



*Ascension*  
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## Instead of the End—the Beginning

**T**he Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Elizabeth Eaton offers these words:

*After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. So begins the Easter story in the Gospel according to Matthew. The women had lived through the pain of Friday and the emptiness of Saturday and were expecting death. All of their hope had come to a dead end. And just then, as the first day of the week was dawning, hope was restored. The angel said, “Do not be afraid; I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here: for he has been raised, as he said.”*

*Instead of death – life. Instead of the end – the beginning.*

*On Easter, we will have glorious celebrations in our congregations and worshiping communities. There will be rejoicing and music and flowers and alleluias. And that’s a good thing. But when the flowers fade and the pressures of life seem so heavy, when the brokenness of this world breaks our spirits, when we have come to a dead end ... rejoice. Because it is exactly there where the risen Christ meets us. It is precisely there where we are given resurrection life. It is at that point that we say, “Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Hallelujah.”*

The cries of resurrection can still be heard on the mountaintops. Thanks be to God! From the mountaintops we travel to the upper room where the disciples have hidden themselves out of fear. There, Jesus appears. A week later, disciples are still in the upper room. There, Jesus appears. It will be on the beach, where a campfire is tended, that Jesus will appear to his disciples and feed them breakfast. There around the warmth and light of the fire, the light of the world, will ignite a flame in the disciples that will inspire the world.

*Instead of death – life. Instead of the end – the beginning.*

I read this reflection before the great celebration of Easter. It has carried me forward since we began the celebration of these great 50 days of resurrection. It is entitled *Setting Out Once Again* by Kelly Hall and Phuc Luu:

*Out of the stale darkness, he rises into the light, bright rays of sun split the tops of trees, and clouds depart and blue fills the sky – the smell of angels lingers in the air – his hair feels the cool breeze again. This was not the garden, but a new world made from the eruption of hope and a life that could not be held down. We were witnesses to the life that rose from the dead. God’s relentless love, who comes close to us moving stones from tombs opening the heart to another possibility, death no longer stands. My heart races in my chest as I step forward to face the future, my future, that I grasp with open hands with new naiveté, a child toward a mother to be held and lifted up, and cradled with care. At times, I hesitate and I grasp onto memories of what once was but I know that I am not alone in my apprehension. I feel the hands of others holding me. These are my sisters, my brothers, who are not strangers to my fears and frailties, who have also confronted a hope that frightens them – who can feel their own scars, both fresh and old, they step in pace with me – the weeping women at the gravesite, the scared disciples waiting in the upper room.*

*This is our future, where we walk together toward our new home built by the hands of a wounded king – the new Zion, forsaking the kingdoms marked by borders and divides where all our settlements are only temporary shelters, sanctuaries of rest for the wounded and weary. Then the Christ returns to visit us, as Galilee’s boats pull to shore, these places seem familiar – the lapping water and the sand, but we are not to return to these lands, not those dreams – but become pilgrims, to set our belongings in another home, to wash our sandy feet in some other place, to lay down our tired souls on a distant promise, quilted from both the today and the tomorrow.*

*And we dine as a day sees another setting sun sitting across from each other once again – seeing each sweet face laughing deeply feeling whole once more. And we see the Savior’s smile, he knows our journey’s end and pours us another cup full of his own love and this time, our eyes tell him that we understand.*

Thanks be to God! See you in church,

*Rev. Christian Marien*

## Mothering God

**A**s Mother’s Day approaches, I am reminded of the mothering attributes of God. Certainly most of us are most comfortable and most familiar with God as “Our Father which art in heaven...”. In fact, this is how Jesus encourages us to pray. However, when Jesus spoke of God as *Our Father*, his focus was not to establish a sacred, divine gender, but rather, Jesus was emphasizing our relationship as children of the Creator. He chose to use common language that people could relate to and easily understand. Jesus wanted us to know that our God is different from the capricious Greek deities. Consequently, we are not required to use flowery speech or long prayers filled with empty accolades and titles in order for God to hear our prayers (Matthew 6:7). Jesus’ use of the word father was less about gender and more about a father’s powerful familial role in a patriarchal society. In fact, God as father is only one way that sacred scripture illustrates the Creator.

For example, there are many scriptures that describe God as Our Mother. In Luke 15:8-10, Jesus, in one of his parables, depicts God as a woman who has lost a silver coin and sweeps the whole house – carefully searching until she finds it. And of course, there is Matthew 23:37. In this scripture, Jesus himself steps into the role of mother saying, “How often have I desired to gather you children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings...”. In Hosea 13:8, God is imaged as an angry mother bear defending her cubs. In Deuteronomy 32:11-12, we witness God as a majestic mother eagle who “stirs up her nest, and hovers over her young; as she spreads her wings, takes them up, and bears them aloft on her pinions.” Aren’t these verses a treasure?

In Isaiah 46:1-4, the prophet records God’s declaration of giving birth to God’s people. The prophet writes, “Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age, even when you turn gray I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” Whenever I read passages like this, I think about all that our mothers have done for us and all that we are willing to do for our children.

In another passage from Isaiah (42:12-14), we see an image of God as a warrior juxtaposed with an image of God as a woman in labor. These two representations of God help expand our definition of God’s strength and God’s connectedness and concern for us. Furthermore, these examples also offer new language about childbirth. I am sure that some women who have been through childbirth might liken labor to a warrior in battle. The prophet writes: “Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise in the coastlands. The Lord goes forth like a soldier, like a warrior he stirs up his fury; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes. For a long time I have held my peace, I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor, I will gasp and pant.” These verses paint a picture of our God in unmistakably feminine characteristics that we rarely encounter in our traditional discourse about God.

This rich and amazing imagery reminds us that the God we serve is far beyond our human understanding and certainly defies pedestrian definitions of gender. Consequently, it is impossible for any single image, symbol, or title to fully encapsulate all of who God is. The indescribable majesty and incomprehensible mystery of Almighty God simply breaks the backs of words and exhausts the strength of our vocabulary. Therefore, it is a blessing for us to have these many and varied representations of the God of the universe.

So, as we think about the diverse ways that we experience God’s mothering love, I would like to leave you with one of the most beautifully compassionate illustrations of God as Our Mother:

*Rejoice with Jerusalem; be glad for her, all you that love this city!*

*Rejoice with her now, all you that have mourned for her!*

*You will enjoy her prosperity, like a nursing child with her mother.*

*The Lord says, “I will bring you lasting prosperity; the wealth of the nations will flow to you like a river that never goes dry. You will be like a child that is nursed by her mother, carried in her arms, and dandled on her knees. I will comfort you in Jerusalem as a mother comforts her child.*

Isaiah 66:10-13

*Rev. Angela C. Khabel*





### Jubilate Concert

The Jubilate Chorale will present their spring concert "Let My Love Be Heard" here at Ascension on Saturday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. The program is inspired by the need for all of humanity to love and care for one another. The concert includes "All Works of Love" written by the contemporary composer Joan Szymko with text by Mother Teresa, Rene Clausen's "Set Me as a Seal," and "Nella Fantasia," made popular the the group Il Divo, and the much loved piece entitled "The Prayer." The concert will also be offered on Sunday, May 21, at 4 p.m., at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Oconomowoc. Please see Ascension members Scott Greger, Sarah VandenHeuvel, or Vicki Taylor for tickets, or visit [www.jubilatechorale.org](http://www.jubilatechorale.org) for more information.

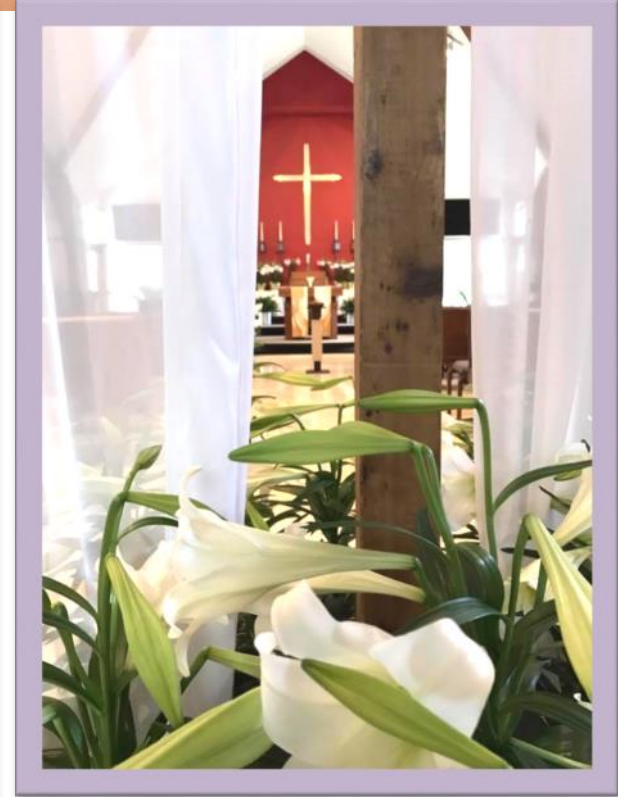
### Looking Ahead to Fall

**M**usic Ministry offers several opportunities for children and youth to grow musically and spiritually while contributing to worship at Ascension. I once heard a speaker at a conference describe the importance of children learning songs of faith as follows: "We place the words and music on their hearts so that when their hearts break the words fall in." I invite you to consider having your child(ren) participate in one or more musical opportunities this fall, whether it be for the year, a semester, or for a season.

Angel Choir (grades PK-3), 5:00-5:30, Thursdays  
 Joyful Sounds Choir (grades 4-8), 5:30-6:00, Thursdays  
 Youth Handbell Choir (grades 4-8), 6:00-6:30, Thursdays

**Music Ministry offers several opportunities for children and youth to grow musically and spiritually while contributing to worship at Ascension.**

~ Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministry



### To the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl and your kind prayer. It was so nice of you and I greatly appreciate it.  
 ~ Carol Peters

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl you made for me. It is truly a comfort item and will certainly help me in my recovery from grief after the death of my husband. This truly is a healing touch.  
 ~ Carol Ziarniak

### From Outreach for Hope

Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift of \$120, as a special gift given to support Outreach for Hope ministries. Your generous contribution makes it possible for the after-school and community meal programs to nourish bodies and minds; for Bible study and prayer groups to stir souls; and for advocacy work to advance justice issues, improving quality of life in low-income communities.

In 2017, Outreach for Hope is supporting 19 ministries, all located in the Greater Milwaukee Synod communities of Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha. These programs feed and clothe people with economic struggles, minister to individuals during and after incarceration, prepare people for employment, provide medical and dental care to the uninsured, and build community among people living in high-risk neighborhoods.

On behalf of the more than 6,500 children and adults who benefit from our ministries, we express abundant gratitude for your compassion and generosity. Together, we walk with our neighbors through life's challenges and opportunities.

With love and gratitude,  
 Maripat Monahan, Advancement Director





**BLAST**

BLAST programming wraps up with the remaining three classes: Sunday May 7, 14, 21, from 9:45-10:35 a.m. We take a moment to give thanks to God for the growing sense of excitement surrounding BLAST and we offer our gratitude for the dedication of parents and students willing to trust in the continued development of this ministry. With deep appreciation, we wish to thank all the passionate and committed teachers, helpers, and volunteers for sharing your gifts of time, dedication, creativity, patience, and passion. You are valued partners in shaping the faith of Ascension’s young people and in the continued development of our children’s ministry into a fun, exciting, relevant, and faith-enriching experience for kids and their families. May God’s blessings be upon each of you!

**JOLT**

JOLT wraps up its programming with the final two classes on Thursday May 4 and 11 from 6:30-8 p.m. It has been a fun and exciting year exploring together this gift that we call faith. We look forward to continuing to discover God’s call for our lives with some fun faith-building activities over the summer, beginning with Adventure Camp June 11-14.

**Random Acts of Kindness Event**

On Sunday, May 7, from 12-4 p.m., CRASH, JOLT, and youth friends from Cross in Milwaukee will partner together to participate in our CRASH Random Acts of Kindness Event. The event will kick off with lunch together, then things will take the format of a community scavenger hunt – traveling throughout the Waukesha area serving unsuspecting people. The event concludes with an exciting reflection centered on serving one another...all we can say is IT IS MORE FUN THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE! Cost: Bring \$10 cash.

**CRASH All-Nighter Retreat**

Begins at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday May 20 and concludes after the 8:30 a.m. worship on Sunday May 21. Students will experience fun, games, faith activities/challenges and discussions, off-site experiences, lots of food, and more. Sleep is optional and the cost is \$30/student.

**Confirmation Capture & Service**

On Sunday April 30, from 12-3:30 p.m., Confirmation candidates gathered alongside parents, Pastor Chris and Tony Acompanado, Director of Faith Formation, to discuss their faith journeys, create a faith life poster, begin crafting their individual faith statements, and share in an intentional time of conversation between parent(s) and student. These projects will culminate in the Service of Confirmation on May 14.

Join the Ascension community in celebrating our JOLT students completing their Confirmation Stepping Stone. We will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 14, at the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services. A cake reception in their honor will be held in the narthex between services. We give thanks for each of them and ask God’s blessing on their continued journey of faith.

Congratulations to the following students on your Confirmation:

Anna Dahl	Lanae Maas
Madison Edens	Katrina Patiscot
Julia Hoeg	Ethan Saye
Annie Johnson	Morgan Thierfelder
Sidney Keene	



**Library Corner**

Recently, we purchased eight new books for the Ascension Library. They are currently being displayed in the glass case in the hallway. There are so many good Christian stories about people’s lives to choose from right now. Shaken by Tim Tebow is about his failures in his football career and how his faith in God moved him from failure to success. The Magnolia Story is about the lives of Joanne and Chip Gaines from “Fixer Upper” on HGTV and how God has been there when difficult challenges have brought them down again and again. Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge is a WWII saga about a conscientious objector who sticks by his convictions not to fight but to help as a medic saving hundreds of critically wounded with God’s intervention. This Life I Live is about a Grammy-nominated songwriter whose wife developed a fast-moving cancer. He journals the whole experience so that others could see how God was faithful to them. Taking My Life Back is about how faith and determination helped a woman survive the injuries received during the bombing at the Boston Marathon. In addition to these inspiring books, we also have Glory Days and He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado and All the Places to Go by John Ortberg. Choose a book from one of these or from our larger library and get inspired!

*Linda Hansen*, Ascension Librarian

**CRASH Schedule**

May 7, 12-4 p.m.  
Random Acts of Kindness  
Event

May 14, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.  
Services of Confirmation

May 20-21, 4:30 p.m.–9:30  
a.m. CRASH All-Nighter  
Retreat

May 28, 6–8 p.m.  
Youth Group



# CARING RELATIONSHIPS



*Open to me the gates of  
righteousness and I will  
enter them and give  
thanks to the Lord.*

Psalm 118:19

## Care Ministries: GriefShare & HOPE

GriefShare is a successful ministry at Ascension that reaches out to so many in need. Care Ministries have offered this outreach to people since the fall of 2014. We have assisted over 100 participants from within our church as well as many who have come from our community. The age range is across generations from teens to the elderly. The grief can be from a fresh loss to grief that has lasted for many years. Although we know that grief cannot be healed in 12 weeks, this program is able to give participants the tools they need to get through each day and to have the support of others that understand and care about them. It is faith-based and helps those suffering turn to God for comfort.

We have involved other Ascension ministries in supporting GriefShare with meals for our participants. We have had small groups, ministry groups, and individuals come forth and make wonderful meals for this group. It is so appreciated!

Last fall, we extended our GriefShare group to a new ministry that we call HOPE (Healing Our Pain... Eventually). This group has been very active in planning social outings and events such as picnics, bowling, and movies. They also have done some service work within our church and community. They were able to assist Fabricio's siblings with school supplies before school. Another service project they planned was helping a Cross family after the tragic, violent loss of their father/husband. The group provided a Thanksgiving meal for this family, as well as came up with gift cards totaling \$250 for the Christmas holidays for them. These acts of service and fellowship help our grief participants heal.

If you or you know someone suffering from loss and would like to join either GriefShare or HOPE Ministry, please contact [Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org).

## American Red Cross Babysitting Training at Ascension!

Mark your calendars! Are you interested in getting your teen and/or pre-teen (ages 11 years-old and up) certified as a Red Cross babysitter? The classes are on June 26 and 28. To become certified, choose one of these dates and attend from 8:30-3 p.m. in East Hall. The cost is \$40, which includes lunch, Red Cross Certification, and all the course materials. The teens will be taught first-aid skills, child babysitting skills, and basic CPR on children and infants. Class size is limited to ten students each day, so sign up now on the Care Ministries bulletin board!

## Young at Heart: Potluck

Our Young at Heart luncheon is Wednesday, May 17, in Ascension's East Hall at noon. This month, we will enjoy music to celebrate spring. Afterwards, there will be time for cards and Sequence. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able. Contact Celeste Defenbaugh 262-370-4522, Beth Hoffmann at 262-542-7447, or Arlene Davis at 262-542-9119 if you have questions.

## YAH Food Trip

On Thursday, June 1, we are taking a bus trip to visit the Honey Acres Museum and Store in Neosho, WI. Then we will travel to Cedar Valley Cheese Store in Belgium, WI, and then onto Held's Meat Market in Slinger. THERE IS VERY LITTLE WALKING WITH THE TRIP. We will enjoy a lunch at Roadside Bar and Grill in Plymouth. This trip will give us an opportunity to see how honey is processed. (Hopefully, we won't have to harvest any from the hives.) Both the cheese factory and the meat market are very popular places to see and purchase. The cost of the trip is \$51 per person. We will leave Ascension at 8:30 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. We will be collecting for the trip at church on Sunday, April 30 and May 7. If you have questions, contact Celeste Defenbaugh at 262-370-4522.

## Blood Pressure Screening

BP screening finishes up this month on May 7, between services, until next fall. Thanks to all of the volunteers who have helped make this health promotion a success!

## Ascension's Plant Sale Pick-up!

Spring is here, so order your flowers now! We have some great Care Ministries that are supported by your flower orders! Orders can still be ordered on May 7, between services. Plant information is on the Ascension webpage at [www.ascensionelca.org](http://www.ascensionelca.org). Pick-up flowers on May 20, from 8 a.m.-12 noon, in the Ascension parking lot. Thank you for your support!

## Kick Up Your Heels

Join our Christian Music Line Dancing class at Ascension. It ends May 22, but join us to see if this type of exercise class interests you. It is \$2/class. It is on Monday evenings in East Hall. The instructor is Ascension member Linda Elder.



## Knit Wits: USO Baby Shower Update

In April, the Knit Wits asked for your help making baby blankets and sweaters for the USO Operation Baby Shower - and everyone stepped up! Today is three weeks ahead of our delivery date, and we already have enough baby hats and blankets! All we need now is several more baby sweaters.

Thanks so much for your continued support of our mission... to keep the community warm, one stitch at a time.



## A Taste of the Daniel Plan: Sleep Tips

Is anyone getting a good night's rest out there? Sometimes we wonder. It seems like every time we talk to someone, he or she complains about how tired they are. It can be for many reasons. For some, it can be having small children that need tending. Some people are constantly burning the candle at both ends, which is a recipe for a poor night's sleep. For others, it's too much caffeine throughout the day. For other folks like us in the 50+ crowd, it can be changing hormones. Whatever the reason, it is essential you identify the problem and deal with it because the lack of sleep can be detrimental to your health.

The Daniel Plan website lists 19 tips for getting better sleep. We'd like to share a few of our favorites

Practice the regular rhythms of sleep. Create a ritual before going to bed. Find a set time to stop doing mind stimulating activities and prepare yourself for sleep. You can do this just by dimming the lights when getting ready for bed. It is also suggested to go to bed and wake up at the same time. It is essential that you strive to get at least seven hours of sleep every night.

Use your bed for sleep and romance ONLY. This means no reading, no television, and certainly no technology! Many people do not realize the blue light that is emitted from computer screens actually stimulates your brain and hampers your sleep.

Write your worries down to yourself – One hour before you go to bed, write down anything that is causing you worry or anxiety. This can be something as simple as writing down a reminder to do something the next day. This is a huge thing for us and we can tell you it works! When you write something down, it leaves the holding pattern off your mind, so to speak, which enables you to relax and fall asleep because you aren't trying to unconsciously remember.

Avoid caffeine and alcohol. Many people use caffeine for stimulation because they think it will keep them going. It actually contributes to a poor quality of sleep. On the other hand, some believe that a little shot of some alcohol will relax them so they can get some sleep. Initially, the alcohol will help you go to sleep but throughout the night, it will actually cause you to have a poor quality of sleep. The regular use of both of these creates a downward spiral which creates chronic brain fog and general inefficiency.

There can be more complicated reasons for poor sleep that may require a medical professional. These suggestions, along with others on the website are some simple steps you can take to improve your focus as well as your overall health. In the meantime, go to <http://www.danielplan.com/healthyhabits/berry-alert-smoothie/> to check out our suggested recipe for this month.

*Steve & Carol Spieker*

*This column offers health and nutritional information and is for educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for, nor does it replace, professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of health conditions. Please consult your physician or other healthcare professional before beginning or changing any health program to ensure it is appropriate for you.*

## Tanzania Trip 2018

A delegation from Ascension and St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Waukesha will be traveling to Mount Meru, Tanzania in the summer of 2018. We begin planning this May. Please contact Sarah Aparicio ([weh22@hotmail.com](mailto:weh22@hotmail.com)) if you are interested in joining Ascension's first visit to our newest partnership.

## New Coffee Ambassador

Mission Outreach thanks Dave and Barb Hammer for their many years of leadership in the Mt. Meru Coffee Project and wishes them well in their new home and church. Al Gilgenbach has accepted the opportunity to lead the Meru Coffee Project. Al has been involved with serving coffee for many years and we welcome him to the Mission Outreach Committee and appreciate his willingness to take on this important ministry.

## Mt. Meru Coffee Project

Recently, I took over the coordination of the Mt. Meru Coffee Project here at Ascension, which sells and serves coffee between services as a way to walk with the coffee farmers from the Meru region of Tanzania. The Meru ministry is a partnership between the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA and the Diocese of Meru, ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania). Each year, about ten tons of coffee are imported by the program at pricing that is based on production costs, crop sustainability, inflationary forces, and the needs for a family-supporting, living income, as well as the prevailing local and world market prices.

Thank you to the congregation for your support. Due to increased demand, we have started stocking French Vanilla and Butter Pecan flavors. We also accept special orders for other flavored coffee, K-Cups, and more. Talk to the coffee ambassadors to see what's available.

Thanks also to Dave Hammer for bringing the program to Ascension and for both Hammers for their work over the past years.

Please consider buying a bag of Meru coffee for your home, office, or as a gift.

Asante sana -- Thank you very much,

*Al Gilgenbach*



## Cross Lutheran Church Visits Ascension

On Sunday, May 7, we will be joined in worship by members of Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. They will bring some of their special music also. Cross is our partnership church and we enjoy joining with them as we praise God. We will have refreshments between services so we can have a time to get acquainted again. If you have questions, contact Arlene Davis at 262-542-9119.



# MISSION OUTREACH



## El Salvador Trip Update

Our El Salvador delegation recently returned from a very successful mission trip to visit our partners in El Salvador. We were truly blessed as we learned more about El Salvador, strengthened relationships with our partners in San Jorge and at the hardware store, and learned more about the work of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church.

You can see some photos from our trip at <https://www.facebook.com/Ascension.ELCA.MO/>. We will be sharing stories and food from our trip between services on Sunday, May 7. We hope to see you there!

## Thrivent Action Teams

Action Teams are for fundraisers, service projects, and education. Ascension has so many ministries that already are in place with action teams. If you are a Thrivent member, become aware of the ministries that you have a passion toward and lend a hand in providing seed money through Thrivent action teams. If you are passionate about something, you are going to move forward with it. For example: seed money can be used for ingredients to prepare a community meal, supplies for a car wash fundraiser, pillow cases for dresses for Africa, postage for military care packages, garbage bags for park clean up, paint and cleaning supplies to refurbish a room at church, items to be given to hospital patients or baptized babies in our congregation, materials for constructing a float for the Christmas parade, new puppets to replace ones that are in disrepair, new sheet music needed for a concert at church or community event, yarn or special materials for community outreach. The list goes on and on. You, as a Thrivent member, can help supplement our budget to promote generosity, help those in need, and promote working together on a team. If you want more ideas, feel free to contact me. If you need help filling out the form online, contact me. My email is [donnasavin@att.net](mailto:donnasavin@att.net) or call 262-544-5619. More information is available on [thrive.com](http://thrive.com) look for Thrivent action team. If you don't know if you are a Thrivent member, call 1-800-THRIVENT.

## Food Pantry of Waukesha County

We continue to collect donations for the local Food Pantry. Fresh food is welcome but we ask that you donate it directly to the Food Pantry at 1301 Sentry Drive, rather than put it in the donation center. The food in Ascension donation bins is delivered to the Food Pantry by Jennifer Werner when the bins are full, so it is not possible to keep up with fresh items. Here is a list of what the Food Pantry needs:

### Preferred Food Items

Canned fruit  
Canned protein (tuna, chicken, ham, Spam)  
Canned vegetables  
Boxed meals/ macaroni & cheese/ starch sides  
Peanut butter & jelly  
Soup  
Cooking oil

### Special Diet Program

Low sodium soups  
No- or low-sugar items  
Powdered sugar-free  
Fruit placed in water  
Soy or rice milk

### Infant & Toddler Needs

Formula (regular and soy-based), especially Good Start® formula  
Stages 1, 2, and 3 baby food  
Diapers (particularly size 3 or larger)  
Baby powder and diaper rash cream  
Baby wipes

## Refugee Success Story

Gwa Pa, a student of Ascension's literacy tutoring, has just completed a course in Karen Bible Studies. She graduated in Minneapolis. She is another example of how a refugee can make wonderful accomplishments with the right kind of support. She is our oldest tutoring student and she continues to want to learn more English so she can be successful. We are all proud of Gwa Pa and the leadership she has in the Karen community and will now have one more way to serve.

## Refugee Spring Break Trip

Jo Buth and EhTh' Blay traveled to Washington D.C. with a group of nine Burmese refugee teens and two other adults. This was a chance for the teens to learn more about the U.S. in a very tangible way. The trip was a great success and we thank Jo and the other leaders for giving these young people this very special opportunity. *Picture below.*

## Outreach for Hope Devotions

If you were blessed by the devotions from Outreach for Hope during Lent, please consider making a donation to Outreach for Hope at 1212 S. Layton Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53215.

## NAMI Event

Blue Jean Bingo is a fun-filled event for the whole family. The evening includes an all-you-can eat fish buffet, licensed bingo event with cash prizes, a wine pull and amazing auction items. All proceeds benefit NAMI Waukesha's support, education, and advocacy programs that support individuals and families impacted by mental health conditions in our community. The event is Friday, May 12, at Country Springs Hotel Grand Ballroom. Contact Peggy Thrasher, [letstalksoon@hotmail.com](mailto:letstalksoon@hotmail.com), for more information.





# CHURCH COUNCIL

## Your Council at Work

In council news, we are continuing our engagement with our wings leaders to build our 2025 Vision goals. It has been great hearing from our wing leaders on the success they have had completing several of our short term goals. As we look ahead at the items we had assessed at midterm, we are committed to continuing to assess the current needs and add those into our overall plan. Be sure to watch the bulletin boards for updates and successes.

Engagement has been a key word for us this year. The council, along with our staff and wing leaders have a goal of not just engaging our council members but also our congregation, youth, and community. If you would like to be more involved, please feel free to contact the council members to learn more about the exciting things happening in our four wings.

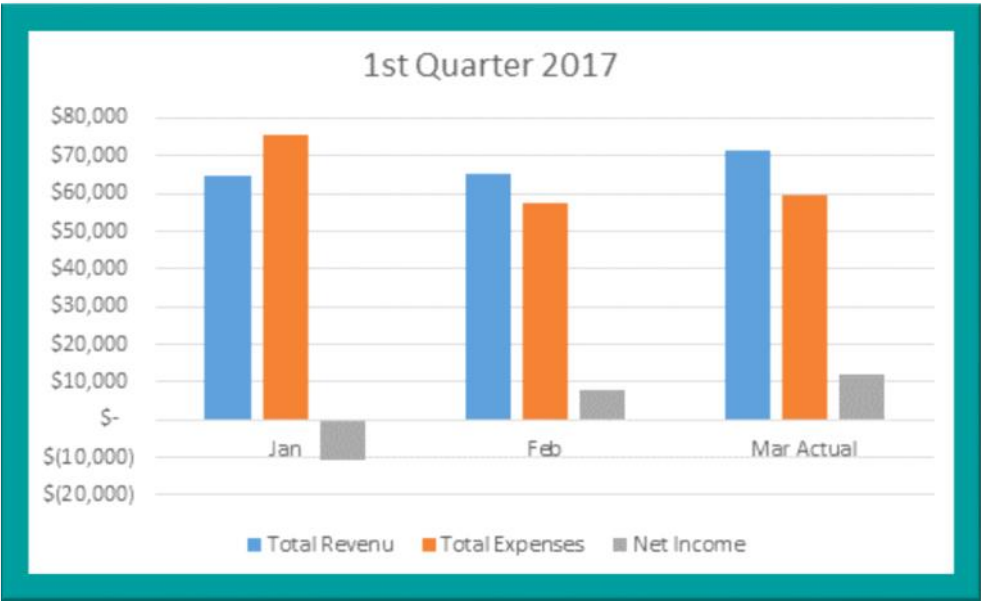
God Bless,

*Cynthia Carlson*, President

## Treasurer's Report

Marched giving continued strong. Contributions for the month were up almost 9% over plan. Year-to-date, we are 6% ahead of plan and 3% above last year. Expenses continue to track slightly better than projected as well, so it continues to be a great start for the year.

*Peter Laper*, Interim 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 - 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

Victoria Kirk  
Becca Tenwinkel

## Ministry/Operations

### Director of Ministries

Kelly Hoeg  
[kelly.hoeg@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.hoeg@gmail.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  
[Jayogrady@wi.rr.com](mailto:Jayogrady@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  
[theniezwaag@gmail.com](mailto:theniezwaag@gmail.com)

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  
[cheryllynnnaa@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryllynnnaa@yahoo.com)

### Mission Outreach

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



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA

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

## OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

9 a.m.—5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9 a.m.—12 p.m.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>April 30</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am BLAST 9:45am Cancer Talk EH 10:45 Worship 12pm Confirmation EH 12:30pm Ringers rehearsal S 4pm LC Ringers Concert S 6pm CRASH YR, S, EH 6pm AA Beginner WH 6pm The Daniel Plan 107 7pm AA closed WH	<b>1</b> 9:45am Al-Anon WH 5:30pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Line Dancing EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>2</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30 am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 6:30pm SOPHIA EH 7pm Mutual Ministry PR	<b>3</b> 8am Private PR 9am Private Group NR 9am YAH Breakfast @ Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 12:30pm Women's Nurture Group PR 4pm Tutoring 106, 107 6pm Handbells S 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>4</b> 9am Gathering YR, WH 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>5</b> 9am Gathering YR, WH 9am Private NR 7:30pm Narc. Anon.	<b>6</b> 8am Property Day
<b>7</b> <b>Cross Partner Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Blood Pressure Screening HR 9:45am BLAST 10:45 Worship 12pm Praise Band S 2pm CRASH/JOLT Event, offsite 6pm The Daniel Plan 107 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	<b>8</b> 9:45am Al-Anon WH 1pm Living Letters 106 6pm Line Dancing EH 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Mission Outreach 106	<b>9</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 10am Cloverleaf EH 7pm Holloway 107	<b>10</b> 8am Private PR 9am Private Group NR 10am Cloverleaf EH 11:45am Men's Grp 106 4pm Tutoring 106, 107 6pm Handbells S 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>11</b> 10am Al-Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 6:45pm JOLT EH, S 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	<b>12</b> 9am Private NR 7:30pm Narc. Anon	<b>13</b> 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH
<b>14</b> <b>Confirmation Mother's Day</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Reception for Confirmands 9:45am BLAST 10:45am Worship 6pm AA Beginner WH 6pm CRASH YR, S, EH 6pm The Daniel Plan 107 7pm AA closed WH	<b>15</b> <b>Newsltr. Deadline</b> 9:45am Al-Anon WH 4pm Tutoring 106, 107 5:30pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Line Dancing EH 6pm Wing Leader Meeting 106 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>16</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 1pm Pastoral Assistants PR 7pm Council 107	<b>17</b> 8am Private PR 9am Private Group NR 12pm YAH Potluck EH, WH 12:30pm Women's Nurture Grp PR 2pm Staff Meeting PR 6pm Handbells S 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom, WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>18</b> 10am Al-Anon WH 5pm Care Ministries Dinner EH 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	<b>19</b> 9am Private NR 7:30pm Narc. Anon	<b>20</b> 8am Plant Sale Pick-up 9am Jubilate Rehearsal S 9am Knit Fest EH 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH 5pm CRASH Overnight EH, WH, YR, S 7:30pm Jubilate Concert S
<b>21</b> 12am CRASH Overnight EH, WH, YR, S 8:30am Worship 9:45am BLAST 10:45am Worship 6pm AA Beginner WH 6pm The Daniel Plan 107 7pm AA closed WH	<b>22</b> 9:45am Al-Anon WH 4pm Tutoring 106, 107 6pm Line Dancing EH 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Tanzania Trip Mtg., St. Luke's	<b>23</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 7pm Holloway Group 106	<b>24</b> 8am Private PR 9am Private Group NR 6pm Handbells S 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom, WH	<b>25</b> 10am Al-Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	<b>26</b> 9am Private NR 7:30pm Narc. Anon	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9am Worship 10:45am Worship 12pm Praise Band S 6pm AA Beginner WH 6pm CRASH YR, S, EH 6pm The Daniel Plan 107 7pm AA closed WH	<b>29</b> <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b> 9:45am Al-Anon WH 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>30</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR	<b>31</b> 8am Private PR 9am Private Group NR 4pm Tutoring 106, 107 6:30pm TNT EH 7pm AA Wisdom, WH	<div><b>KEY</b> EH East Hall HR Hearth Rm. N Narthex NR Nursery PR Prayer Rm. S Sanctuary WH West Hall YR Youth Room</div>		