



*Ascension*  
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ELCA  
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## PASTORS' PERSPECTIVES



July 2017 and the grace of God took Ascension to the mountaintop!

What joy it brings to share with you the events of the last month and all that is coming in the days ahead. July gathered our CRASH high school ministry to a first-time “Mission Next Door” event, in which each day, the students and adult leaders gathered for devotions and breakfast and then headed out into the community. Day one took our high school servants to the Memorial Gardens and flower beds all around the church campus. A full day of weeding, tending, and shaping the space all the way to the ash garden. An incredible day! Later in the week, the Waukesha food pantry would get a cleanup inside and a makeover outside complete with mulched flowerbeds. Thursday took the students to one of our member’s homes for a healthy weeding of flowerbeds and the tending of a relationship. In the middle of “Mission Next Door,” Ascension welcomed the arrival of our brothers and sisters from El Salvador. Bienvenidos!

Thursday was full of feasting and canning and swimming at Ottawa Lake. Friday was busy with tours of partner churches in Milwaukee, community gardens, and captured rainwater projects. But, my favorite part came Friday afternoon when we gathered to bowl at Bayshore, where there are video screens and glowing neon lights. Explaining bowling in Spanish was fun to watch. Explaining in signs and gestures was even better. Watching the smiles unfold when just one pin fell down and the ball stayed out of the gutter. Now that was priceless.

I tell you God is at work! I am grateful to our Mission Outreach Team under the leadership of Wing Leader, Shirley Wehmeier. It is wonderful to watch the church be exactly who the church should be with hospitality overwhelming and joy overflowing. Edwin and Sarah Aparicio have been incredible hosts and representatives of Ascension as they have navigated translation after translation after translation and every blessed detail of the delegation’s visit. A moment of great celebration took place on Sunday, July 16 with a gathering at the home of the Wehmeiers for the

delegation, church staff, church council, and partner churches. It was a glorious day. We heard updates on EVERYTHING! But most importantly – we feasted – we played volleyball – we had one-on-one conversations with Pastor Julio about healthcare, challenges of ministry in El Salvador, and especially the deep concern and request for prayer for the children and young adults of El Salvador. Please include them in your prayers – especially for the opportunity to simply and safely grow up. In my sermon from July 16, I spoke of the belief that the visit by the delegation from El Salvador was nothing short of a miracle. It is true - every word. The journey is a gift of God in every single way. Thank you for your hospitality of the delegates through the days of the visit and in worship.

Our very own Pastor Angela stood upon a mountaintop as she preached at the closing worship of the Women’s Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis in July. Over 3,000 heard her inspired preaching. As the story goes – from more than one colleague - the place erupted in thunderous applause to the glory of God when Pastor Angela said, “Amen!” What joy to hear of Pastor Angela’s sharing of the Good News in such an amazing way!

What can you learn from the stories of these mountaintop moments? So very much! In all these things, we are reminded that God goes before us. We remember that we need to hear the story of God’s love as much as we tell the story of God’s love. We remember that the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds our worship and our faithfulness to God has grown once again – with the great and faithful servants of CRASH serving our God and God’s people; with the visit of the saints of San Jorge and Usulután; and with the great gift of good news shared by Pastor Angela!

I give thanks to God for all of it. I give thanks to God for each of you. Gracias a Dios. Thanks be to God! See you in church.

*Rev. Christian Marien*

## Small Groups = Building Blocks

I love small group ministry! When I was younger, a classmate invited me to her youth group. I soon found myself attending an amazing, vibrant youth ministry of nearly 300 youth and young adults. This youth group was part of an even larger congregation. Given this type of church setting, it was challenging to get to know people on a deeper level. That was when I discovered the power of small group ministry. I regularly attended a small group and through that experience, I grew spiritually and developed close friendships. In fact, I’ve made lifelong friends through my high school small group from Omaha back in 1986. Attending a larger church has many wonderful ministry opportunities; however, it may be difficult to get to know people and create lasting friendships. Fortunately, small group ministry can serve as an important building block in fostering meaningful church relationships.

Ascension embraces over 1,000 members and we are an energetic, active congregation. When I arrived, I was almost overwhelmed by the many and varied ministry opportunities. Even as an extrovert, I was apprehensive about meeting so many new people. Fortunately, small group ministry offers us the wonderful possibility for growing closer to one another in our church family.

In 1 Peter, we learn that we are connected to Jesus who is our rock. In fact, Jesus has now become our head cornerstone. Likewise, we are also stones - building materials to be used by God. Therefore, St. Peter encourages us to present ourselves as building stones for the construction of a ministry that is brimming with life in which we all serve as holy priests (1 Peter 2:4-10). One of the ways we offer ourselves as stones, as building materials for God’s kingdom, is through active participation in the life of the church.

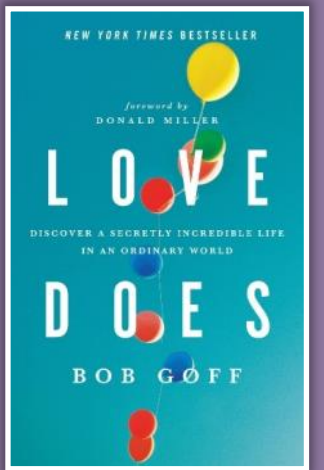
St. Peter tells us that we are chosen to be a holy people, to be God’s instruments and to do God’s work, and Martin Luther celebrated the “priesthood of all believers.” St. Peter also encourages us to tell others about the difference that God has made in our lives. Sisters and brothers, we are “a royal priesthood.” That means that the Ministry of the body of Christ does not solely belong to the pastors but we are all ministers. We are all priests offering ourselves to be stones that can help the ministry of Ascension and give life and encouragement to the rest of the body of Christ.

Our small group ministry offers our congregation a perfect opportunity to continue to grow closer to God and closer to one another. During Fall and Lent, we encourage all small groups to participate in the churchwide Bible study. This leaves ample space for creativity. What about a small group for retired teachers or parents of blended families or empty-nesters or parents of teenagers? The possibilities abound. What about a small group for military families or young adults or parents of children with special needs or for people who love to cook?

Perhaps the Holy Spirit is calling you to be part of the small group ministry team? Perhaps the Holy Spirit is inviting you to become a new small group leader? Exciting things are happening in our Small Group Ministry. If you’re interested in leading a new group, please contact **Arlene Kelsey**, [live2sew37@yahoo.com](mailto:live2sew37@yahoo.com) or 262-939-0740; **Carolyn Inglefield**, [carolyn.inglefield@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.inglefield@gmail.com) or 262-751-6778; or **Bonnie Siegel**, [bonnie.lynn.siegel@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.lynn.siegel@gmail.com). Please contact Pr. Angela, [pa@ascensionelca.org](mailto:pa@ascensionelca.org), if you would like to participate in a small group leader training session!

Please know that we are thrilled to welcome you to our Fall Bible study, *Love Does*. Remember, we are part of the priesthood of all believers. And this is good news!

*Rev. Angela Khabel*



In *Love Does*, a five-session, video-based small group study, we will discover the insights of New York Times best-selling author Bob Goff through sometimes humorous, thought-provoking, meaningful lessons that makes faith in God simple and real. Goff believes that love takes action, just like Jesus did. Goff believes *Love Does*. Our small group kick off will begin the week of Sept. 17-the week of Oct. 15.

Following is an extremely brief overview of the sessions:

1. I’m with You
2. Not Defined by Our Failures
3. God’s Audacious Love
4. The Story
5. That’s What Love Does





Music Ministry Updates for Fall

Ascension’s Music Ministry offers many opportunities for individuals to express and share the gift of music that God has given to each one of us. Making music offers refreshment for the spirit, especially in the midst of busy lives and challenging days. All are warmly invited and encouraged to participate. Email [vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:vicki@ascensionelca.org) with questions or to sign up.

*Vicki Taylor*, Director of Music Ministries

Ascension Choir

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45, Sanctuary; **begin Sept. 6**

- Grade 9-adult
- Sing and lead music in worship at the 8:30 service approximately three Sundays/month and for festival/special worship services
- Enjoy fellowship with other choir members

Ascension Ringers (Handbell Choir),

Wednesdays, 6:15-7:25, Sanctuary; **begin Sept. 6**

- Grade 9-adult
- Ring in worship approximately once/month and for festival/special worship
- Ability to follow a musical score is necessary (or I can teach you if interested...)
- No previous ringing experience is required
- Enjoy fellowship with other ringers

Handbell Workshop

Thursdays (3 sessions), 6:30-7:15, Sanctuary; **Sept. 21, 28, Oct 5**

- Intergenerational--ages 10-adult
- Learn how to follow a musical score and understand music notation
- Learn basic handbell ringing technique
- No prior experience in reading music or ringing handbells. Whether your goal is to join the Ascension Ringers or simply to see what bell ringing is all about, you are warmly invited to come and give it a try!

Angel Choir

Thursdays, 5:00-5:30, Music Room; **begin Sept. 28**

- Grades K-2
- Sing in worship approximately every 4-6 weeks
- Reinforce faith learning through song
- Learn to ring handchimes
- Experience the joy of making music together

Joyful Sounds Choir

Thursdays, 5:30-6:00, Sanctuary; **begin Sept. 28**

- Grades 3-8
- Sing in worship approximately once/month
- Reinforce faith learning through song
- Grow in music reading skills and use of singing voice
- Experience the joy of singing together

Youth Handbells

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:00, Sanctuary; **begin Sept 27 (dinner served at 6:00)**

- Grades 4-8
- No previous experience necessary
- Acquire/improve music reading skills
- Ring in worship at various times throughout the school year
- Have fun with others and “make a joyful noise to the Lord!”

Ascension Praise Band

One Sunday afternoon/month, 12-1:30 p.m.

- Lead worship at 10:45 service
- Singers and instrumentalists
- Praise and Worship songs

Contact Ben Janzow, [Ben\\_Janzow@yahoo.com](mailto:Ben_Janzow@yahoo.com), for more information

Instruments in Worship

Instrumentalists of all types and levels are invited to offer their musical gifts for use in worship  
Contact Vicki Taylor, [vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:vicki@ascensionelca.org), to arrange.



Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Emily Boales      July 9  
Isabella Pociask    July 30

Weddings

Ashley Warren &    July 22  
Kevin Warnecke

GRATITUDE

From a Church Member for the Good Samaritan Gift

I could not have been more surprised when I opened [the envelope from Ascension] the other day. I am not a person that gets things from others. I have always had to struggle along the best I can. I now believe that miracles can happen, even to me! I am extremely grateful to [the pastors] and the church members for this gift from God! I will always remember the kindness you have all shown me. Bless you all. You will be rewarded by God for this special blessing I have received.

From Verna Bauer

Every kindness has a part in bringing joy to someone's heart. It's sometimes easy to forget that there are nice people out there doing nice things for others. Thanks so much, the cards were great!

From Hope Center

Thank you very much for your gracious financial donation or \$273. Hope Center is dedicated to preventing homelessness by providing basic needs - food, clothing, and shelter. With your continued support, we are making a difference. Our guests, volunteers, staff, and Board of Directors thank you for your support of those in need in Waukesha County.

*Ralph Zwick*, Executive Director



## SPIRITUAL GROWTH



## SCHEDULES

**BLAST**

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Aug. 1   | Online registration opens |
| Aug. 26  | Annual Backpack Blessing  |
| Sept. 10 | Rally Day                 |

**JOLT**

Sept. 13 JOLT Kickoff, 6:30 p.m.

## CRASH

Sept. 10      Kickoff & Potluck Lunch, 12 p.m.

# Puppets of Praise Starting in January?!

Fall is an especially busy time of year at Ascension: BLAST kickoff, Stepping Stones, and rehearsal for the Christmas pageant. So this program year, Puppets of Praise will wait until January to start up again. All 6th-12th graders are welcome to join Puppets of Praise to perform for BLAST, visit members, and have fun together. If your son or daughter is interested, please contact Cheryl Anspach at [puppetsofascension@gmail.com](mailto:puppetsofascension@gmail.com).

## BLAST Begins Sept. 10

### What's needed? Students and 12 teachers

**What do we have?** Students, two teachers and two new BLAST Coordinators: Susan Williams and Vicki Marien.

## What's New?

**Teacher Support:**

Susan and Vicki will be providing teacher support. Susan has worked extensively with our SPARK curriculum. She is very familiar with the website and finding materials to enrich lessons. Every Sunday, there will be a table, where teachers pick up the class buckets. The table will also have worksheets or craft ideas for the the following Sunday's lesson. If you give her at least a one-week notice, Susan will copy papers for you or pick up supplies you might need.

Vicki will be organizing our teacher meetings at the beginning of each quarter. We will go over the calendar for the upcoming quarter as well as the new lesson book. She will help with discipline, if it is needed.

We have seven classes and are planning for two teachers at each grade level. It is much more fun to have a partner and divide up the plans for each Sunday. You can also cover for each other, so you can be gone on a Sunday.

**Offering Focus:**

Heifer Project will be the focus of our offering this year. We have planned an outing for our BLAST families; students will be able to feed and pet different farm animals.

**BLAST cannot happen without teachers! Please volunteer. Contact Susan (262-547-0893) or Vicki (262-309-6861).**

## Baptismal Birthday Celebrations:

More  
information  
coming in  
September.

## Prayer Group: I CAN!

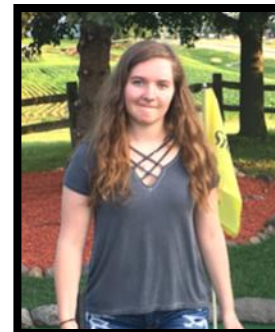
## Intentional Caring Acts—Now!

I was given a gift today - and I am sure the person who gave it to me didn't realize it at the time! I was attending a conference and sitting across the table from me was a woman who kept saying to me: "I know you from somewhere!" She looked a little familiar to me too, but I also could not remember from where. Hours later she came up to me and said: "You are a nurse, aren't you?" I replied that yes, I was a nurse - retired for a number of years. "That's it!" she exclaimed. "You cleaned my ears and it didn't hurt! You were so kind to me." I have to admit that I still didn't remember her but she remembered that I cleaned her ears and I didn't hurt her and that I was kind to her! What a wonderful gift she gave me! She remembered I was kind to her!

How often have we touched another person's life with an act of kindness and we didn't realize it at the time? And, how often has another person's act of kindness touched our lives in a way, or ways, they probably will never know - but we thank and praise God for each and every one of them!

This Advent, Ascension's Prayer Group will again be assembling a devotional with reflections from our church family. This year we would like you to think of a gift of kindness that someone has done or given you. We will take these reflections and put them together in our devotional. Of course, nothing can compare to God's ultimate wonderful gift of Jesus to our lives, but God also gifts His love to us in many ways and through many people!

Start thinking. Start pondering. And start writing! **We need your reflections sent or e-mailed to the church office by Oct. 1.**



## Maximize Your Ministry Impact with a Thrivent Action Team

Your gift of time, talent, and/or dollars can do even more when you form a Thrivent Action Team. **Available to all Thrivent members**, a Thrivent Action Team is a way to support a need in your community. Teams receive tips, resources, and seed money from Thrivent to jump-start a service project, fundraiser, or educational activity. More than 100,000 Thrivent Action Teams were led by Thrivent members in 2016.

To form a Thrivent Action Team, volunteers create a plan for addressing a need and fill out an application online. Each benefit member can lead TWO teams per year; each associate member can lead ONE team per year and a total of three over his/her lifetime.

There are many opportunities to support ministries that Wing Leaders are already in the process of doing here at Ascension. You, as a Thrivent member, can support these efforts by finding out about an event and applying online for the \$250 of seed money (an online application needs to be filled out prior to the event). Some examples of Ascension events that you can create an Action Team for are the upcoming Mission Outreach Block Party, GriefShare, HOPE Ministry events, youth mission trips, care packages for college students or Military Ministry care packages, and more. Talk to the Wing Leaders (listed on pg. 15) and find out what is being planned for fundraisers, education, or service projects. To learn more and fill out an application, visit [Thrivent.com/Livegenerously](https://www.thrivent.com/Livegenerously) or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Action Teams" at the prompt. Feel free to call me, Donna Savin, at 262-544-5619. Let the Holy Spirit lead you in your gift to help our church and community.

Thank you to everyone who has already used their Action Team benefit already to help Ascension!



YOGA Classes  
Sept. 11-Oct. 30

Yoga will benefit you whether you are young or old, lean or heavily built, rich or poor, from higher or lower middle class, busy, over busy, or retired, or a worker in the factory or in the field. Yoga has something valuable and useful to offer to everyone. It is often described as the best form of health insurance for all from the age of 7 to 77 or more. Two main advantages of yoga are the prevention of disorders and ailments and maintenance of health and fitness in daily life. Other advantages include flexible muscles; supple joints; a relaxed and tension-free mind; efficiently working vital organs such as the heart, lungs, endocrine glands, liver, pancreas; and a good balance between various functions, such as neuromuscular coordination, etc.

This fall, Care Ministries is offering an eight-week Yoga session on Monday nights, Sept. 11-Oct. 30, from 6-7 p.m., in East Hall. Our excellent Yoga instructor, Jessica Popp will be teaching the class. The cost is \$20 (only \$2.50/class). Sign up on the Care Ministries bulletin board. Bring your water bottle and mat. Fee will be collected the first night.

Care Ministries: Extreme Weather Preparedness

I hope each of you have been able to get out and enjoy our summer months. This June turned out to be the fourth-hottest month ever recorded - globally - scientists are reporting. With more heat waves on the horizon, and a big one currently sweeping much of the U.S., the risk of heat-related health problems has also been on the rise. August can be a month of extreme heat here in Wisconsin. Some of these weather systems may also create stormy weather. It is important to take precautions and plan for any heat or storm related situations. The following steps will prepare you to handle the associated risks:

1. Plan to be temporarily self-sufficient if the electricity goes out. How can potential power outages during extreme heat affect you? Make provisions for medications that require refrigeration and plan arrangements to get to a cooling center, if needed.
2. Think about what you may need to maintain your health, safety, and independence. Gather provisions such as wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, non-perishable food, water, items for pets, a cooler, and anything else you may need.
3. Be watchful for signs of heatstroke and dehydration. These include shallow breathing, a lack of perspiration, dizziness, dry mouth, and headaches.
4. Ever had a muscle cramp on a really hot day, while doing some heavy lifting? There's a good chance the temperature is to blame. What's happened is that you've sweated out a lot of water, but even if you've been drinking water to replace it, you're not getting enough electrolytes. The resulting salt imbalance is what's causing the cramps.
5. Check on family, friends, and neighbors who may not have air conditioning, especially those who spend much of their time alone or are more likely to be affected by extreme heat.

Brenda Lytle, Director of Care Ministries

Our Journey Of Hope Cancer Care Ministry

Cancer carries a weight of fear and despair like no other medical diagnosis and being able to lift that burden and offer hope and comfort to those affected by it is one of the greatest acts of love that Christians can offer. This fall, Ascension is providing a six-week leadership training to help empower those who are ready to walk the walk alongside people diagnosed with cancer. Perhaps you have struggled with cancer and would be interested in helping others or you have been touched by a cancer diagnosis in your family and feel called to provide help. Care Ministries will be running the leadership training on Monday evenings beginning Sept. 11-Oct. 16, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Ascension. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Brenda Lytle, [brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:brenda@ascensionelca.org), or call 262-547-8518.

Fall GriefShare Program Begins Sept. 12-Nov. 28

GriefShare begins on Sept. 12, from 6-8 p.m., in the Youth Room. It is a 12-week session facilitated by Pastor Angela. If you or someone you know has suffered the loss of a loved one and is stuck in grief...this may be a great program for you. If you, a family member, or friend would like to join this program, please contact Brenda Lytle at 262-547-8518 or [brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:brenda@ascensionelca.org).

A Taste of the Daniel Plan: Shocking Statistics

Recently local physician, Dr. Matt Frahm, published an article about the state of health in the U.S. In it, Frahm posted a Top 10 list of U.S. health statistics. Did you know...

- 1 in 10 kids are on a psychotropic medication
- 1 in 9 adults over 20 years old have diabetes
- 1 in 8 deaths are NOT considered preventable (that means 7 in 8 ARE preventable)
- 1 in 7 adults (or more) are on cholesterol controlling drugs
- 1 in 6 kids are considered developmentally disabled
- 1 in 5 pre-adolescents are considered obese
- 1 in 4 women are on an antidepressant
- 1 in 3 Americans get cancer
- 1 in 2 people die of their first symptom of heart disease....a heart attack
- 1 in 1 can focus on an area of their health TODAY and make it 1% better

The last statistic is the good news! YOU, in many cases, are responsible for the quality of your own health. While it is true that some people contract an illness or health condition, the majority of those are actually lifestyle diseases, which are brought on by the way a person lives. Many people assume having high cholesterol and high blood pressure is genetic or a part of aging. This is not true! In a lot of cases, merely changing your diet from processed foods to natural, nutrient-dense foods and increasing your activity can have a big impact on lowering those numbers. (We have first-hand experience with a number of people that have found that to be true.)

Depression is a complicated condition with a plethora of causes. Still, we find it alarming to see that 1 in 4 women are on antidepressants. It saddens us to know that few people know that many foods they consume can cause or contribute to depressive symptoms. Many of the preservatives, colorings, and flavorings that are used in processed foods are considered neurotoxins, which can alter one's brain chemistry resulting in depressive feelings. Couple that with the hopelessness that can come when someone feels unhealthy and you have a recipe for clinical depression!

The Daniel Plan is a step by step process designed for you to work with God and others that care about you to help you rise above the statistics. You will learn about finding peace and focus in your life along with healing food and movement that will give you the energy and vitality to be the person God designed you to be.

Carol & Steve Spieker

*This column offers health and nutritional 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.*

HOPE Ministry

If you are struggling with loss and would like to connect with some new friends that have similar experiences, you are welcome to attend our HOPE Ministry events.

Events include:

**Aug.:** Friday Night Live, downtown Waukesha  
Donation to the Women's Center, Waukesha

**Sept.:** Join us for the NAMI Walk at Frame Park the morning of Sept. 16 (more info on pg. 14)

**Oct.:** Pizza and movie night

**Nov./Dec.:** Holiday Service Project (gift wrapping at Brookfield Mall)  
Plan and prepare a GriefShare meal for our program  
Dec. 17, Longest Night grief service, 7 p.m. at Ascension

*\*Some more dates and times will be announced as they are planned!*

Perhaps you have attended the cook-outs that were co-sponsored by The Daniel Plan small group. **There are still two more, on Aug. 6 and Sept. 2 where you can get a flavor of The Daniel Plan life-style of abundance.** Watch also for details on the start of the next Daniel Plan small group study in the fall.

Young at Heart

Breakfast at Christina's on Delafield St., Aug. 9, at 9 a.m. (Dutch Treat).

Potluck lunch on Aug. 16, at noon, in East Hall. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able. Pr. Angela and Benhi are our guests to share pictures of their trip to Africa to visit family. Questions, contact Celeste Defenbaugh at 262-370-4522, Beth Hoffmann at 262-542-7447, or Arlene Davis at 262-542-9119.



# MISSION OUTREACH

# EL SALVADOR DELEGATION TRIP

*Our partnership is more than sharing our faith and supporting each other. We empower each other to work for justice in our countries.*

**Pastor Angela Khabeb**



*This was a dream come true for me.  
Thank you to everyone for everything!  
I felt so loved and welcomed.*

**El Salvador Delegates**



*This was the best thing I have ever done.  
Worshiping together was awesome.  
Our partnership will forever be strengthened.  
The whole experience was perfect. I wouldn't change a thing.*

**El Salvador Delegates**



*I feel like I have known them a long time.  
It was fun to play and laugh together.  
I understand the partnership now.  
I want to learn Spanish now.*

**Ascension members**



*I now know why people take mission trips.  
I hope to go to El Salvador next time.  
I feel like I have known them a long time.  
Sharing this with CRASH was awesome!*

**Ascension members**

*To receive brothers and sisters from El Salvador is nothing short of a miracle. Here, in this moment, to provide hospitality - literally means to "love the stranger" - except Nina Mirna, Amilcar, Omar, and Claudia are no longer strangers in our midst. They are our hermanos y hermanas - our brothers and sisters - and therefore, no longer strangers when they rest in our arms.*

**Pastor Chris Marien**



*You came as friends and partners and left as family.*

**Pastor David Dragseth  
Lake Park Lutheran Church, MKE**







### Tanzania Partnership: Meru Golf Outing & Dinner Party

Attention Golfers!

Please join us on Sunday, Aug. 20, for the annual golf outing to benefit the Mt. Meru Coffee Project and Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity.

This is the sole yearly benefit that supports the Meru Coffee Project, which provides a sustainable means of income for the coffee growers in the Meru diocese.

The outing is being held at the beautiful Kettle Hills course. Nine and 18 holes are available and all rounds include cart, dinner, and door prizes.

18 holes starts at 1:30 p.m. and 9 holes starts at 3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to dinner and the silent auction, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Please contact Al Gilgenbach for more details - [agilgenbach@gmail.com](mailto:agilgenbach@gmail.com) or 262-290-5002.

### El Salvador Partnership: Mountain Top Moment

The quotes on pages 10-11 are expressions from the delegates and Ascension members who participated in the visit from our brothers and sisters from El Salvador and the pastors who participated in the visit.

The week was packed with activity. We ate. We played at the beach and the bowling alley. We shared the grief of a mom whose son was killed by the gangs one year ago with a quiet memorial service. We learned and shared and planned together. We visited the zoo and a Brewer game and many other area sites including a Wisconsin fish fry. There are too many activities to describe here but the Mission Outreach Facebook page has great photos that describe better than words the joy of the week ([www.facebook.com/Ascension.ELCA.MO/](http://www.facebook.com/Ascension.ELCA.MO/)).

We are thankful to all who helped make this a huge success: Sarah and Edwin Aparicio for the countless hours of planning and guiding and for translating; Paul Wehmeier for being the official driver; all the Ascension members who participated in activities; the many, many people who donated food and money; the youth of Ascension who bravely stepped forward to be a part of several of the days with the delegates; our pastors and worship leaders; and our partners at Lake Park Church in Milwaukee and Grace in Thiensville. As one of the delegates said: “Our partnership will be forever strengthened.”

*Shirley Wehmeier*, Mission Outreach Wing Leader

### Tutor News

Webster defines a tutor as *one who provides individual instruction*. At Ascension, it is that and so much more. Our tutors have developed warm relationships with individuals who have come to the U.S. and then to Waukesha for freedom of worship and for a better life for themselves and their children.

Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. until noon, one can find up to 29 students and 31 tutors engaged in learning English in the educational wing at Ascension. Subject matter includes learning to count, making change, introducing oneself, or preparing to take the citizenship exam. Topics are selected on a monthly basis. In August, the topic is: School/Learning/Library. September will include: Measures/Directions/Geography. Support for instruction comes through our partnership with Greater Waukesha Literacy (GWL). Tutors are provided an orientation session, introductory materials, and access to resources and expertise of the program coordinators at GWL. At Ascension, we have a good variety of tools to support instruction.

One may tutor an individual student or group of up to four students who have the same level of English ability. Tutors at Ascension are matched with another tutor so that if you need to miss one or more Saturdays, your partner can work with your student or students. Students range from age 5 to 80 and may have little knowledge of English or American customs. Some students are very proficient in English and may be studying to pass the Citizenship Test.

If you think you might want to become a tutor, we are having an orientation/information session on Monday, Aug. 14, at 6 p.m., in East Hall. Returning tutors will join us at 7 p.m. to kick off the fall program. If you know someone who may benefit from tutoring, please let me know.

Questions? Please contact me at [bnordberg@wi.rr.com](mailto:bnordberg@wi.rr.com). You may also want to talk to Jo Buth, Shirley Wehmeier, Doug Papka, or me after worship.



### Outreach Event: Block Party

**August 5, 2:30 p.m.!** As a part of our Vision 2025, Mission Outreach realized we needed to do more outreach into our neighborhood and community. Through much discussion and research, we realized the best way to start is to offer a fun event to the area immediately surrounding Ascension and to encourage members to invite people they know who do not have a church home.

Pop in for a fun afternoon of music, a bouncy house, a big slide, snacks, and a performance by the Milwaukee Flyers.

Our goal is to present Ascension as a welcoming place and a good neighbor. Wing Leaders will have a table introducing Ascension. We will have door prizes to gather contact information of our guests so we can reach out to them in follow-up.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Attend to be part of the welcoming!
- Invite friends and neighbors who do not have a church home
- Volunteer to help at the event (contact Shirley Wehmeier, [swehmeier@gmail.com](mailto:swehmeier@gmail.com))
- Donate a door prize

### Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride: September 9

**10th Annual Bike Ride - \$110,000 Goal - New incentives and matching donations!**

The 10th Annual OHF Bike Ride is Sept. 9, in Dousman. The efforts of riders, supporters, and volunteers benefit 19 churches and ministries of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, which work in communities facing the challenging effects of poverty.

#### Make the Match: \$25,000 Challenge

In honor of the 10th Annual Ride, a generous donor has presented a matching challenge grant of \$25,000. Riders, volunteers, and virtual riders can use the website [ofhbikeride.com](http://ofhbikeride.com) to craft a fundraising letter.

#### New: Sweatshirt Incentive for Fundraisers

This year, those who individually raise \$300 or more will receive a high-quality, hooded sweatshirt with the 10th Annual OFH Bike Ride logo. Volunteers and Virtual Riders are also eligible when they raise \$300 or more.

#### New Donors and New Riders Will Double the Impact

Augustine Financial has generously pledged to match the registration and donations of all new donors and riders, up to \$5,000. This matching incentive can provide \$10,000 towards the 10th annual ride goal of \$110,000.

*Jeff Kirk leads the Spirit Spinner Ascension Team. Sign up when you register or contact Jeff at 262-524-8975 or [Jeffrey@kirks.us](mailto:Jeffrey@kirks.us).*

Register at [www.ofhbikeride.com](http://www.ofhbikeride.com)

⊗ For Families of All Ages

⊗ Trail Ride up to 21 miles

⊗ Road Rides: 20, 30, 50 miles

⊗ Rest Stops & Fully Sagged

⊗ Picnic After Ride

⊗ Free T-Shirt & Gift Bag (to registered riders).

⊗ Sign up by Aug. 21 to assure free t-shirt.

Join the Spirit Spinner bike rides this summer. Family-friendly riding on the Glacial Drumlin Trail with depart time at 1:30 p.m. from Sunset Park.

\*Sunday, Aug. 13

\*Sunday, Aug. 27

Contact Bob Stoll for more info at 708.557.1564 or [bobstollathome@yahoo.com](mailto:bobstollathome@yahoo.com).

CHURCH COUNCIL



Having fun during the El Salvador delegation visit.

Your Council at Work

Wow! It has been an amazing summer at Ascension. Our visit with our Salvadoran delegates has wrapped up and was a great success. I hope you all had a chance to participate in one of the wonderful activities our Mission Outreach team put together. Thank you to Shirley Wehmeier and the whole Mission Outreach team for all their hard work.

This is a very busy time for our wings. Mission Outreach, along with assistance from our other wings, has been busy planning a neighborhood block party for Aug. 5. This family-friendly event is one you won't want to miss. All our wings are planning for the Wing Spotlight Sundays planned for this fall. During each Spotlight, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the wing and how you too can get involved. I encourage you to take the time to visit each table and learn about all the great things Ascension has to offer. If you are looking for ways to become more active in your faith, this is the perfect time to see where your talents can shine. Our Joyful

Worship and Spiritual Growth wings have already began working on our fall kick off, churchwide small group Bible study, and the holiday worship schedule. Caring Relationships has a variety of new missions they are considering. Again, thank you to our Wing Leaders and their teams for all they do.

Summer is a great time to spend quality time with family and friends. Many of you will spend time traveling or sightseeing and will be away on the weekends. As you continue with your summer activities, please keep Ascension in your financial planning. To make it easy, online offering is available. To sign up, please visit the Ascension website and click on *Online Offering* in the lower right corner of your screen. Continuing your pledges allows our church to continue to meet our monthly budget needs.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact one of our council members.

May God bless you,  
*Cynthia Carlson*, Council President

Treasurer's Report

June started out slow for General Giving but finished on a high note, exceeding the monthly budget projection by \$7,000. While we are still \$6,300 behind where we want to be at this point, we are ahead of 2016 by \$8,300. Each month, we continue to receive monies toward special programs, Ascension Arise, mission and youth programs for example. This month that totaled over \$11,000.

*Peter Laper*, Interim Treasurer

| June 2017 YTD |        |         |        |         |
|---------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|               | Budget |         | Actual |         |
| Income        | \$     | 378,174 | \$     | 371,821 |
| Expenses      | \$     | 372,490 | \$     | 370,452 |
| Inc-Exp       | \$     | 5,684   | \$     | 1,369   |

NAMI Walk:  
September 16

*Change minds about mental health!* Help raise awareness and funds. There is no fee to walk and everyone who raises \$100 or more gets a NAMIWalks Waukesha t-shirt! Register as a team captain or an individual, or support NAMIWalks Waukesha as a sponsor or donor. Your support shares the hopeful message that every person can get needed mental health treatment and experience recovery.

The walk is at Frame Park. Contact Peggy Thrasher, [letstalksoon@hotmail.com](mailto:letstalksoon@hotmail.com), to join the Ascension team. If you can't participate, please consider sponsoring a walker on the Ascension team. Help NAMI change minds one step at a time!

Executive Staff

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

**Pastor**  
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**Director of Administration**  
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**Director of Care Ministries**  
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**Director of Faith Formation**  
Tony Acompanado  
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**Director of Music Ministries**  
Vicki Taylor  
[Vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Vicki@ascensionelca.org)

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Tamie Greenwood  
[Tamie@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Tamie@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**  
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**  
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[Ctgreenwood1@att.net](mailto:Ctgreenwood1@att.net)

**Second Vice President**  
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**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  
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Cathy Rapp  
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Wing Leaders

**Joyful Worship**  
Amy James  
[Jamesgang247@aol.com](mailto:Jamesgang247@aol.com)

**Spiritual Growth**  
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**Caring Relationships**  
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**Mission Outreach**  
Shirley Wehmeier  
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OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

9 a.m.—5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9 a.m.—12 p.m.





| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri                      | Sat  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| <div><div>KEY</div><div><div>EH</div><div>East Hall</div></div><div><div>HR</div><div>Hearth Rm.</div></div><div><div>N</div><div>Narthex</div></div><div><div>NR</div><div>Nursery</div></div><div><div>PL</div><div>Parking Lot</div></div><div><div>PR</div><div>Prayer Rm.</div></div><div><div>S</div><div>Sanctuary</div></div><div><div>WH</div><div>West Hall</div></div><div><div>YR</div><div>Youth Rm.</div></div></div> |   | <div><div>1</div><div>BLAST Online Registration Open</div><div>6:30am AMEN 107</div><div>9:30am TGIT 107</div><div>9:30am Women's Bible Study HR</div></div>                        | <div><div>2</div><div>8am Private PR</div><div>9:30 Cross Meal, offsite</div><div>12:30pm Women's Nurture Grp PR</div><div>6pm Wing Leaders PR</div><div>7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR</div></div> | <div><div>3</div><div>10am Al-Anon WH</div><div>10am TGBG PR</div><div>7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107</div></div>  | <div><div>4</div></div>  | <div><div>5</div><div>9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH</div><div>2:30pm Mission Outreach Block Party PL, CY, WH</div></div> |
| <div><div>6</div><div>9am Worship</div><div>10am Fellowship</div><div>10:45am Worship, Outdoors</div><div>6pm AA Beginner WH</div><div>7pm AA closed WH</div></div>   | <div><div>7</div><div>9:45am Al-Anon WH</div><div>5:30pm Prayer Group PR</div><div>6:30pm AMEN 107</div></div>                                  | <div><div>8</div><div>6:30am AMEN 107</div><div>9:30am Women's Bible Study HR</div></div>   | <div><div>9</div><div>8am Private PR</div><div>9am YAH, Christina's Restaurant</div><div>11:45am Men's Group Lunch 106</div><div>7pm AA Wisdom WH HR</div><div>7pm SOPHIA EH</div></div>  | <div><div>10</div><div>10am Al-Anon WH</div><div>7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107</div></div>                        | <div><div>11</div></div> | <div><div>12</div><div>9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH</div></div>   |
| <div><div>13</div><div>9am Worship</div><div>10am Fellowship</div><div>10:45am Worship</div><div>6pm AA Beginner WH</div><div>7pm AA closed WH</div></div>  | <div><div>14</div><div>9:45am Al-Anon WH</div><div>1pm Living Letters 106</div><div>6pm Tutor Training EH</div><div>6:30pm AMEN 107</div></div> | <div><div>15</div><div>Newsletter Deadline</div><div>6:30am AMEN 107</div><div>9:30am TGIT 107</div><div>9:30am Women's Bible Study HR</div><div>7pm Church Council 107</div></div> | <div><div>16</div><div>8am Private PR</div><div>12pm YAH Potluck EH, WH</div><div>12:30pm Women's Nurture Grp. PR</div><div>7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR</div></div>                              | <div><div>17</div><div>10am Al-Anon WH</div><div>10am TGBG PR</div><div>7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107</div></div> | <div><div>18</div></div> | <div><div>19</div><div>9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH</div><div>2pm CRASH BBQ, Offsite</div></div>                        |
| <div><div>20</div><div>9am Worship</div><div>10am Fellowship</div><div>10:45am Worship</div><div>6pm AA Beginner WH</div><div>7pm AA closed WH</div></div>  | <div><div>21</div><div>9:45am Al-Anon WH</div><div>5:30pm Prayer Group</div><div>6:30pm AMEN 107</div></div>                                    | <div><div>22</div><div>6:30am AMEN 107</div><div>9:30am Women's Bible Study HR</div></div>  | <div><div>23</div><div>8am Private PR</div><div>7pm AA Wisdom, WH</div></div>   | <div><div>24</div><div>10am Al-Anon WH</div><div>7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107</div></div>                        | <div><div>25</div></div> | <div><div>26</div><div>9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH</div></div>   |
| <div><div>27</div><div>Backpack Blessing</div><div>9am Worship</div><div>10am Fellowship</div><div>10:45am Worship</div><div>12pm Praise Band S</div><div>6pm AA Beginner WH</div><div>7pm AA closed WH</div></div>   | <div><div>28</div><div>9:45am Al-Anon WH</div><div>12pm Knit Wits EH</div><div>6:30pm AMEN 107</div></div>                                      | <div><div>29</div><div>6:30am AMEN 107</div><div>9:30am Women's Bible Study HR</div></div>  | <div><div>30</div><div>8am Private PR</div><div>2pm Staff</div><div>7pm AA Wisdom, WH</div></div>   | <div><div>31</div><div>10am Al-Anon WH</div><div>10am TGBG PR</div><div>7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107</div></div> |                          |  |