goal set by the planners for the 8th Annual Family Bike Ride, held Sept. 12, in Dousman. You raised more than \$150,000 and funds are still being received! That's nearly a 50% increase over last year's event total of \$81,343. Ridership too was up, with 356 riders, about 50 more than last year. Nearly 100 volunteers from churches all over the Greater Milwaukee Synod served lunch, did safety patrol, registered riders, and kept things running smoothly.

There were 62 churches involved in the ride, including 47 ELCA congregations. In addition, a record number of the churches and ministries that received funding from Outreach for Hope participated in this year's ride. All Peoples Church, Milwaukee broke the record for number of participants of any congregation in the synod with a combined 50 rider and volunteer participants.

Thanks to all who rode, volunteered, and donated, and a special thanks to Dave MacAdow and Dave Hammer for their tireless work.

NEW REFUGEE FAMILY

A new Burmese refugee family is moving to Waukesha. They already have family here, which will help with their resettlement. The exact arrival date is not known but they are having their final meeting in the refugee camp soon. The family consists of a mother, father, and two teen sons. They all speak some English. There will be need for help with their settling in, donations to meet their needs, and assistance in getting the boys into school and the adults to work. If you have a heart for helping them, please contact Jo Buth, 262-542-9038. More information will be given as it becomes available.

HOPE CENTER DINNER

Hope Center is a non-profit organization that has been serving the basic needs of financial assistance, food, and clothing in Waukesha County for more than twenty years. This is one of their major fund raisers. Ascension has been involved with the Hope Center since it began.

MISSION OUTREACH ON FACEBOOK

Check out our *Ascension Waukesha Mission Outreach* page on Facebook. We try to keep it up to date with articles, photos and information about the Mission Outreach projects Ascension is involved in.

HOPE Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction

Thursday November 19, 2015

Country Springs Hotel
2810 Golf Rd. | Pewaukee, WI

Thursday, November 19, 2015
5 PM Cocktails and Silent Auction
7 PM Dinner and Live Auction

Helping Hands
Building Hope

Register Today! Call (262) 549-8726 | Email info@hopecenterwi.org

MANY THANKS

FROM KATHIE AND DANA DEITSCH

It is with humble gratitude that Dana and I thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers during the past weeks surrounding my quadruple bypass surgery. It's an amazing feeling, knowing that so many are lifting you up to the Lord! Endless thanks to you all! I tell you that the mighty Healer of all has blessed me and I'm recovering very well from my bypass surgery! In this time of Thanksgiving, we remember our Ascension family, Care Ministries, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Prayer Chain, and more. I truly felt your prayers and love as I was going in for my surgery, and now, during my recovery. The nurses in the hospital learned quickly that I was to be covered up with *my blankie* as they called it. Once they knew the story of the prayer shawl, they wished every patient could have such a gift. My humble thanks to you all!



FROM THE LYTLE FAMILY

Dear Ascension family, I would like to thank all of you for your prayers for our little Lexi Brooklyn over the past month. She has many more weeks of recovery, but she made it through the surgery and they fixed what needed to be done for her. It was comforting to my family knowing that we have been in the thoughts and prayers of so many who care. Also thanks for the gift bag...it entertained her during some difficult times. We look forward to the time when Lexi will once again run around our church with her vibrant spirit! Blessings to all.

THANK YOU FOR THE MEALS!

Meals for our GriefShare, DivorceCare, and DC4K groups are provided by Ascension groups and ministries. The meals are served in West Hall, from 5:30-6 p.m. This meal program has been much appreciated by our participants. They like being able to enjoy a meal and visit with friends. A special thanks is extended to Arlene Davis, Sarah Doyle, Sharon Coralline, Iva Richards, Bob Grady, Special Friends, Music Ministry, Ascension Council, CRASH and JOLT, and small groups of TGIT, TGBG, Chris Holloway's group, Barb Nordberg's group, Jim Hahn's group, and Wednesday Grace Group for your all of your generosity!

PROPERTY DAY THANK YOU

Thanks to all who helped spruce up the church property in October. With the help of almost 30 people, we were able to accomplish so much including weeding, washing windows, hauling debris, washing tables, kitchen cleaning, closet organizing, nursery cleaning, and landscaping. You can see the results of their labor throughout the church property. Thank you, all for your hard work!

FROM JOSHUA WARD

Dear Ascension members, Thank you for the awesome gift bag.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

~ 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

NOVEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 All Saints Day Daylight Savings Ends (Fall Back!) 8:30am Worship 9:15am Puppets EH 9:45am Children's Ministry/Adult Ed 9:45am Budget Listening Session 9:45am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 6pm AA mtg WH 6pm CRASH S, EH, YR 7pm AA closed mtg WH	2 9:45am AI Anon WH 12pm Knit Wits WH 6pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	3 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5:30pm Care Ministry Meal WH 6pm DivorceCare 107 6pm DC4K 103 6pm GriefShare YR 6:30pm Mission Outreach HR 7pm Mutual Ministry PR	4 9am Young at Heart, Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 12:30pm Women's Nurture PR 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	5 10am AI Anon WH 1pm Quilting, Bissett's House 5:15pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30pm JOLT EH, WH, S 7pm Ballantyne 107 7pm Care Ministries 106	6	7 9am Choir S 1pm Handbells S
8 8:30am Worship 9:15am Puppets EH 9:45am Children's Ministry/Adult Ed 9:45am Puppets Visits WH, K 10:45am Worship 12pm Annual Meeting EH 6pm AA mtg WH 6pm CRASH S, EH, YR 7pm AA closed mtg WH	9 9:45am AI Anon WH 1pm Living Letters 106 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	10 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5:30pm Care Ministry Meal WH 6pm DivorceCare 107 6pm DC4K 103 6pm GriefShare YR	11 11:45am Men's Nurture 106 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	12 10am AI Anon WH 1pm TGBG PR 1pm Quilting, Bissett's House 5:15pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30pm JOLT EH, WH, S 7pm Ballantyne 107 7pm Military Ministry 106	13 CRASH, Urban Plunge Retreat	14 9am Knit Fest WH 10:30am Folk Choir S
15 Newsletter Deadline CRASH, Urban Plunge Retreat 8:30am Worship 9:15am Puppets EH 9:45am Children's Ministry/Adult Ed 10am Blood Pressure Check HR 10:45am Worship 6pm CRASH S, EH, YR 6pm The Daniel Plan 107 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH CRASH, Urban Plunge Retreat	16 9:45am AI Anon WH 5:30pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	17 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5:30pm Care Ministry Meal WH 6pm DivorceCare 107 6pm DC4K 103 6pm GriefShare YR 7pm Council EH	18 12pm Young at Heart EH, K 12:30pm Women's Nurture PR 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	19 10am AI Anon WH 1pm Quilting, Bissett's House 5:15pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30pm JOLT EH, WH, S 7pm Ballantyne 107	20	21 12pm College Care Package Packing WH
22 8:30am Worship 9:45am Children's Ministry/Adult Ed 9:45am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 12pm Special Friends Parade 4pm Special Friends WH 6pm The Daniel Plan 107 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	23 9:45am AI Anon WH 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	24 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 7:30pm Choir S 7:30pm Handbells S	25 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR	26 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 10am AI Anon WH	27 Office Closed	28
29 Advent I 8:30am Worship 10:45am Worship 12pm Praise Band S 6pm The Daniel Plan 107 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	30 9:45am AI Anon WH 6:30pm AMEN 107			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		