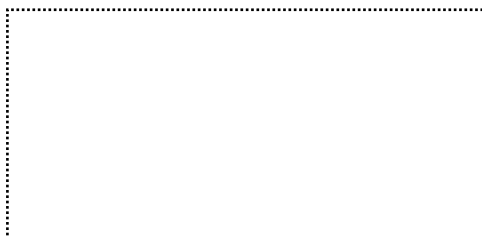


Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
October 2016

1415 Dopp Street
Waukesha, WI 53188-4997

Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Waukesha, WI
Permit No. 705

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

Joyful Worship

Let Me Be Your Servant	2
Music Ministry	2
Reformation People.....	3

Spiritual Growth

BLAST, JOLT, CRASH.....	4
Puppets of Praise	4
Thrivent Action Teams.....	5
Membership.....	5

Caring Relationships

Care Ministry Transitions.....	6
Volunteers Needed	6
New Care Ministries.....	6
Care Ministries Health & Wellness.....	7
Blessing Tree.....	7
HOPE.....	7
The Daniel Plan	8

Caring Relationships cont.

Young at Heart	8
Military Ministry	9
Knit Wits.....	9

Mission Outreach

Reflections on a Partnership	10
Why El Salvador & Tanzania	11
News from Tanzania	11
Good Gifts of Ascension.....	11
Mt. Meru Coffee Project	12
God's Work, Our Hands	12
Outreach for Hope Bike Ride.....	13
Hope Center Events	13
Little Free Library	13

Administration

Council News	14
Financial Report.....	14
Calendar	16

JOYFUL WORSHIP

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

You are invited to join in worship and celebration at the ordination of our very own Steve Bogie. Saturday, Oct. 29 at 4 p.m. at Ascension. As Steve's sponsoring congregation, Ascension acts as host for this service of worship on behalf of the whole church. The good people of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Menominee Falls, WI have called Steve to be their pastor.

From the rite of ordination, "Care for God's people, bear their burdens and do not betray their confidence. So discipline yourself in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people. Give and receive comfort as you serve within the Church. And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor is not in vain."

We will gather for worship at 4 p.m. and our newly installed Bishop Paul Erickson will preside at the ordination. Clergy from the surrounding area are invited to vest and join in the procession and worship. We will celebrate Steve, his wife Heather, and daughter Olivia with a dinner reception following the service of worship. If you are able to assist in the reception (set-up, serving, or clean-up), please call the church office at 262-547-8518.



Olivia, Steve and Heather Bogie

Music Ministry

Farewell & Thank You to Ray Kinney

With much gratitude for his years of service in Music Ministry at Ascension, we wish Ray Kinney abundant blessings as he leaves Ascension. He will be greatly missed as he moves into a new season of his life. Ray writes the following:

It is with a great deal of ambivalence that I am letting you know that I am retiring from directing the Folk Choir. I have adult kids living in four different cities, including San Francisco, and as I look forward, I see too many potential conflicts with scheduling visits with them and the Folk Choir schedule. To say that I have enjoyed our connection does not do justice to how grateful I am for the opportunity to have made wonderful music with you folks...You were all so accepting of me and so easy (and talented) to work with. Thank you so much for the wonderful spiritual music we made together. Ascension is a special place with special people. God bless you all and I know this is not goodbye but "see you later."

With much love in my heart,

Ray

We will continue to worship using the Feast of Life liturgy. The Folk Choir will be on hiatus for the time being as we look forward with eyes of faith to see what new thing God has planned for us.

Pastoral Acts

Baptized

Clayton Moorehead,
September 4

Married

Kelsey Johnson & Erik
Lewis, September 4

Kristin Bissett & Matthew
Boyd, September 17

Amanda Ewert & Tyler
Maehtle, September 24

Reformation People

October signals change. Daylight is fleeting as the night arrives on our doorstep earlier and stays longer. In a costume change of sorts, the trees slip into their Fall collection and take to Mother Nature's runway to dazzle us. Not only is change swirling around us, but it is also stirring within us. Surprised?



I'm sure you've heard the joke, "How many Lutherans does it take to change a light-bulb?" Answer? NONE - because Lutherans don't change. But this is not true. Or at least it has not always been true. In fact, change is part of our Lutheran DNA. On the last Sunday in October, we will remember our Reformation heritage. On that day, we are especially mindful of the great reformer, Martin Luther. Luther is, arguably, one of the most influential people of all time. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, who was a Roman Catholic priest and theology professor, nailed 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. He wanted to voice his concerns by issuing a clarion call for change. His main issue of reform was in the area of indulgences. In the medieval church, you could buy your way into heaven - quite literally. For example, if you had a deceased relative and you were not completely sure they were in heaven or stuck in purgatory, all you needed to do was give more in the offering, and your loved one's soul would fly right up to heaven. It is rumored that Johann Tetzel, a German Roman Catholic friar, was fond of saying, "As soon as a coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs."

Luther sought to reform the church not to separate from it, but God worked through his radical protest to bring forth the Protestant Reformation. Luther stressed Paul's letter to the Romans saying, "This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul." The third chapter of Romans reads, in part, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus... God is righteous and justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works." Luther further stated, "It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes... It is in itself a bright light, almost bright enough to illumine the entire Scripture..."

People from all over the world will travel to Germany for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. This pilgrimage to Germany will be an inspirational, once-in-a-lifetime journey as people from various faith backgrounds trace the footsteps of the great reformer, Martin Luther. Doubtless, these pilgrims will enjoy a time of spiritual renewal by exploring the roots of Protestantism and reflecting upon centuries of religious history.

Thankfully, spiritual renewal is not solely reserved for pilgrimages. As Reformation people, every journey that we embark upon - by definition - offers a chance for rebirth. As Reformation people, we know that what seems like the end is often the beginning. As Reformation people, we believe that death gives way to new life. As Reformation people, we know that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Regardless of how desolate the terrain, regardless of how difficult the journey, we are Reformation people and every step on our journey brings us closer to who God has called us to be.

Luther encourages us, "Faith is a work of God in us, which changes us and brings us to birth anew from God. It makes us completely different people in heart, mind, senses, and all our powers, and brings the Holy Spirit with it. What a living, creative, active powerful thing is faith! It is impossible that faith ever stops doing good. Faith doesn't ask whether good works are to be done, but, before it is asked, it has done them. It is always active. Faith is a living, unshakable confidence in God's grace; it is so certain, that someone would die a thousand times for it. This kind of trust in and knowledge of God's grace makes a person joyful, confident, and happy with regard to God and all creatures. It is as impossible to separate works from faith as burning and shining from fire."

Reformation people, embrace the change that is within you! God is always with you on this journey.

Rev. Angela E. Khabab

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



“Ascension is a faith community called and sent out to live God’s grace, love, and mercy to the world around us.”

Tony Acompanado, Director of Faith Formation

BLAST, JOLT, & CRASH

Ascension is a faith community called and sent out to live God’s grace, love, and mercy to the world around us. On Sunday, Oct. 2, from 12 p.m.–4 p.m., we invite you to join our BLAST, JOLT, and CRASH students and their families for an afternoon of serving seniors and adults with disabilities in Waukesha County. We will gather together for lunch and then be sent out in groups to various locations to assist older adults, adults with disabilities, and family caregivers live dignified, meaningful and engaged lives in the community while helping them maintain their independence for as long as possible. Some ways we may serve are: raking leaves, storing lawn furniture, installing storm windows, cleaning gutters, washing windows, and other general yard clean up as necessary. Everyone is welcome and you can volunteer for as little or much as your schedule allows. Please use the following link to sign up: <http://tinyurl.com/faithformationservice>.

October Dates

JOLT — Thursdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, & 27, 6:30–8 p.m.

CRASH

Sunday	Oct. 2	12–4 p.m.	Interfaith Service Project
Sunday	Oct. 16	6–8 p.m.	Youth Group
Saturday	Oct. 22	5–10 p.m.	Dinner & Fright Hike
Sunday	Oct. 23	6–8 p.m.	Youth Group

PUPPETS OF PRAISE

On Oct. 9, Puppets of Praise will perform two stories for BLAST: The Healing of Naaman from the Old Testament and Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers. The stories show how God cares about everyone, even outsiders, and that love has not changed. Thanks to Olivia, Sam, and Sophie for recording and editing the audio!



THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Attention all Thrivent Members of Ascension: A Thrivent Action Team can be registered and submitted online at www.Thrivent.com for events, community fundraisers, or education. After you explain your mission, you will receive a packet in the mail, which includes a \$250 Visa gift card as seed money for your project. With your membership, you can do two Thrivent Action Team projects a year.

For those of you interested in an associate membership, the cost is \$19.95. You can apply on Thrivent.com or call 1-800-THRIVENT and they will walk you through the process. With your membership you can apply for one Thrivent Action Team.

If you are a wing leader and are planning fundraisers, events or, education, please let Thrivent members know 21 days prior, so we can support your mission. My goal as Advocate is to gather the names of those whom are Thrivent members and enlist them to help with community outreach, events, or education. As leaders of Ascension or interested Thrivent members with a heart for community outreach, please help me locate Thrivent members of Ascension, so they can possibly form Action Teams and utilize monies available to us for outreach. Hands-on volunteering, such as church repair, with members pitching in to help should also be able to receive funds. Any project where congregational members work together for the betterment of Ascension would be considered a community event pulling in people to do hands on work.

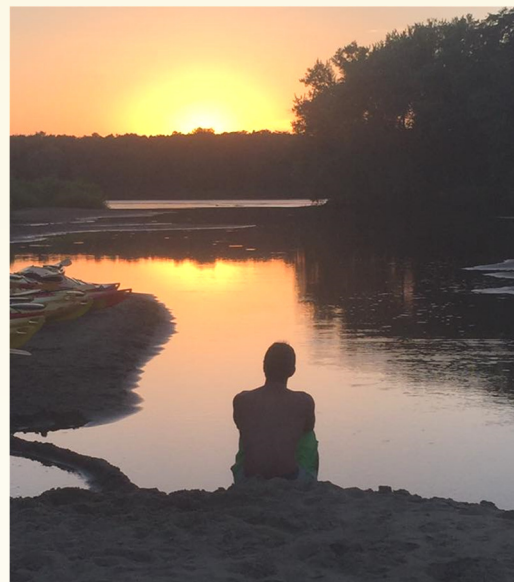
Please pray on how you can become involved!

Blessings,

Donna Savin, Advocate for Thrivent

MEMBERSHIP @ ASCENSION...

On both Oct. 2 and 16 at 10 a.m., join Pastor Chris for conversation and a time of exploration about what it means to share in the joy of community at Ascension. Ask questions about our ministries and learn about opportunities to engage our God and each other in relationship. During the conversations, we will talk about our four areas of ministry: Joyful Worship, Spiritual Growth, Caring Relationships, and Mission Outreach. Ascension offers a number of ways to deepen your faith and serve others. For more information or to sign up for the conversation, email Director of Administration Amy Gilgenbach at admin@ascensionelca.org.



CARING RELATIONSHIPS



Transitions: Gratitude for Care Ministry Leadership

Janet Grady for her service with Bereavement Ministry. Nada Draeger will be the new leader for Bereavement beginning on Oct. 1.

Barb VanVoorhis for her 14 years as leader of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Joan Birner will be the new leader for this ministry.

Sally Wagner for her years of leading the Plant Sale. Care Ministries will be recruiting a new leader for this fundraiser Care Ministry programming.

Becky Klotz for her years of leading the College Care Ministry. Care Ministries will be recruiting a new leader for this ministry after the November 2016 care package distribution.

Volunteers Needed

Care Ministries is in need of some new volunteers to help us run our ministries! Do you have a passion for helping others? Would you be able to spare a small amount of time to assist one of our ministries providing for our congregation? Care Ministries cannot run without the help of Ascension's members.

During the month of October, you will have an opportunity to sign up on the Care Ministries bulletin board for many volunteer opportunities. We all need inspirational Biblical reinforcement for what we do. When volunteering for our church, we need to be reminded about what the Word says about what we do, "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them" (Hebrews 6:10). Are you willing to give up some time once a month, once a week, or as needed for our ministries? Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries at 262-547-8518 or Brenda@ascensionelca.org.

Meal Providers/Servers - Ascension offers a 12-week GriefShare program on Tuesday evenings, from 6-8 p.m. The facilitator is Pastor Angela. The program lasts until Nov. 29. We provide a free meal for the participants beginning at 5:30 p.m., in West Hall. Can your small group provide a meal? If so, sign up on the Care Ministries bulletin board. We are grateful to all of those that help to support this ministry!

Brenda Lytle, Director of Care Ministries

*Care Ministries cannot run without the help
of Ascension's members!*

New Care Ministries for 2017

Life Transitions Ministry - Targets families and provides support groups

- New parenting (provides classes like "Love and Logic")
- Empty nesters (college kids)
- Adult children caring for their parents

Foster/Adoption Family Ministry

- Providing information for families interested in foster care/adoption.
- Providing support and networking for foster/adopt families
- Community rummage sales, speakers, etc. for these families.

Speakers for 2017

- Health and Wellness seminars (nutrition, sleep, exercise, and stress control)
- Grapevine Diabetes presentation (Brenda)
- Medicare presentation (Jim Murray)



Care Ministries Cares about Your Health and Wellness

Care Ministries is providing a new Christian Music Line Dancing class at Ascension. It will end Oct. 10, but come and see if this type of exercise class interests you. It is \$2/class. We have 20 participants of all ages. The class is Monday evenings, in the East Hall. The instructor is Ascension member Linda Elder.

Yoga resumes on Nov. 7 and runs until Dec. 12, from 6-7 p.m., in East Hall.

Monthly blood pressure screenings resume Oct. 2 between services. Care Ministries is still looking for volunteer to help with this.

Our AARP Safe Driving Course is Friday, Oct. 7, 12:30-4:30 p.m., in room 107. This course could reduce your insurance premiums. Sign up on the Care Ministries bulletin board. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. The instructor is Ascension member Marie Renn.

Come help save lives as we host a blood drive at Ascension on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. We are hoping for a great turn out!

Blessing Tree

The Wednesday Women's Nurture Group is doing something new this fall. For the last few years, we have sponsored the Angel Tree for Christmas gifts for people in need. This year, we want to start a little earlier in the fall with the Blessing Tree, which will allow gifts to be distributed before Thanksgiving. Gift cards, for example, could be used for a Thanksgiving dinner or for parents to buy Christmas toys for their children.

We will focus on three groups: Burmese refugees, Cross Lutheran Church, and the Christmas Clearing Council. This gives you the opportunity to give gift cards or buy a new toy or warm clothing.

A tree will be set up in the narthex with different colored leaves on it for each group. Each leaf will tell you what is needed. The tree will go up on Oct. 5 and will come down on Nov. 16. All gifts should be unwrapped and placed in the bin provided under the tree. Look for a poster in the narthex.

HOPE

HOPE (Healing Our Pain... Eventually) Ministry is a new ministry that arose out of our GriefShare program. About 12 members get together one or two times a month for social events and service work. Future events include service work over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays for a Cross Lutheran family. Have you suffered loss and would like to get your life back on track? Then, this is the perfect ministry for you! Please contact Brenda for more information, brenda@ascensionelca.org.

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

A Taste of the Daniel Plan: Back to Basics

It's that time of year when we gear up for the next six-week Daniel Plan study. We thought it would be a good time to refresh people's memory about what the Daniel Plan actually is.

The study has its roots in the story of Daniel. As you probably know, Daniel was a courageous slave that dared to be different and do what he thought was right. Read Daniel 1 for the complete story.

The Daniel Plan can be summed up in one word: Abundance. It teaches us how to live abundantly in the Lord through its "Five Essentials": Faith, Food, Focus, Fitness, and Friends.

We all need God to make changes in our lives. How often have you prayed for God to teach you how to be a better person? You have probably also prayed for others that God might reach down and help them some way. Maybe you have asked God to renew your health. Whatever your request, relying on God's power is the basis of your faith that your prayer might be granted. The Daniel Plan teaches ways to improve your faith and your focus so that God becomes a better center point of your life. God wants us all to live abundantly in Him.

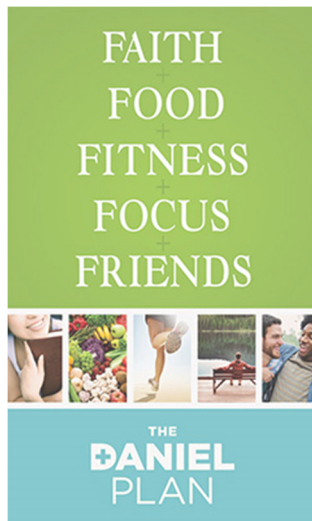
Let us dispel any thought that the Daniel Plan is a diet, which is what many people mistakenly believe. While it does cover the topic of food, it has absolutely nothing to do with counting calories or deprivation. Rather it teaches about the healthy foods that can be eaten in abundance. It teaches how the wrong foods can actually cloud our minds and weaken our bodies. Eating the right foods will provide our bodies with the right fuel so we have energy and focus to serve God, just like Daniel.

There is also a section on Fitness. People often get scared away at any thought of exercise. What people don't realize is that movement is life. As it is stated in the Daniel Plan, the best exercise is the one you will actually do. With all the drive through restaurants, dry cleaners, banks, and pharmacies, and not to mention all of our remotes and smart phone apps, many people are even depriving themselves of the occasional stroll to accomplish something. Our inactivity is actually killing us! Movement literally gets our blood circulating and keeps our muscles and organs functioning! Without movement, we will die.

Finally, the "Friends" essential teaches us that we are "better together." When we live in community with God and one another we are stronger.

Can you say your body is a suitable vessel for the Holy Spirit to dwell within you? The time to make changes is now! Don't wait until you get some dreadful diagnosis. Many people don't realize how what you think, what you put in your bodies, or how you may be neglecting your bodies will affect your future. Join us for the next six-week Daniel Plan study starting on Sunday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m. To start your journey to health, go to www.danielplan.com or www.danielplan.com/healthyhabits/hallelujah-bites/ to check out our suggested recipe for this month.

Steve & Carol Spieker



Young at Heart

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 9 a.m., Ascension's Young at Heart Group will meet for breakfast at Denny's on Grandview Blvd. No need to register; just join us.

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, we have our potluck luncheon in Ascension's East Hall at noon. Please join us for a relaxing afternoon of food, socializing, and games. Vern will be entertaining us with his concertina music after lunch. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, YAH is offering a bus trip to see the Broadway Boys at the Schauer Center in Hartford. This is a troupe of the finest male actors and voices that brings selections of familiar and classic show tunes mixed with all of your holiday favorites. The show is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. We will leave Ascension at 1:30 p.m. for a 3 p.m. show. After the show, we will have dinner at the Mine Shaft Restaurant in Hartford and then return to Ascension at approximately 8 p.m. The cost is \$60/person.

Please sign up before and after the 8:30 a.m. service on Sundays, Oct. 2 and 9. If you have questions, contact Celeste Defenbaugh at 262-370-4522.



Military Ministry is gearing up for Fall and begins collecting items for military care packages on Sunday, Oct. 2. We will collect items through Oct. 16. We will pack boxes on Monday, Oct. 17. A list of items for collection will be available by the collection bin. If you have an immediate family member serving our country, please let us know so we can include them in our mailing.

We are updating our list of current servicemembers and veterans. If you have a family member in the military and would like them to receive encouraging notes and care packages please contact us. If you are new to Ascension and a veteran, please let us know so we can update our records. If you have a family member that we were serving, and they have moved or been discharged, please let us know so we can update our records. We partner with the Living Letters Ministry and want to make sure their notes get to our military members.

We also continue to help dispose of tattered or old flags. There is a crate in West Hall by the Donation Center for the flags.

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

We are updating our list of current servicemembers and veterans. Contact Sheri Greger with updated information.

Knit Wits

Now that summer is over, and the Knit Wits have a great stash of yarn, it's time to get back to making charity hats, lapghans for the VA, and baby hats/blankets/sweaters for the USO. If you'd like to knit or crochet one of these items, but don't have time to join us, feel free to bring your creations to church any Sunday and give them to me or another Knit Wit. Our big push this time of year is to make as many hats as possible, all sizes, for children and adults.

Thanks again to everyone for your generous support of our mission to keep the community warm. Join us! We always welcome new members. Our upcoming activities include:

October

- ◆ Thursday, Oct. 6, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. - Lunch & Knit at The Spot, 500 E Broadway St.
- ◆ Saturday, Oct. 15., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Knit Fest at Ascension
- ◆ Monday, Oct. 14, noon-3 p.m. - Lunch meeting at Ascension (BYO lunch)

November

- ◆ Thursday, Nov. 3, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. - Lunch & Knit
- ◆ Saturday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. - Knit Fest
- ◆ Sunday Nov. 13, 8:30 and 10:45 worship services - Annual Blessing of Hats & Lapghans
- ◆ Monday Nov. 28, noon-3 p.m. - Lunch meeting at Ascension (BYO lunch)

MISSION OUTREACH



Reflections on a Park, a Picnic, and a Partnership

After returning from participating in the Cross Community Picnic on August 21, I reflected on what I had experienced in a neighborhood not too far away from the Sherman Park neighborhood that had been the scene of conflict and violence just one week earlier.

One thing I experienced was the dedication of a wonderful park in what had been an empty lot, overgrown with weeds, directly behind the Cross church building. During the dedication, there were presentations by two Cross pastors - one black, one white; two local aldermen - one black, one white; two park planners from the community - one black, one white - all speaking to people of diverse colors, cultures, and ages. It was wonderful to learn about the vision and passion of Cross members who helped make the park a reality, and to one of whom the park was dedicated. It was inspiring to see how Cross has impacted the community in which they serve, that their presence and outreach into the community does make a difference to the people who live there.

After the dedication, Cross held a picnic for all of the people in the neighborhood. The street in front of the church building was closed so that people could visit vendor booths, watch entertainment, and sit at tables eating food prepared by members of Cross and its partner congregations. What a wonderful way to experience accompaniment - doing things with others and overcoming fear with friendship. All of those who helped serve remarked at how many "thank you's" they heard from those who were served.

The entire day was a wonderful opportunity to work side by side in partnership with our friends at Cross. It was a blessing to work in community and accompaniment with people from a different neighborhood. It is the type of relationship that should be an example of how brothers and sisters living in different zip codes can work together for the betterment of all. It is when people work together, combining the ideas and strengths of all, that real progress is made, not only in relationships, but in the fabric of the community. Involvement and ownership lead to a sense of empowerment and self-worth.

I wish that these types of events could get as much publicity as all of the negative things that have recently taken place in Milwaukee.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the picnic. Thank you to those who prepared baked beans or/and sweet corn for the meal. Thank you to those who came to Cross and helped prepare and serve the picnic meal. Ascension was certainly well represented by the number of people who prepared and/or were present at the picnic. It truly was a day of "God's work. Our hands."

Dave Hammer

Why El Salvador & Tanzania?

One of the questions I'm frequently asked is why Mission Outreach decided on El Salvador and Tanzania for our global partners. The truth is that this decision is bigger than Ascension. The ELCA's companion synod program connects synods of the ELCA with the more than 140 Lutheran churches of The Lutheran World Federation. Each of the 65 synods of the ELCA has at least one international church companion and many have additional relationships, resulting in more than 120 companion synod relationships.

The Greater Milwaukee Synod's partner synods are El Salvador and the Meru Diocese of Tanzania. The second Saturday of every month, the synod's Mount Meru committee meets, and the third Monday of every month the synod's El Salvador committee meets. These meetings are an opportunity for us to learn from each other how we can be better partners with our brothers and sisters in our companion synods. If you are interested in attending either of these meetings to be a bigger part of our partnerships, feel free to contact Sarah Aparicio for more information, weh22@hotmail.com.

Sarah Aparicio

News from Tanzania

My work now is largely with the Cultural Arts Centre, an outgrowth of the music department at Makumira. We [Randy & his wife, Carol] are both still teaching in the music program, but now I do a lot of administration, more than teaching. You can see some CAC activities on their website (www.cac.ac.tz), but for the most current info just "like" Cultural Arts Centre at Makumira on Facebook.

A quick "kid" update: Megan, 23, is in Finland in her 2nd year of her Masters' Degree in cross cultural music education and business at Sibelius Academy. It is a perfect fit for her musically and personality-wise, though the cold weather and [limited] daylight during the winter was tough for her last year. Marissa, 21, is still with us. She is attending a special school for special needs children run by the German Lutherans in cooperation with the local Lutheran church. She really enjoys it. Nathan, 19, is in his first year at University of Texas in the Computer Science department. Last year, he was working in Texas to establish residency, for which [we] are happy. Our other children: Juliana, 19, is one of the 14 full-time professional dancers at our Cultural Arts Centre. She is hoping to start university sometime next year. Joanitha, 18, is studying to try and pass her Form IV exams better this year so that she can continue with her education. She is the best female violinist in Tanzania! Beti, 14, is in Standard 7 and trying to figure out what is what. Then we have the five goats, dog, and cat. It's never dull at our house.

Thanks for Ascension's prayers and support of the ministry here!

In His Hands.

Randy Stubbs,
(The missionary we support in Makumira, Tanzania)



Good Gifts of Ascension

It's not too early to think about Christmas shopping! Ascension is in the process of developing our own version of a catalog along the lines of the ELCA Good Gifts catalog or Heifer International. The beauty of our catalog is that because of our strong relationships with our partners and the collaborative efforts of churches in the Milwaukee area, all of the money will go directly to the projects without any overhead costs. More information to come in November!

Mt. Meru Coffee Project

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project began with a simple question asked by a small coffee farmer in the Diocese of Meru to a member of a delegation from the Greater Milwaukee Synod, "You drink coffee. We grow coffee. Why don't you buy your coffee from us?"

The Coffee Project has been selling quality Mt. Meru Coffee for over 14 years. Over that time, over 130 tons of coffee have been purchased, imported and sold, primarily to congregations within the Greater Milwaukee Synod. The number of farmers from whom coffee is being purchased has grown from several hundred to over 2,000! Because the Coffee Project pays a fair trade price for their coffee, these farmers have experienced an improvement in their standard of living and are better able to receive health care, send their children to school, and support their local parishes.

It would be fair to say that the sales of Mt. Meru Coffee has plateaued over the years. However, I would also speculate that there is still room to grow coffee sales to congregation members. Furthermore, a growth in the sales of Mt. Meru Coffee means that the Project can buy more coffee from more farmers in Tanzania, who can then experience an improvement in their standard of living. So I ask the same question as the farmer, **"You (Ascension members) drink coffee. We (Mt. Meru Coffee Project) sell coffee. Why don't you buy your coffee from us?"** Purchasing and drinking Mt. Meru Coffee continues to be the most effective way for people to support and work with their partners in Tanzania.

If you have been buying Mt. Meru Coffee, thank you for your purchases. We hope you will continue to enjoy the excellent flavor and help the farmers. If you have NOT been buying Mt. Meru Coffee, I challenge you to try it. Not only will you be drinking a great coffee, but you will be helping to improve the lives of our partners in



Tanzania.

In July, the Bishop challenged every congregation involved in the Coffee Project to sell just five more bags a month to help reduce inventory and improve cash flow. I think we can do better than that! I know that not all coffee is consumed at home. There are coffee shops, restaurants, and convenience stores where coffee is purchased and consumed. However, I would also like to challenge all Ascension coffee drinkers to make Mt. Meru Coffee the exclusive coffee to drink at home.

Mt. Meru Coffee is available for purchase every Sunday from the coffee cart in the narthex. It is available in Whole Bean, Drip and Perk Grinds, in both Regular and Decaf, at a cost of \$10 for a 12 oz bag. If you like something a bit different, we will be serving flavored coffees during the month of October. Give it a try.

Dave Hammer

God's Work. Our Hands. Send a Child to School

The God's Work. Our Hands. campaign continues throughout Ascension's small group study. Please encourage members of your small group to participate in Send a Child to School for the sake of the students in our partnership congregations in Tanzania. Small groups, families, or individuals may participate. It was the wish of Pr. Lema when he visited last year that more of the children could get an education so they could have better lives and a future. The tuition for a year of school is a bag of maize and a bag of corn which is about \$42 in American money. Additional costs include, a uniform for \$7 and books for \$11. You may donate to provide one of these items or cover the total cost for one child for a year of school for \$60. This is a simple way we can make a big difference for these children. In true accompaniment, we are responding to the needs that they identified. This is truly God's work flowing through our hands.

Outreach for Hope Bike Ride a Success!

Thank you to the more than 50 Ascension members who participated as riders or volunteers in the Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride on Sept. 10. While we greatly appreciate all participants, we especially commend those hardy souls who rode or volunteered in the rain. Once again, Ascension led all churches in total participation!

A special thanks also goes out to those Ascension members who supported the riders and volunteers with donations. Through the middle of September, the Ascension Spirit Spinners Team lead all teams with over \$2,500 raised. A final update will be included in the November newsletter.

Again, thanks for your strong support of Outreach for Hope. It is through your efforts that Outreach for Hope is able to fund the ministries of churches serving in low income communities. These ministries include: medical care, summer neighborhood camps, after school tutoring, job counseling, groceries, clothing, meals, and more. These ministries do more than give aid and services; they give people a place to know they are valued and loved, a place where emotional and spiritual resources are made real in God's love through communities of faith, and a place that is a beacon of hope in the midst of their neighborhoods.

Jeff Kirk

Spirit Spinners Team Captain

Hope Center Events

Ascension's history with Hope Center began in the planning stages almost 30 years ago and its start as the M&M building, Mission and Ministry. Local pastors saw the need for an outreach ministry to help the most vulnerable in our community. Hope Center has been helping local families with basic. All the programs focus on the prevention of homelessness. There is no greater need than reliable shelter to instill hope. Ministries include outreach meals, day center, clothing shop, Project Move, and financial aid. All these are provided free of charge and delivered in a respectful and welcoming manner. Ascension continues to support Hope Center through our budget, participating in fund raising events, offering volunteer hours and donations. Please consider participating in the following events that make the ministries possible.

The 6th Annual Run/Walk for Hope will be held on Oct. 8, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., at Carroll University. This fun way to raise money for Hope Center will include a 5K Run, a 3K Walk, and a ½ mile fun run for kids. Go to Hope Center's website to register, www.HopeCenterWi.org.

The 18th Annual HOPE Thanksgiving Dinner and Auction will be held on Nov. 17 with cocktails and silent auction at 5 p.m. Dinner and live auction will begin at 7 p.m. at Country Springs Hotel, Pewaukee. This gala dinner event will include raffles, games, and a time to share in fellowship. The cost is \$85/person. Please contact Pr. Ted Romberg if you are able to attend so that we can fill a couple Ascension tables.

If you can't attend the event, please consider donating a basket for the silent auction. Small groups can work together to plan and provide a themed basket. It can be fun to put together and will bring support for this much needed program. Contact Shirley Wehmeier for more information on to donate, pwehmeier@wi.rr.com.



Little Free Library

Ascension's Little Free Library has been a success thanks to all of you who have donated books. A goal of Vision 2020 in Mission Outreach is to be seen as a welcoming congregation to those who live in our neighborhood. The Little Free Library has been a big step in this direction. Not only are we seen as a church who cares for the children in the neighborhood, we are helping them become more successful students since reading is the backbone of all learning. Thanks again to all who have donated books. The need continues so please remember to drop your books off in the West Hall Donation Center.

YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

Council News

Ascension and fall are synonymous with increased opportunities to learn, to serve, and to grow. Throughout His time on earth, Jesus constantly challenged, encouraged, and admonished His followers to discard old attitudes and ways of thinking and acting and pointed them in the direction of new attitudes and new ways of thinking and acting.

Kelly Hoeg, Director of Ministry, meets regularly with the wing leaders and reports their activities to council. Each wing works diligently to provide new and exciting ways to engage the members and friends of Ascension. There are multiple opportunities for children, teens and adults to explore new ways of thinking, new attitudes, and ways of acting out faith in Jesus. All are welcome to join a small group, a class, or other ministry at any time.

An update on the budget process: budget requests have been received from all the leaders. The budget team will begin to meet to use the information in the context of our vision statement. The budget team will provide a report to the council for review and revisions. We will then have an opportunity on two Sunday mornings in late October for members to ask questions about the budget details. The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 12 p.m., beginning with a potluck. At that time, the final budget will be presented for a vote. Please include this process in your prayers.

Paul Wehmeier

Council President

Financial Report

In August, the contributions were less than budgeted, and the actual expenses were greater than budgeted. This resulted in a significant deficit for the month. In the September newsletter, Pastor Chris wrote, "September is always a month of homecomings and moments of beginning again."

I look forward this fall to the possibilities of renewing our relationship with God, each other, and the church.

Patti Mueller

Treasurer

<i>General Fund Activity</i>	August 2016 Actual	August 2016 Budget	Variance to 2016 Budget
Income			
<i>Contributions</i>	\$38,931.77	\$45,475.00	(\$6,543.23)
<i>Rent, Interest, other income</i>	\$1,916.96	\$3,720.83	(\$1,803.87)
<i>Restricted Income</i>	\$2,500.00	\$3,500.00	(\$1,000.00)
Total Income	\$43,348.73	\$52,695.83	(\$9,347.10)
Expenses			
<i>Communications</i>	\$1,969.96	\$1,991.66	(\$21.70)
<i>Facilities</i>	\$13,132.70	\$8,758.32	\$4,374.38
<i>Financial Development</i>	\$3,819.04	\$3,756.00	\$63.04
<i>Leadership Development</i>	\$0.00	\$33.33	(\$33.33)
<i>Administration</i>	\$21,408.97	\$22,280.91	(\$871.94)
<i>Caring Relationships</i>	\$2,939.60	\$2,345.25	\$594.35
<i>Joyful Worship</i>	\$6,842.12	\$8,054.49	(\$1,612.37)
<i>Mission Outreach</i>	\$5,224.71	\$4,108.34	(\$1,116.37)
<i>Spiritual Growth</i>	\$6,394.74	\$6,971.90	(\$577.16)
Total Expenses	\$61,731.84	\$58,700.20	\$3,031.64
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$18,383.11)	(\$6,004.37)	(\$12,378.74)
Mortgage Balance	\$697,094.75		
Restricted Funds Balance	\$148,543.89		
General Fund Balance	(\$36,634)		
Ascension Arise Contributions	\$8,744.26		
Restricted Contributions	\$0		

Executive Staff

Lead Pastor

Rev. Christian W. Marien
PC@ascensionelca.org

Pastor

Rev. Angela T. Khabeb
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 - Joyful Worship & Spiritual Growth

Amy Stryker
AmyS@ascensionelca.org

Administrator - Caring Relationships & Mission Outreach

Kate Mattson
Kate@ascensionelca.org

Praise Band Leader

Ben Janzow
Ben_janzow@yahoo.com

Nursery Staff

Becca Tenwinkel
Victoria Kirk

Church Council

President

Paul Wehmeier
paulkw@wi.rr.com

First Vice President

Cynthia Carlson
cynthiac1966@live.com

Second Vice President

Craig Greenwood
ctgreenwood1@att.net

Secretary

Marcy Schaefer
marcymyschaefer@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Patti Mueller
mombski@aol.com

Council Members-at-Large

Alan Gilgenbach
al@gilgenbach.net

Bryn Kirk
brynkirk@gmail.com

Becky Klotz
becky.klotz23@yahoo.com

Roger Nordberg
rbnordberg@gmail.com

Jeremy Poling
polingj@alumni.msoc.edu

Cathy Rapp
catherinerapp@sbcglobal.net

Team Leaders

Director of Ministries

Kelly Hoeg
khoeg@wi.rr.com

Director of Operations

Peter Laper
Peterlaper@gmail.com



Ascension

LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA

1415 Dopp St.
Waukesha, WI 53188
262-547-8518
www.ascensionelca.org
[Facebook.com/ascensionlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/ascensionlutheran)

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

9 a.m.—5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9 a.m.—3 p.m.

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:30am BP checks 9:45am Puppets EH 10pm New members, PC's ofc 10:45 Worship 12pm Service Project 5pm PA's sm grp 6pm AA beginner 7pm AA closed</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Private Nr 5:30pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Line Dancing EH 6:30pm AMEN 107</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30am Early Bird AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5pm GriefShare dinner, WH 6pm GriefShare, YR 6:30pm Mission Outreach, 107</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8am Private PR 9am YAH @ Denny's 9:30am Meal @ Cross 12pm Private NR 12:30pm Women's Nurture, PR 2pm Staff Mtg 6pm Ringers 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom, WH 7:30pm Choir S 7:30pm Mikecz Grp PR</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10am Al-Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir 5:30pm Joyful Sounds 6pm Youth Bells 6:30pm JOLT EH/WH/S 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:30pm Safe Driving Class 107</p>	<p>8</p> <p>2pm Bishop Installation @ St. Matthew's, Wauwatosa</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:45am BLAST 9:45am 3rd Gr Stepping Stone EH 9:45am Exec Com PR 10:45 Worship 5pm PA's sm grp 6pm AA beginner 7pm AA closed</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Private Nr 1pm Living Letters 106 6pm Line Dancing EH 6:30pm AMEN 107</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30am Early Bird AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5pm GriefShare dinner, WH 6pm GriefShare, YR 7pm Holloway Sm Grp 107</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8am Private PR 11:45am Men's Nurture 106 12pm Private NR 6pm Ringers 6pm Grace Group 7pm AA Wisdom, WH 7:30pm Choir S 7:30pm Mikecz Grp PR</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am Al-Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir 5:30pm Joyful Sounds 6pm Youth Bells 6:30pm JOLT EH/WH/S 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8am Blood Drive WH 8:30am Knit Fest EH</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:45am BLAST 9:45am Puppets EH 10pm New members, PC's ofc 10:45 Worship 12pm Private EH, EH 5pm PA's sm grp 6pm CRASH YR, S 7pm AA Open mtg EH</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Private Nr 5:30pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Line Dancing EH 6:30pm AMEN 107 7pm Military WH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30am Early Bird AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5pm GriefShare dinner, WH 6pm GriefShare, YR 7pm Council 107</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8am Private PR 12pm Private NR 12pm YAH Potluck EH 12:30 Women's Grp PR 2pm Staff Meeting 6pm Ringers 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom, WH 7:30pm Choir S 7:30pm Mikecz Grp, PR</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10am Al-Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir 5:30pm Joyful Sounds 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5pm CRASH Fright Hike Lapham Peak</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:30am Worship @ Cross 9:45am BLAST 9:45am Puppets 10:45 Worship 5pm PA's sm grp 6pm CRASH YR EH,S 6pm AA beginner 7pm AA closed WH</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Private Nr 6:30pm AMEN 107</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30am Early Bird AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6pm Private EH 5pm GriefShare dinner, WH 6pm GriefShare, YR 7pm Holloway 107</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8am Private PR 12pm Private NR 6pm Ringers 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom, WH 7:30pm Choir S 7:30pm Mikecz Sm Grp, PR</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10am Al-Anon WH 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>4pm Bogie Ordination S, EH, WH</p>
<p>30 REFORMATION</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:45am BLAST 10:45am Worship 12pm Praise Band 5:30pm Daniel PI 107 6pm CRASH YR EH,S 6pm AA beginner 7pm AA closed</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Private Nr 6:30pm AMEN 107</p>	<div> <p>KEY</p> <p>EH East Hall PR Prayer Room</p> <p>HR Hearth Room S Sanctuary</p> <p>N Narthex WH West Hall</p> <p>NR Nursery YR Youth Room</p> </div>				