

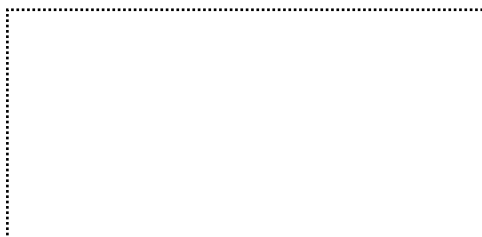


*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA  
February 2017

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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### Pastoral Acts

#### Baptisms:

Cooper Moeller

January 1, 2017

Joseph Mohr

January 1, 2017

Ivy Adsit

January 19, 2017

#### Funerals:

Beverly Jones

January 7, 2017

A. Dorothy Zipfel

January 11, 2017

Maxwell Adsit

January 19, 2017



**D**ear People of God,  
One of my favorite gifts in ministry was the worship service I attended where the following words were shared before the beginning of communion:

*From all corners of the earth, Christ invites everyone who hungers to this table. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more. Come to this table, you who have been to this sacrament often and you who have not been for a long time. Come to this table, you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come to this table for Christ invites us to meet God here.*

I have been grateful to hear from visitors on Sundays that someone from the congregation took the time to say hello. I was even more grateful to hear from a colleague who anonymously worshipped with us. She said, "Not only were we greeted during worship, but after worship those same people sought us out and introduced themselves by name." What joy that brings to the pastor's heart!

Our worship will always be a place of welcome. Every Sunday offers the invitation to the altar of God for bread and wine and the welcome of our God. I am grateful to God that the disciples who sit in our church remember their own welcome to God's table and, in turn, invite others to join them.

There is always room for one more at God's table. Who might you invite to join you in the days ahead?

*Rev. Christian Marien*

## Love Your Church/Love Your World Month

As the world (and the Hallmark Company) will celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14, here at Ascension we invite you to consider celebrating the gift of love in a slightly different way. During the month of February, we are celebrating Love your Church/Love your World month. On the windows of the sanctuary are a variety of hearts with different items the church can us in this new year.

Along with the items the church is seeking to assist in ministry in 2017, we are also inviting you to consider items that will be shared with our "In Our Own Backyard" ministries that are local expressions of God's love. Here in Waukesha, we will be tending: Healing Hearts of Waukesha County, Hope Center, Hebron House, and the Women's Center. We will also be giving to the Cross Food Pantry.

The great gift in giving through Love Your Church/Love Your World month is in sharing in the journey of faith we wall walk together as the people of God.



## Children's Choirs

Children of Ascension are invited to join our Children's Choir programs on Thursdays:

Angel Choir (4K-3), 5-5:30 p.m. – Music Room  
 Joyful Sounds (grades 4-8), 5:30-6 p.m. - Sanctuary  
 Youth Ringers (grades 4-8), 6:00-6:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Each of the ensembles participates in worship approximately once each month, rotating between the 8:30 and 10:45 services. Children are welcome and encouraged to join at any time throughout the school year. Bring a friend! Please contact [vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:vicki@ascensionelca.org) with questions or to join.

## Rise Up! A Jazz Liturgy of Hope

You are invited to attend the premiere of Rise Up! A Jazz Liturgy of Hope, a new liturgy for worship composed by Pastor Frank Janzow on Saturday, Feb. 25, 5:30 p.m., at Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, in Milwaukee. The event honors Black History Month and will benefit Outreach for Hope, a ministry of the ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod serving impoverished communities in our area. A reception will follow worship.

The premiere of Rise Up will be presented by an instrumental ensemble including piano, bass, guitar, trumpet, saxophone, flute, violin, along with a "Flash Mob Choir." If you are interested in joining the choir for the premier, email [fdjanzow@gmail.com](mailto:fdjanzow@gmail.com) and plan to attend a rehearsal on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m. at Mount Carmel.

## The Seven Last Words of Christ

Ascension is co-sponsoring a community performance of Theodore Dubois' sacred cantata The Seven Last Words of Christ. This beautiful and moving work will be presented by area church choirs, including Ascension, St. John's Lutheran (Brookfield), Church of the Resurrection (Hartland), St. Luke's Lutheran (Waukesha), and First Congregational (Wauwatosa), in addition to the Carroll University Chamber Singers and area soloists and instrumentalists under the direction of Dr. Mark Aamot, Professor Emeritus, Carroll University. The concert will close with the beloved When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.

Please plan to join the Ascension Choir on Sunday, March 5, at 4 p.m., in Shattuck Auditorium at Carroll University as we begin our Lenten journey with The Seven Last Words of Christ. A free-will offering will benefit Hope Center.





## SPIRITUAL GROWTH



### CRASH Movie Night

CRASH students – join us for a fun movie night at Ascension on Friday, Feb. 17, from 6-9 p.m. Some appetizers and beverages will be provided, but bring a snack or dessert to share. The movie is TBD and will be posted the Sunday before.



### Chili Cook-off Fundraiser

Looking for a spicy diversion from the cold winter gloom? CRASH is hosting our annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 5-6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5/ person or \$20/family. Tickets will be on sale in the narthex following worship services throughout February and are also available at the door the night of the event. Come sample a variety of amazing chili's from a number of talented contestants and enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship, and games for all ages including raffles and door prizes.

Think your chili has what it takes to be the best? If so, then consider entering your chili for only \$25/ team. The Chili Queenz all-student team is coming off a dominating victory from last year so you'll have to bring your absolute best if you want to win coveted bragging rights of Best Church Chili and your name on the champions plaque. Thank you for supporting our CRASH students as they raise money for their summer mission trip. Questions? Contact Tony at [tony@ascensionelca.org](mailto:tony@ascensionelca.org) or 262-547-8518.

## BLAST

Feb. 5 Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-20)  
Feb. 12 Jesus Teacher About Anger (Matthew 5:21-37)  
Feb. 19 Love Your Enemies (Matthew 5:38-48)  
Feb. 26 Transfiguration Sunday / Puppet Performance / The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13)

\*Throughout the month of February the students in fifth grade will be learning about the puppet ministry and working with them to take part in a performance on Sunday, Feb. 26.

## JOLT

JOLT will meet throughout February during its regularly scheduled Thursday evening 6:30– 8 p.m. time.

## CRASH

Feb. 5 12:30–2:30 p.m. Mime Lunch & Rehearsal  
Feb. 12 12:30–2:30 p.m. Mime Lunch & Rehearsal  
Feb. 17 6–9 p.m. CRASH Movie Night  
Feb. 19 12:30–2:30 p.m. Mime Lunch & Rehearsal  
Feb. 25 5–6:30 p.m. Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser  
Feb. 26 12:30–2:30 p.m. Mime Lunch & Rehearsal





## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Trust the Lord and do good. Live in the land and feed on truth. Enjoy serving the Lord, and He will give you what you want. Depend on the Lord; trust Him, and He will take care of you. Then your goodness will shine like the sun and your fairness like the noonday sun.

~ Psalm 37:3-6



### I.C.A.N.! - Intentional Caring Acts Now!

*I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength. (Phillippians 4:13)*

*I can pray! (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

It has been a month since the Prayer Team invited the Ascension family to take a step in faith-sharing through a commitment to do Intentional Caring Acts Now (daily). If you decided to participate, you can be sure that your caring acts made a difference in many lives. You showed the lonely that they matter; you showed hope to a person going through hard times. You gave a reason to smile to someone who thought there were no kind people left. You gave a child encouragement that will completely change their life, which had been headed in a wrong direction. Your Intentional Caring Acts Now! are powerful. Praying is powerful.

If you haven't made a commitment to participate there is still time to do something today! Get your family involved and discuss at your evening meal what your I.C.A.N.!s were for the day.

Please join us for a hour of prayer from 5:30-6:30 the first and third Mondays of the month in the Prayer Room.

*Bonnie Thiesenhusen*, prayer team member

### Thrivent Members Can Help

As Ascension's Thrivent Advocate, I highly suggest, Thrivent members, log onto [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) for information on Choice Dollars and the Thrivent Choice Program. Depending on the policy/ies you have, monies are put into a special fund that can be distributed any way you choose to support your passion in ministry. Thrivent Choice dollars can be used right at Ascension and can go directly to the church. You can also choose other non-profits that can be found on Thrivent's website. If you have questions, you can call 1-800-THRIVENT. Ask for *Choice Dollars*. Those choice dollars can be directed until March. Then if you don't call or choose, you lose.

Ascension has many Mission Outreach opportunities for Thrivent Action Teams. Sarah Aparicio is looking for Thrivent members who can help sponsor projects, which will take place during the El Salvador trip. You can contact Sarah, [weh22@hotmail.com](mailto:weh22@hotmail.com), or myself,

[donnasavin@att.net](mailto:donnasavin@att.net), and we can help you apply for seed money. This money will help Mission Outreach do the hands-on projects that are being planned.

[Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) has the form online to fill out. The form needs to be completed 21 days prior to the event. You will receive marketing materials, t-shirts, and seed money. The site has plenty of interesting suggestions and videos to introduce you to the program/s. It all starts with an idea powered by your passion to be of service to our community. You can also check with the Ascension's Wing Leaders for service projects, fundraisers, or education. If you are a new member of Ascension, please contact Thrivent and let them know you are now a member at Ascension. Changes are not made to the corporate office unless you contact them.

Blessings on all of our ministries new and current.

*Donna Savin*, advocate



## Gratitude

### From Marvin Goetter

Thanks for your prayers and cards as I struggled with numerous complications following my successful hip surgery. My hip is doing fine, it's just all the other stuff! Maddie and I really appreciate your support. Your concern shows how special the Ascension family really is!

Thanks again, *Marvin and Maddie Goetter*

### From the Family of Bev Jones

We're grateful for the second loving home you provided for Beverly. She and Don spoke of you often and affectionately. It was an absolute pleasure for me accompanying her to church in her last months and getting to know some of her friends there.

Thank you, *Marcella Jones*

### From the VA

On behalf of the Milwaukee Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donations of blankets and lapghans for the Veterans. Your wonderful donation will help keep the Veterans warm during the upcoming winter season. Thank you for thinking of the Veterans who come to the VA Medical Center for care and attention. Your donation demonstrates your concern for America's heroes, as well as the service our Veterans have given to our country.

Sincerely, *Carrie Waschitz*, Chief, Voluntary Service

### Cloverleaf Preschool Thanks You!

I would like to thank all of you that donated boots, snowsuits, hats, and mittens to Cloverleaf Preschool this winter. The drive was a success and the children will be able to go outside and enjoy our winter weather with appropriate snow gear. Thank you!

### From Wartburg Seminary

On behalf of the Wartburg Theological Seminary community, it is my privilege to thank you for your recent gift of \$500 to the student account fund of Anthony Acompanado. As we begin 2017, Wartburg is reminded of the many blessings we have received throughout the past year. We are thankful for your generosity, prayers, and support. Thank you for being a valued partner in the formation of future pastors, lay leaders, chaplains, and teachers in congregations and communities of faith throughout the country and the world.

In Christ, *Diane Brondyke*, Director for Annual Giving and Operations

# CARING RELATIONSHIPS



## Leadership Changes

We extend our gratitude to Sheri Greger as the leader of Ascension's Military Family Ministry. She has chosen to step down as the leader due to family priorities. Sheri, thank you for your vibrant energy and passion for this ministry! You will be missed!

With Sheri's departure, Care Ministries is looking for new leaders for the Military Family Ministry! Please contact Brenda if you have a desire to do this, [brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:brenda@ascensionelca.org).

Thanks to Tanya Maas and Amy James for volunteering to lead our College Care Ministry.

They will be a great team to ensure our Ascension college kids feel supported. Finally, a big thank you to Marcy Schaefer and Erica Probst for their willingness to coordinate the Care Ministries Plant Sale. Your leadership is a gift!

## Care Ministries Message

I am passionate about health and wellness promotion. Perhaps that is why I have chosen to pursue the profession of nursing. Do you have goals in mind to become healthier and get in better shape this year? Committing to an exercise routine comes with great health benefits. Ascension has health and wellness programs for all ages. We have ongoing yoga classes on Mondays from 6-7 p.m. through Feb. 13 at a very affordable rates of only \$12 for six weeks. This class is held in East Hall and is taught by Jessica Popp, an excellent, certified yoga instructor. We've also had Christian Music Line Dancing. Linda Elder will teach this class again this spring. If you have any other classes that promote health and wellness that you would like to see offered at Ascension, please contact Brenda Lytle, [brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:brenda@ascensionelca.org).

*Brenda Lytle*, Director of Care Ministries

*Ascension has health and wellness programs  
for all ages.*

## SOS Ministry 2017

With the new year, SOS Angels Ministry is launching a new approach to making Ascension members aware of a need of one of our fellow congregation members. SOS has struggled to find help with requests, and often times, I have heard the need has been satisfied, "I wish I had known..."

Going forward, when our pastors, Director of Care Ministries, or I receive an SOS need, we will first determine if it is indeed something that we can help with; then I will have the request placed in Ascension's e-alert, giving all the details of the specific need, including the dates and times. I will also place notices in worship bulletins and pastors' announcements. You will then be able to sign up to help through Signup Genius. The idea is to be able to reach out to as many of you as possible and quickly.

I would love for each individual in our congregation to see yourselves as SOS Angels and know you are included in this ministry whether you officially sign up or not. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are taught to love and help one another. And don't we? Maybe we cannot do EVERYTHING but we can help with ONE thing...or two.

Please take a little time each week to check the church e-alert and bulletins for any requests that are posted. Maybe there will be request that you can be an SOS Angel for? You never know when it may be you sending an SOS. If you have any questions or ideas to improve communication, please contact me at 262 548 0351 or [njdraeger@msn.com](mailto:njdraeger@msn.com).

*Nada Draeger*, SOS leader





## Young at Heart

Are you facing the cabin fever blues of winter? Young at Heart has opportunities for you to get out and enjoy the company of others. Share breakfast at Denny's on Grandview Blvd., the first Wednesday of each month. No need to register, just show up. We start at 9 a.m. and end whenever we must leave. Join us February 1!

You can also enjoy a potluck luncheon the third Wednesday of each month, in Ascension's East Hall. Again, no need to register, just show up. Bring a dish to pass if you are able. (There is always enough food). We say a prayer, eat, socialize, and play games of anyone's choice. We start at noon and leave by 3 p.m.

You have another chance to beat back those winter blues on the fourth Wednesday of the month. A group meets at a home to play Bunco. This starts at 1 p.m. and finishes by 4 p.m.

Finally, several times each year YAH plans an outing. Watch for further news on these. Hope to see you at one or all of these events. If you have questions, contact Celeste Defenbaugh at 262-370-4522, Beth Hoffmann at 262-542-7447, or Arlene Davis at 262-542-9119.

## Winter GriefShare Program

Are you suffering from loss and struggling with the pain of grief? Are you angry, depressed, lonely, or stuck in grief? Care Ministries has an excellent support group available at Ascension on Tuesday nights, through March 28, from 6-7 p.m., in the Youth Room. Our GriefShare program helps participants not only from our own church but from our outside community as well. The facilitator is Kathy Kuhn, who has extensive experience with grief programs. Free meals are provided to our participants beginning at 5:30 p.m. in West Hall.

## GriefShare Meal Volunteers

Do you have a small or large group that is looking for some service work at Ascension? Perhaps you would like to make a meal for our GriefShare program - for people that enjoy a meal in the company of others. If you are interested please sign up on the Care Ministries bulletin board or contact Brenda Lytle, [brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:brenda@ascensionelca.org). Thank you!

## TEA=Teach, Encourage, Achieve

Join us Sunday, Feb. 5, during Children's Ministry time (9:45-10:30) for TEA Time in the prayer room. Enjoy tea, goodies and conversation. You are welcome to bring your little ones who are not in BLAST or leave them in the nursery. Hope to see you there. If you have questions, e-mail Ileen Marien, [ileenmarien@gmail.com](mailto:ileenmarien@gmail.com).

# CARING RELATIONSHIPS



## Small Groups: Lenten Journey, March 5– April 8

**J**oin Ascension's Small Group Lenten Journey video series *The Me I Want to Be* by bestselling author and pastor John Ortberg. Ortberg guides participants to discover spiritual vitality like never before.

The *Me I Want to Be* small group Bible study is a powerful look at becoming the unique, fully alive, flourishing person God intended. John Ortberg teaches, through five sessions, how you can move toward becoming God's best version of you in four specific areas: your mind, your time, your relationships, and your experiences.

There is a me each of one of us wants to be... someone who's more kind and generous, patient, and loving. But there is a gap between the me I am and the me I want to be. Oftentimes, we find it easy to trust God to bridge the gap between us and God, but we struggle to really live by grace and trust God to close the gap between the me I am and the me I want to be. Becoming God's best version of you is both God's desire and the greatest task of your life. And here's the good news... God is already working on it. Your life is God's project, not yours.

Spiritual growth can seem difficult or intimidating, but John Ortberg's humor and innovative thinking in *The Me I Want to Be* will leave you challenged, inspired, and hopeful about true spiritual growth happening in you and your small group. John will challenge you to go deeper and grow stronger in your spiritual walk as you experience God more fully each day. This is going to be a great time for personal growth and, by extension, growth in the entire congregation and the Body of Christ.

Rich discussion awaits!  
Sessions include:

1. Discovering the Spirit
2. Renewing My Mind
3. Redeeming My Time
4. Deepening My Relationships
5. Transforming My Experience

**Join us as we grow in faith! Current small group leaders and those interested in leading a new group should contact Pr. Angela at [pa@ascensionelca.org](mailto:pa@ascensionelca.org) by February 8 so materials can be ordered.**



## A Taste of The Daniel Plan

**F**or many small business owners like us, a major stressor and financial drain is the rising cost of health insurance. A couple of years ago, our accountant told us about an opportunity to help us reduce our health insurance costs which turned out to be a major blessing in our lives. We joined a Christian health sharing organization known as Samaritan Ministries. Each month, rather than sending a premium to some huge insurance conglomerate, we send a check to a fellow Christian with a medical need. It is a tremendous feeling to pray for and help out a specific person with a name and a face rather than contributing to the construction of another skyscraper.

We'd like to share a story with you that illustrates why we dedicate our lives to educating people on living a healthy lifestyle through the Daniel Plan. An incredible thing happened to us last month as we were putting the finishing touches on last month's Daniel Plan article. I (Steve) was reading the final draft of the article to Carol. As I read the final sentence, "Why not make a resolution...no, make a DECISION that this is the year you will start treating your body with the same loving care that Christ shows you?" In a moment of disillusionment, I thought to myself, "Does anybody really read this? Will anybody act on this?" Well, we know people read the article because they tell us they do, but still it made me wonder.

Deflated, I went to get the mail. To my surprise, in our mailbox was an envelope with a return address from a vaguely familiar person that I couldn't quite place. Shortly after I opened the letter and started reading the letter, I was overcome by emotion and had to stop reading for a moment. Turns out, the letter was from one of the Samaritan Ministries recipients to whom we had sent a check several months back to help cover their medical expenses.

I began reading the letter from Chester to Carol. He thanked us for our prayers. He also thanked God for allowing the cancer to take control over his body and for getting his attention in a way he could no longer ignore. He went on, "It has been four months since I had a cancerous tumor removed from my abdominal wall. I chose not to go through radiation or chemotherapy. I chose instead to take the natural route of immunotherapy which included heavy IV infusions of different vitamins and a big change in my diet. This helped build my immune system back up so that it could fight the cancer cells. Now my body seems to be in better health than it has been in years. My quality of life has been drastically improved. The Apostle Paul tells me in 1st and 2nd Corinthians that if the Holy Spirit is in me, then my body is a temple of God. I needed to take better care of the temple and God has shown me the way to do just that."

God answered Chester's prayer and Chester inspired us with a great testimonial to what The Daniel Plan can do for everyone.

*Steve & Carol Spieker*



**We plan on starting another Daniel Plan group soon. Please contact us if you are interested, [scspieker@budgetblinds.com](mailto:scspieker@budgetblinds.com).**

## MISSION OUTREACH: PARTNERSHIPS



### THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *Mardi Gras Ball!*

Benefiting Cross Lutheran Church Community Ministries,  
including Youth and Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017

Sheraton Brookfield • 375 S. Moorland Road  
Dinner • Dancing • Silent Auction • and More!

Learn more at [crosslutheranmilwaukee.com](http://crosslutheranmilwaukee.com)



## Cross Lutheran Church Partnership

### Mardi Gras

Feb. 17 is the date of this year's Mardi Gras. This special event begins at 5:30 p.m., at the Sheraton in Brookfield, at 375 S. Mooreland Rd. It is a great night of fun and fund raising with our sisters and brothers at Cross along with other partners. You will be treated to good food, laughter, music and friendship. Funds raised support the Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry: Meal, Food Pantry, AODA, Community Ministries, and Cross youth programs.

Tickets are \$75 per person or a table of eight for \$600 and a table of ten for \$750. We are hoping to fill two tables for this fun way to help support our partners. For more information and to register, contact Shirley Wehmeier, [pwehmeier@wi.rr.com](mailto:pwehmeier@wi.rr.com) or Dave Hammer, [d-bhammer@wi.rr.com](mailto:d-bhammer@wi.rr.com).

Cross is also in need of items for the auction at the ball. Please contact Pat Coleman at 414-540-2184.

### *Souper Bowl* Competition

It is almost here! We can't wait for the *Souper Bowl* Competition. For the third year in a row, Mission Outreach is sponsoring the famous Ascension *Souper Bowl* Competition for the month of February beginning on *Souper Bowl* Sunday, Feb. 5. During the entire month of February, we will accept donations of cans of soup for the Cross Food Pantry. We invite individuals, families, small groups, committees, Sunday School classes, etc, to sign on for the challenge. We will post progress on the Mission Outreach Facebook page and announce the winner at the end of the month. Remember - every week, 200 bags are filled at Cross for those in need in their community, so if we collect 200 cans, we provide one can of soup for each recipient for one week. Let's see how many weeks of soup we can supply! What a fun way to help those in need!

If we collect 200 cans,  
we provide one can of  
soup for each recipient  
for one week. Let's see  
how many weeks of  
soup we can supply!

## El Salvador Sunday: February 19

Feb. 19 is El Salvador Sunday. This will be a chance to learn more about our partners in El Salvador and to experience some shared worship experiences. Even if you never travel on a mission trip, learning more about our Christian brothers and sisters in our global partnerships will enhance your understanding of the world-wide church. "For God so loved the **world** that He gave His only begotten Son."



## Literacy and Refugees

**I**n December, Mission Outreach launched a new ministry to address the barriers for refugees and new immigrants who live in our community. Ascension has long been a welcoming home to refugees from all over the world. Jo Buth continues to work with refugees from Burma and has identified the need to learn English as their greatest barrier to success. When we started to work with The Literacy Council of Greater Waukesha, we anticipated six students might participate. By mid-January, we had 23 students! Each week, we have had one or two new students. We have 21 volunteers. The volunteers work in teams so students become familiar with more than one tutor and to allow for times for tutors to miss a session without interrupting the learning process. Students are grouped by their English ability not by their first language. We are already seeing the benefit of the relationship, not only between student and tutor, but also between the students and between the tutors. One of the tutors emailed me and said, “I can really feel that God is touching my life through this program.”

As a goal in Vision 2025 for Mission Outreach, the need was identified to do more “in our own backyard” outreach. This program is a direct response to the community need and fits our vision and goals.

We anticipate that the program will grow, so we continue to welcome more volunteers. In addition to tutoring, we have a need for volunteers in the following areas: babysitting for a small child so mom can attend, assisting with resources, and assisting a tutor with a group. Contact Shirley Wehmeier ([pwehmeier@wi.rr.com](mailto:pwehmeier@wi.rr.com)), Jo Buth, or Barbara Nordberg ([bnordberg@wi.rr.com](mailto:bnordberg@wi.rr.com)) if you are interested.



*I can really feel that God is touching  
my life through this program. ~  
literacy tutor*

## Winter Shelter

The men's overflow shelter at the old Northview School has been welcoming guests since the first of January. The need for supplies will continue through April. Donna Savin is leading a collection for bedding, towels, disposable dishware, non-perishable food items. Financial donations of \$30 can provide shelter for one individual for one night or help provide a motel room for women and children when the current shelters are full.

The shelter offers personal sleeping space; breakfast; bathroom and shower facilities; transportation to and from the location; and an array of support services, such as job and housing searches, mental health services, and alcohol and drug abuse counseling, to assist guests in gaining independence and stability. The shelter is open seven days a week from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

# ADMINISTRATION

## Office Changes

We will be making changes to church office staffing and hours in February. Amy Stryker, Administrator for Joyful Worship & Spiritual Growth, is leaving us to pursue an opportunity for full-time work. We will definitely miss her but are pleased that she will remain an important part of our congregation.

With her leaving, we will be reviewing job descriptions for all three of the office positions and potentially making changes. After that, we will begin the process of finding another office administrator.

We will also be adjusting office hours starting the week of Monday, Feb. 6. Monday through Thursday will remain 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. but Friday office hours will be 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday afternoons are very quiet.

We will also be using volunteers to help with coverage in the office until we can hire someone else. If you'd like to help, please contact me at [admin@ascensionelca.org](mailto:admin@ascensionelca.org) or [262-547-8518](tel:262-547-8518).

## Council News

The January meeting was the last meeting for several council members: Al Gilgenbach and Jeremy Poling, Council Members at Large; Marcy Schaefer, Secretary; and Paul Wehmeier, President. We thank these members for their faithful service. On Feb. 1, Cindy Carlson will become Council President. Craig Greenwood will be first Vice President and Jay O'Grady will be second Vice President. The new Secretary will be Linda Hansen. New Members-at-Large will be Aaron Niezwaag and Chris Holloway. Roger Nordberg will begin another two year term as Member-at-Large. Bryn Kirk, Becky Klotz, and Cathy Rapp will begin the final year of their two year terms as Members-at-Large. Installation of the new council will be at both church services on Jan. 29.

Patti Mueller has decided to step down from her position as Treasurer. We thank her for her dedicated service. Peter Laper, Director of Operations, will be responsible on an interim basis. Peter and Carol Spieker, Financial Team Leader, are already meeting to fill the Treasurer position. Per the bylaws, the council will approve a new treasurer to complete the year. Over the past years, our financial accounting system has evolved into a system that is cumbersome and no longer serves our congregation well. The council has committed itself to an expedited review and revision of the existing system.

The council gave final approval to a background check policy for church volunteers assisting vulnerable adult members and volunteers entrusted with financial affairs of the congregation. The congregation already has a Safe Sanctuary Policy which addresses adults working with the congregation's children.

We thank you for your general contributions at the end of 2016. We ask you to continue to pray and think about your response to God's generosity in your own life. We will be able to continue with tending to the ministries of bringing Christ to the world and to the needs of our members.

I personally want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Council President.

*Paul Wehmeier*, President

## Financial Report

December was fantastic! Ascension is a very giving congregation. Contributions for the month were \$80,595 and \$618,857 for the year. Ascension met the mission giving goal. Ascension ended the year with a loss of only \$1,432.00. This is significant as Ascension was facing a YTD loss of about \$26,000 at the end of November. What a month!

Looking to 2017: As a reminder, at the annual meeting, the congregation approved the 2017 budget, which includes total contributions being \$640,875.00. This is \$22,018 more in contributions than where the church ended the 2016 year. If each family gives \$127.00 a month, Ascension will meet the total annual budgeted contributions.

The 2017 budget also assumes there is a tenant residing at 412 Moreland for 5 months and then the home will be sold. As of January 15, 2017, the Moreland home has been vacant since mid-July 2016.

On a personal note: after much prayer, thought, and guidance from family, I have resigned from the Treasurer position effective Jan. 31, 2017. I am very thankful for the council's, the congregation's, and the pastors' support and prayers this past year as I learned the intricacies of the church's finances. Prayerfully, *Patti Mueller*, Treasurer



## Executive Staff

### Lead Pastor

Rev. Christian W. Marien  
[PC@ascensionelca.org](mailto:PC@ascensionelca.org)

### Pastor

Rev. Angela T. Khabeb  
[PA@ascensionelca.org](mailto:PA@ascensionelca.org)

### Director of Administration

Amy Gilgenbach  
[Admin@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Admin@ascensionelca.org)

### Director of Care Ministries

Brenda Lytle, RN  
[Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org)

### Director of Faith Formation

Tony Acompanado  
[Tony@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Tony@ascensionelca.org)

### Director of Music Ministries

Vicki Taylor  
[Vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Vicki@ascensionelca.org)

## Support Staff

### Administrator - Joyful Worship & Spiritual Growth

Amy Stryker  
[AmyS@ascensionelca.org](mailto:AmyS@ascensionelca.org)

### Administrator - Caring Relationships & Mission Outreach

Kate Mattson  
[Kate@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Kate@ascensionelca.org)

### Praise Band Leader

Ben Janzow  
[Ben\\_janzow@yahoo.com](mailto:Ben_janzow@yahoo.com)

### Nursery Staff

Becca Tenwinkel  
Victoria Kirk

## Ministry/Operations

### Director of Ministries

Kelly Hoeg  
[khoeg@wi.rr.com](mailto:khoeg@wi.rr.com)

### Director of Operations

Peter Laper  
[Peterlaper@gmail.com](mailto:Peterlaper@gmail.com)

## Church Council

### President

Cynthia Carlson  
[cynthiacarlsonalc@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiacarlsonalc@gmail.com)

### First Vice President

Craig Greenwood  
[ctgreenwood1@att.net](mailto:ctgreenwood1@att.net)

### Second Vice President

Jay O'Grady  
[jayograd@wi.rr.com](mailto:jayograd@wi.rr.com)

### Secretary

Linda Hansen  
[lindahansen@wi.rr.com](mailto:lindahansen@wi.rr.com)

### Treasurer, Interim

Peter Laper  
[Peterlaper@gmail.com](mailto:Peterlaper@gmail.com)

### Council Members-at-Large

Chris Holloway  
[Christine.holloway@cdw.com](mailto:Christine.holloway@cdw.com)

Bryn Kirk  
[brynkirk@gmail.com](mailto:brynkirk@gmail.com)

Becky Klotz  
[becky.klotz23@yahoo.com](mailto:becky.klotz23@yahoo.com)

Aaron Niezwaag

Roger Nordberg  
[rbnordberg@gmail.com](mailto:rbnordberg@gmail.com)

Cathy Rapp  
[catherinerapp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catherinerapp@sbcglobal.net)

## Wing Leaders

### Joyful Worship

Amy James  
[Jamesgang247@yahoo.com](mailto:Jamesgang247@yahoo.com)

### Spiritual Growth

Sheri Greger  
[Sheri\\_frogs@yahoo.com](mailto:Sheri_frogs@yahoo.com)

### Caring Relationships

Cheryl Anspach  
[cherylynnaa@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylynnaa@yahoo.com)

### Mission Outreach

Shirley Wehmeier  
[pwehmeier@wi.rr.com](mailto:pwehmeier@wi.rr.com)



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## OFFICE HOURS

### MONDAY-THURSDAY

9 a.m.—5 p.m.

### FRIDAY

9 a.m.—3 p.m.

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 8am Private PR 9am YAH Breakfast at Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 12pm Private NR 12:30pm Women's Nurture Group PR 3pm Tutoring 106, 107 6pm Ringers S 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>2</b> 10am Al-Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir MR 5:30pm Joyful Sounds S 6pm Youth Bells S 6:45pm JOLT EH, WH, S 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH
<b>5</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am BLAST 9:45 am TEA Time PR 10 am Adult Ed S 10:45 Worship 12pm Mime WH, N, S 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	<b>6</b> 9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Private NR 5pm Special Friends, Country Springs 5:30pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>7</b> 6:30am Early Bird AMEN 107 9:30 am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5:30pm GriefShare Dinner WH 6pm GriefShare YR 6:30pm Mission Outreach 107 7pm Mutual Ministry PR	<b>8</b> 8am Private PR 11:45am Men's Nurture Grp 106 12pm Private NR 2pm Staff Mtg. 3pm Tutoring 106, 107 6pm Ringers S 6:30pm TNT 7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>9</b> 10am Al-Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir MR 5:30pm Joyful Sounds S 6pm Youth Bells S 6:45pm JOLT EH, WH, S 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH
<b>12</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am BLAST 9:45am Tea Time PR 10 am Adult Ed S 10:45 Worship 12pm Mime WH, N, S 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	<b>13</b> 9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Private NR 1pm Living Letters 106 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>14</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 3pm Tutoring 106, 107 5:30pm GriefShare Dinner WH 6pm GriefShare YR 7pm Holloway Group 107	<b>15</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 8am Private PR 12pm Private NR 12pm YAH Potluck EH, WH 12:30pm Women's Nurture Grp PR 6pm Ringers S 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom, WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>16</b> 10am Al-Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir MR 5:30pm Joyful Sounds S 6pm Youth Bells S 6:45pm JOLT EH, WH, S 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	<b>17</b> 6pm CRASH Movie Night	<b>18</b> 9am Knit Fest EH 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH
<b>19</b> <b>El Salvador Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Blood Pressure Check HR 9:45am BLAST 10:45 Worship 12pm Mime WH, N, S 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	<b>20</b> 9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Private NR 5:30pm Prayer Group PR 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>21</b> 6:30am Early Bird AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5:30pm GriefShare Dinner WH 6pm GriefShare YR 7pm Council 107	<b>22</b> 8am Private PR 12pm Private NR 3pm Tutoring 106, 107 6pm Ringers S 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom, WH 7:30pm Choir S	<b>23</b> 10am Al-Anon WH 6:45pm JOLT EH, WH, S 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH 12pm Setup CRASH EH, WH, N 5pm Chili Fund-raiser
<b>26</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am BLAST 10:45 Worship 12pm Mime WH, N, S 12pm Praise Band S 2pm Private S 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	<b>27</b> 9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Knit Wits EH 12pm Private NR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>28</b> 6:30am Early Bird AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5:30pm GriefShare Dinner WH 6pm GriefShare YR 6pm Ringers S 7pm Holloway Group 106 7:30pm Choir S	<div> <b>KEY</b>            EH East Hall            HR Hearth Room            N Narthex            NR Nursery            PR Prayer Room            S Sanctuary            WH West Hall            YR Youth Room         </div>			