



*Ascension*  
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ELCA  
October 2017

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PASTORS' PERSPECTIVES



For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus... God is righteous and justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works.

Romans 3:23-24, 26b-28

Reformation Celebration

October marks the time in our church calendar when we commemorate the Reformation and this year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary! This month, we are especially mindful of the great reformer, Martin Luther. People from all over the world will travel to Germany for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. This pilgrimage to Germany will be an inspirational, once-in-a-lifetime journey as people from various faith backgrounds trace the footsteps of our denomination’s founder, Martin Luther. Doubtless, these pilgrims will enjoy a time of spiritual renewal by exploring the roots of Protestantism and reflecting upon centuries of religious history.

Luther is, arguably, one of the most influential people of all time. Certainly you are familiar with the Reformation story. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, who was a Roman Catholic priest and theology professor, nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. His main call to reform was in the area of indulgences. In the medieval church, believers were told they could buy their way into heaven -quite literally. For example, if you had a relative who died and you weren’t too sure if they were in heaven or stuck in purgatory- well, just give more in the offering and your loved one’s soul would fly right up to heaven. It is rumored that Johann Tetzel, a German Roman Catholic friar, was fond of saying, “As soon as a coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.”

In contrast, Martin Luther argued that St. Paul teaches us otherwise. Through Paul’s words, we learn that we are all sinners. God, who is rich in mercy, offers forgiveness to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We cannot purchase it. We didn’t earn it and we don’t deserve it! In fact, God even initiated the little faith that we do have. God, through Jesus, did it all. So, Paul’s words serve to remind us that our works will never justify us. That is why St. Paul’s letter to the Romans is foundational to Lutheran theology. According to Luther, “This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian’s while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul.” Luther encourages us, “Faith is a work of God in us, which changes us and brings us to birth anew from God. It makes us completely different people in heart, mind, senses, and all our powers, and brings the Holy Spirit with it. What a living, creative, active powerful thing is faith! It is impossible that faith ever stops doing good. Faith doesn’t ask whether good works are to be done, but, before it is asked, it has done them. It is always active. Faith is a living, unshakeable confidence in God’s grace; it is so certain, that someone would die a thousand times for it. This kind of trust in and knowledge of God’s grace makes a person joyful, confident, and happy with regard to God and all creatures. It is as impossible to separate works from faith as burning and shining from fire.”

Praise God! We are Reformation people. It is part of our spiritual DNA. As Reformation people, we rely on God’s everlasting promise of extravagant grace. Trusting in God’s mercy, we endeavor to embrace our reformation heritage, remembering that we have been justified by the God who reshapes, reforms, and renews!

Rev. Angela Kfabe

Spotlight Sundays

We are well on our way. Our first Spotlight Sunday celebrating our *Joyful Worship* wing of the Ascension butterfly is in the books. I am grateful to the ministry leaders among us. What a joy to share in the journey of discovery of all of the aspects and logistics of worship life at Ascension.

**Worship.** Our first mark of discipleship. Gathering together to give thanks and praise to God is what we are created to do to the glory of God.

Spotlight Dates

- Oct. 8 Spiritual Growth
- Oct. 15 Mission Outreach
- Oct. 22 Caring Relationships

And then what?

October 15 invites us to serve God in new ways through the *Mission Outreach* wing of the butterfly. Learn about the different ministry partners that we serve alongside in our community, state, nation, and world. Explore new opportunities to get involved in something bigger than yourself and live out your faith by serving God as you serve others. **Serve.** Our fourth mark of discipleship. We serve God by serving others. Ask questions. Hear the stories of the ways that our faith community impacts the world around us to the glory of God.

So what’s next? Are you ready?

We explore the *Spiritual Growth* wing of the butterfly on October 8. Where are you in your journey of faith? In what ways are you exploring the journey of your faith? When do you take the time to offer your spiritual life the opportunity to grow, to ask questions, to move deeper in your relationship with our God? **Grow.** Our second mark of discipleship. We grow in our knowledge of God and in our faith life by reading our Bibles, studying God’s Word together, and asking questions that sometimes need the gifts of time and tending to be answered. Through the

Spiritual Growth wing of the butterfly, our community of faith can seek out new moments of understanding about our God, our faith, and our life together to the glory of God.

Okay, now what?

It takes four wings to fly. On October 22, we complete the image of the butterfly as we discover the *Caring Relationships* wing. Join us as we walk with each other learning about the different ministries of the congregation

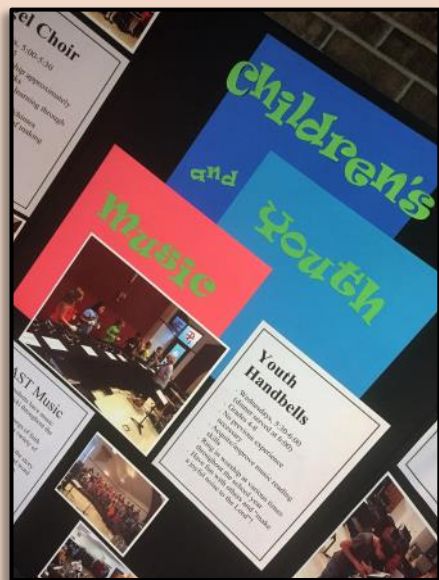
that build relationships within the body of Christ. **Walk.** Our third mark of discipleship. Small Groups, Care Ministries, Purpose Groups such as Knit Wits, Spirit Spinners, and many more invite us to find more intimate ways of connecting with other believers. In a church of our size, sometimes it is easy to get lost in the whirlwind of activities. The Caring Relationships wing offers the opportunity to walk together in smaller groups inviting deeper relationships where community can flourish to the glory of God.

The journey continues all to the glory of God. Come and join us on the journey to the glory of God. See you in church, Rev. Christian Marien





# JOYFUL WORSHIP



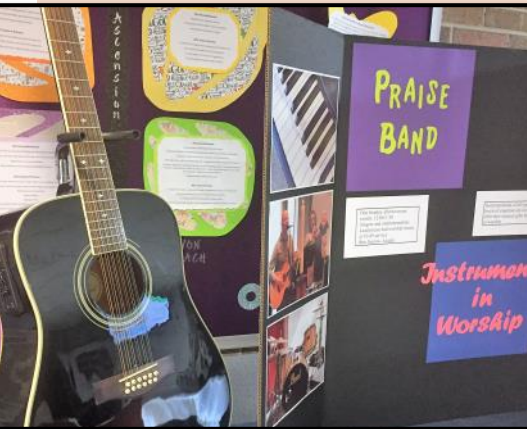
## Reformation Hymn Festival October 22

Luther once remarked that music was a living voice of the Gospel (viva vox evangelii). In recognition of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Ascension and other area ELCA churches will present:

### LIVING VOICES OF THE GOSPEL

A Festival of Hymns for Assembly, Choir, Soloists, Brass, Organ

Sunday, October 22, 4:00pm, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 300 Carroll St., Waukesha



“Living Voices of the Gospel” is based on the hymns of Martin Luther and hymns of other cultural traditions that express a similar theme. The combined choirs of Ascension, Church of the Resurrection, St. John's, and St. Luke's Lutheran churches will be under the direction of Dr. Michael Burkhardt. Dr. Burkhardt is internationally known for his innovative and inspiring hymn festivals and is in frequent demand as an organ recitalist, choral clinician, and hymn festival leader. Dr. Burkhardt is a graduate of Carthage College, Kenosha, WI. He earned his M.M. degree from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, and his D.M.A. degree from Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.

A free will offering will benefit the Hebron House of Hospitality in Waukesha.

Please plan to join Ascension musicians in the newly renovated and beautiful sanctuary at St. Luke's on Oct. 22 for this exciting event.

*Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministries*

## Best Wishes

Best wishes to Becky Whelpley as she begins her tenure as Director of Music at St. John's Lutheran Church in Brookfield. Becky has served as one of our organists and choir accompanists for the past several years. We give thanks for her time at Ascension and know she will be a blessing to the congregation at St. John's.

## Pastoral Acts

### Funerals

Sept. 16 Dorothy Heale

## Gratitude

### Heartfelt Thanks from Ascension Members

Many heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, continuing prayers, and cards during my rehabbing from a concussion and brain bleed. It's a long road. The meals were also greatly appreciated; many thanks to that ministry and the people that contribute their time and efforts to those in need. You are each lifted up in prayer.

*Lin Wollschlager*

Please know how much I appreciated the lovely flowers that were sent to me while I was at the hospital. They were lovely and reminder of the members of Ascension. Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly! Pastor Angela's visit and prayer were most meaningful and encouraging. My heartfelt thanks!

*Sharon Romberg*



Plen & Mae McAllister-Viel

### To Ascension & New Life Ministry

On Aug. 13, 2017, my twins, Plen, and Mae, were baptized. On that day, we received the most awesome gifts! Baskets filled with things the twins need: their first Bibles, and hand-knit blankets. Their baptismal candles are fitted in candlesticks which were also handmade by a member of the church!

We are so overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and caring of Ascension members - truly enfolding us in a Christian community. Your love and support is amazing! Thank you!

*Tara McAllister-Viel*

### Thank You to the Knit Wits

On behalf of the Clement J. Zablocki VAMC patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of lapghans.

Lapghans are used frequently by Veterans as they recover in the hospital. They bring warmth and comfort to our Veterans and are always appreciated and cherished by them. Thank you for your wonderful hand-crafted donation. Sincerely,

*Jessica Serdynski, Specialist, Voluntary Service*

### Hebron House of Hospitality: Home, Help, and Hope

In the warm summer months, we remain grateful for supporters like Ascension Lutheran Church, who understand that homelessness exists all year. Heat advisories and the end of the school year often add to shelter occupancy and expenses. Your continued support is essential and appreciated. Your donation of \$113.64 allows Hebron House to offer shelter, food, and care to hundreds of men, women, and children throughout Waukesha County each year. Thank you for your faithfulness, friends!

*Kris Androsky, Executive Director*

### Hope Center: Helping Hands Building Hope

Thank you very much for your gracious donation of \$273. Hope Center is dedicated to preventing homelessness by providing basic needs. With your continued support, we are making a difference.

*Ralph Zick, Executive Director*



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

BLAST

**October 1** - Green Meadows Petting Farm - BLAST takes place off-site for a thrilling day exploring the wonders of God’s creation (\$10/person – includes farm, hay ride, pumpkin, lunch, and for kids in second grade and under a pony ride too). Our time together will begin at 11 a.m. with an energetic family worship service in the barn followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. Then families will be free to explore the farm for the remainder of the day. All ages are invited! Contact Tony at [tony@ascensionelca.org](mailto:tony@ascensionelca.org) to RSVP or for additional information.

**October 8, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.** - Kindergarten Bible Presentation (in worship)

**October 8, 9:45 – 10:35 a.m.** - Third Grade Bible Stepping Stone: Third grade students and their parents (and even grandparents too) will gather for a time of exploration of the Bible through some fun and exciting stories.

**October 20** - Family Movie Night - Don't miss this monthly FREE, FUN, FAMILY-FRIENDLY event. The featured film for October is *Despicable Me 3*. Popcorn and beverages will be served and participants can bring a snack to share if they wish. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the movie will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

**October 22** - Third Grade Bibles Presentation (at both worship services)



JOLT

10/4 Wed. 6:30 – 8 p.m. JOLT Confirmation  
 10/11 Wed. 6:30 – 8 p.m. JOLT Confirmation  
 10/18 Wed. 6:30 – 8 p.m. JOLT Confirmation  
 10/25 NO JOLT

- ♦ JOLT parents – please remember to pay your child’s \$40 JOLT registration fee.
- ♦ JOLT students – remember to do your sermon notes and turn in to Pastor Chris.

Financial Peace University

What if you knew where all of your money was going each month? What if you were debt-free, investing, and making wise spending decisions? With Dave Ramsey’s class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. We’re offering Financial Peace University at Ascension starting Oct. 19. If you’re interested in learning more about the class, please contact Doug Bue at [dwbue@wi.rr.com](mailto:dwbue@wi.rr.com).

Stewardship: Living Generously

Ascension continues to make a positive difference in the lives of our members, our community, and our partners. Watch for information coming next month giving you the opportunity to commit to carrying this impact through 2018. God is doing amazing things through Ascension with your generous gifts. More importantly, God is doing amazing things in you through your generosity.

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Spotlight Sunday, Oct. 22

Now that fall is here and your routines are back, you may find yourself searching for something new or different to enrich your spiritual life. Maybe you are an empty-nester and your children are off to work, in the military, or at school, and you are looking for a way to volunteer at church. Perhaps you’ve had a recent loss during the past year and you find it is hard to concentrate or focus due to your grief, or you are lonely and need a fun social outlet at this time in your life. Care Ministries is a perfect place to help you. We have and will showcase several of our volunteer opportunities, support groups, and ministries at our Caring Relationships Spotlight on Sunday, Oct. 22. I hope to see you and maybe you will find your volunteer opportunity with us!

*Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries*



Journey of Hope Cancer Ministry



We have a new Journey of Hope Cancer Ministry, which started on Sept. 11 with a leader training. It is my goal that this ministry will work similarly to how the Pastoral Assistant ministry operates at Ascension. Newly diagnosed cancer patients are not always able to attend group settings or church due to infection control. Through Journey of Hope, a caring member of our church will walk-the-walk with these patients. We will meet some of their needs by providing valuable resources and attending to their spiritual needs. In the next two months, we should be ready to begin this help to our members fighting cancer. Do you know a member of our church family who would benefit from this service? Please contact Brenda Lytle at [brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:brenda@ascensionelca.org).

Fall GriefShare in Full Swing

Ascension is offering a 12-week GriefShare program for people who have suffered loss. GriefShare meets on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. through Nov. 27 and is facilitated by Pastor Angela. A free meal is provided for participants beginning at 5:30 p.m. in West Hall.

GriefShare Meal Volunteers

Do you enjoy cooking or preparing meals for others? Are you looking for a way to use your culinary talents in a volunteer opportunity? Care Ministries is looking for individuals or small groups to provide meals for our GriefShare group this fall. Please sign up on the Care Ministries bulletin board or use Sign-Up Genius at [tinyurl.com/GriefMealsFall2017](https://tinyurl.com/GriefMealsFall2017)! Thanks!

Care Ministries Cares about Your Health with Yoga

Yoga is held in East Hall from 6-7 p.m. on Mondays. The cost is \$2.50/class. Our great instructor is Jessica Popp from HumanKind Yoga. Bring your water bottle, mat, and fee and let us help you increase your flexibility and mindfulness! The class continues through Oct. 30. Come join the fun and indulge in an hour for yourself!



# CARING RELATIONSHIPS



## HOPE Ministry

*Healing Our Pain...Eventually*

This ministry arose out of our GriefShare program. About a dozen men and women get together a couple times a month for social events and service work. In August, the group gathered for a fish fry and night out at Friday Night Live. It was fun to be downtown with Ben Janzow's band, Dirty Boogie, and dance. During September, HOPE held a drive for the Waukesha Women's Center. The group decided to make this service project bigger and include the congregation. At the end of the month, HOPE members delivered the donations to a very grateful Women's Center. Thank you for your donations! Our group connected with members of Ascension at Frame Park for the NAMI Walk on Sept. 16 to support those suffering with mental illness. Have you suffered loss and would like to get your life back on track? This is the perfect ministry group for you! Please contact Brenda, [brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:brenda@ascensionelca.org), if interested.

## Blessing Tree

The Wednesday Women's Nurture Group will again sponsor the Blessing Tree for people in need at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Gift cards, for example, could be used for a Thanksgiving Dinner or for parents to buy Christmas toys for their children.

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

A tree will be set up in the narthex with color-coded leaves for each charity. Each leaf will tell you what is needed. The tree will go up on Oct. 18 and come down on Nov. 15. All gifts should be unwrapped and placed in the bin under the tree. Look for a poster in the narthex.

## Knit Wits

The Knit Wits are busy making hats for the Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council (due in Nov.), Cross Lutheran, and the Salvation Army. We are also working with the ADRC of Waukesha, making Twiddle Muffs for Alzheimer's' patients. If you happen to have some artsy or "odd" yarns at home and don't know what to do with them, let us know! We can use them for muffs or dress scarves for Curative Care. If you'd like to help make a muff or a hat, just contact me. Large skeins of baby yarn are always welcome too.

Anyone can join us! For more information, just call or email me. Our purpose is to foster fellowship and friendship among our members. Our mission is to help keep the less fortunate warm, one stitch at a time.

*Maddie Goetter*, Knit Wits Coordinator

## Blood Pressure Screenings Resume

Blood pressure screenings resume Oct. 8, between services, once a month. If you are a healthcare professional and would like to volunteer, we could use your help! Contact Brenda Lytle, [brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:brenda@ascensionelca.org).

### Screening dates

- ♦ Oct. 8
- ♦ Nov. 19
- ♦ Dec. 3
- ♦ Jan. 14
- ♦ Feb. 11
- ♦ March 11
- ♦ April 15
- ♦ May 6

## The Daniel Plan: Carbs

To carb or not to carb...that is the question! Low carb, high carb, no carbs, which carbs....what is a person supposed to eat? It seems like the world is full of all kinds of suggestions on what to eat and what not to eat...and then we come along with yet another one....so here goes.

Quite simply, not all carbs are bad. Unfortunately, too many people throw all carbs into one cart and label them "bad." Often times, when people decide to keep SOME carbs, they unfortunately choose the bad ones. The reality is that carbs are the "gas" in your car. They are what give our bodies the fuel to go through life with sufficient energy. Just like a car, if you fill it with bad gas, it will cough and sputter and act sluggishly. When you fill it with good gas, your car runs smoothly and efficiently.

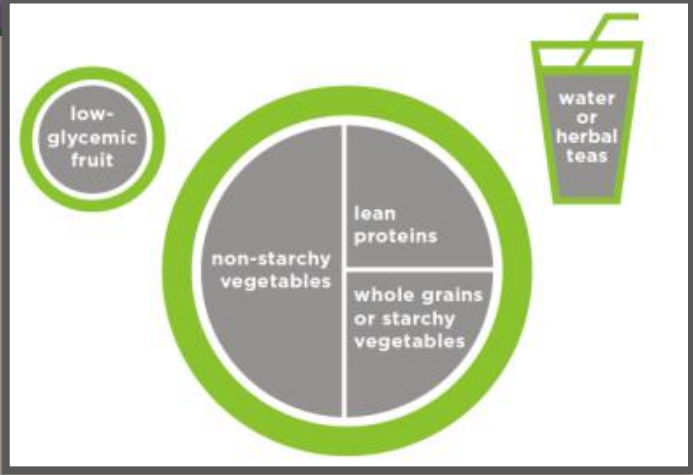
Carbs are actually grouped into two types: Simple carbs which are things like breads, pastas, white rice, fruit juices etc. Complex carbs include foods such as spinach, cauliflower, broccoli, kale, lentils and quinoa, just to name a few. We like to explain the two types of carbs using the analogy of a charcoal grill. Simple carbs act like when you spray charcoal lighter on your charcoal. When the match hits it, it flares up and quickly burns out. A complex carb is like the remaining burning embers that remain, slowly and continually smoldering providing energy to cook the food. When people eat simple carbs, they will often feel satisfied for a short period and then will feel a "crash" as it is often described. Complex carbs offer you extended periods of consistent energy and will help you avoid the "crash."

The "Daniel Plan Plate," as it is referred to in the Daniel Plan study, actually consists of 50% non-starchy vegetables (complex carbs), 25% healthy animal or vegetable protein and 25% healthy starch (simple carbs.) In addition, you may also have a low glycemic fruit and a beverage of water or herbal tea.

Good nutrition is not as big of a mystery as many people make it out to be. It is up to each person to learn about healthy foods so they can make their own good choices rather than being misled by skillful marketers at the ad agencies.

We spend a good amount of time talking about food in each Daniel Plan study. In addition to the topics in the Daniel Plan book, we teach group members some tips on reading labels, sample healthy foods, share recipes and even take a field trip to a grocery store to learn how to shop. Please consider joining the next six-week Daniel Plan study starting Sunday, Oct. 29, from 6-8 p.m., in room 107. If you have questions or would like to join the group please contact us at 414.419.2699 or e-mail [cspieker@budgetblinds.com](mailto:cspieker@budgetblinds.com).

*Steve & Carol Spieker*



## Young at Heart

We have been enjoying our Breakfast at Christina's on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. In Oct., we meet on the 11th, at 9 a.m. No need to register, just show up. Our next Young at Heart Lunch is Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 12-3 p.m. Please join us for a potluck lunch. There will be time for socializing and playing games after we eat. God blesses us with an enjoyable afternoon; all we need is you. If you have questions, call Celeste Defenbaugh - 262-370-4522, Beth Hoffmann - 262-542-7447, or Arlene Davis - 262-542-9119.

## NAMI Theatrical Performance - Pieces

*Pieces* is a thought-provoking theatrical production depicting youth as they deal with the stigma and labels of mental health issues. *Pieces* will be presented on Monday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m., at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center For The Arts, 19805 West Capital Dr., Brookfield. It is a FREE performance. For tickets, visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/pieces-in-my-own-voice-tickets-34887933749](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/pieces-in-my-own-voice-tickets-34887933749).

*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.*



# MISSION OUTREACH



## God’s Work. Our Hands.

The months of August and September were exceptionally busy for Mission Outreach. We could not have done all that we accomplished without the support of so many volunteers. Whether you assisted at a table at the Block Party, served at the Outreach for Hope Bike Ride, walked in the NAMI walk, participated in a SOPHIA event, or spent your Saturdays helping someone learn English, your services were and continue to be greatly appreciated. The ELCA encourages us to use our hands to do God’s work. Truly, the events of the recent months have carried that out. We are truly practicing GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS at Ascension. Mission Outreach invites you to explore ways to use your skills and interests in serving God through serving others.

*Shirley Wehmeier*, Mission Outreach Wing Leader

## Community Outreach Team

Our first community outreach event in August was a great success. We are thankful for all who participated in any way, but that was just the first step. We are forming a subcommittee under Mission Outreach to plan other ways to reach out more within the community. For example, for Rally Day, we had an announcement about the service times, BLAST, JOLT, and CRASH in the Little Free Library. All the flyers were taken. We know that people respond best to soft, friendly approaches to invitations to religious activities. If you are interested in planning other ways to reach out to the community, contact Shirley Wehmeier, [shwehmeier@gmail.com](mailto:shwehmeier@gmail.com).

## Literacy Tutoring

Do you have an interest in helping others? Would you like to spend quality time making a difference in the lives of adults and children? Then you may want to explore the tutoring program that is a collaboration between Ascension and Greater Waukesha Literacy. On Saturday mornings, tutors and students meet individually or in small groups to improve their skills in listening and speaking and reading and writing. Tutors also help prepare students to take the citizenship test. In Sept., the theme of measurements, directions, maps, and geography was used to help students develop literacy skills and understand a little more about their new country. In Oct., we will focus on manners, social skills, customs, and culture. A wide variety of resources is available at Ascension and at the office of Greater Waukesha Literacy. If you would like more information about being a tutor or you know someone who would benefit from tutoring, contact Barbara Nordberg, [bnordberg@wi.rr.com](mailto:bnordberg@wi.rr.com). Or stop at the tutoring booth during the Mission Outreach Spotlight on Oct. 15.

## Habitat Build

You are invited to volunteer for Ascension’s 12th annual Mission Outreach with Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Builds on Saturday, Oct. 7. We will do our favorite task, final interior painting. A new home in the Washington Park area of Milwaukee is the place. A group of 8-10 volunteers is needed - 16 years and older. We will carpool from Ascension at 8:15 a.m. and work until 3 p.m. Please contact Ric Simon to sign up at [ricsimon@yahoo.com](mailto:ricsimon@yahoo.com) or call/text at 262-794-2808.

## Scholarship Support for Tanzania

Back to school time in Tanzania can be stressful and difficult. Even in the public schools, families have financial obligations that must be met in order for students to be allowed to attend school. Our sister parishes are located in rural communities with few opportunities for employment, so although the school fees are small by our standards, they can be impossibly steep for most families. Pastor Lema has asked for St. Luke's and Ascension to help the students of our sister parishes to be able to attend school. This is the one most important way for the next generation to have an improved life beyond what has limited so many in previous generations.



Last year, we set a goal to raise enough money to send 50 students to school in our partnership parish in Tanzania. At the end of the project, we raised enough money to send 89 students to school! That means we raised funds for maize and beans to cover tuition, books, and uniforms for the students. What a show of generosity! We don’t want to turn our backs on these students. We will again raise funds to send students to school in our partner parish in Tanzania.

What are the per pupil costs? Each student must provide one large bag of corn and one small bag of beans (\$42), a school uniform (\$7), and books (\$11). The total cost for a year of school per student is \$60. The coffee farmers who participate in our coffee program are able to cover these costs. For the rest of the families, this cost is out of reach. In preparation for our delegation visit to Tanzania next summer, we will again be accepting offerings in all sizes; notate "Meru School" in the memo line of checks.

The Tanzanian Lutheran church is one of the largest Lutheran churches in the world. Mwitula Williams, [a third-generation Tanzanian Lutheran] thinks the rapid growth has everything to do with the church’s commitment to social services. “At the end of the day, you can preach all you want, but what connects the community are basic needs,” she said. “If my health is not good, my kids are not going to school. If I’m farming and don’t have clean water, I’m not coming to church on Sunday. Before he taught people, Jesus made sure people’s needs were met. Because the Lutheran church tries to live out the Gospel this way, that’s why it’s growing” (Living Lutheran magazine). Let’s see how many students we can send to school in Meru this fall! Contact Sarah Wehmeier Aparicio with questions, [weh22@hotmail.com](mailto:weh22@hotmail.com).

You can preach all you want, but what connects the community are basic needs...Before he taught people, Jesus made sure people’s needs were met.  
~ Mwitula Williams, Tanzanian Lutheran

## Hope Center Important Dates

Run/Walk = Family Fun on Oct. 16: Hope Center is pleased to announce the 2017 Run/Walk for Hope. This fun family event will support the ministries/programs that assist the most vulnerable members of our community. The 7th Annual Run/Walk will take place at Carroll University at 5 p.m., rain or shine. Come in a Halloween costume and be eligible for a prize for the best costume. The cost is \$20/person beforehand or \$25/person on race day. Students and kids get a \$10 discount. You can register at [HopeCenterWI.org](http://HopeCenterWI.org). The Hope Center Thanksgiving Dinner and Auction is Nov. 16 at Country Springs Hotel. This gala helps raise funds for the many Hope Center programs. Please reserve your spot to attend the 5 p.m. cocktails and silent auction, with 7 p.m. dinner and live auction. The theme this year is The Great Gatsby, so 20’s attire is encouraged. Hope Center is also requesting donations of themed baskets for the silent auction or for businesses to step forward to be a sponsor. More information is available at [HopeCenterWI.org](http://HopeCenterWI.org).





## Update from the Stubbs Family

Much has changed for our missionary family in Tanzania. When they were here two years ago, they were ready to send their daughter Megan off to Finland for graduate school and their son Nathan to the US to major in computers. Their performance as a family at Ascension that night was one of their last traditional family performances. Since then, Carol has spent months in cancer treatment here in Wisconsin. Randy and Marissa have traveled back and forth to Tanzania. Randy is primarily at the university at Makumira. They continue to need our prayers and support. Following are some quotes from his recent newsletter:

*Grace and peace to you from the Stubbs family. You already know that this past year has been full of the highest highs and the lowest lows for us. We give thanks that we serve an awesome God who accompanies us in very real ways as we sojourn here on earth. The prayers of literally thousands of people all around the world have sustained us during this time. Thanks be to God!*

*We give thanks that Carol and I were able to make a trip to Tanzania together recently for one week. It was important for Carol to greet and also receive the numerous affirmations of her vital ministry in Tanzania from current and former students, colleagues, and friends. We may not see them this year due to our extenuating circumstances. Carol returns to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee on 6 September for the next round of chemotherapy plus a stem cell transplant from her brother. This is the best option for longer remission and Carol has passed all of the pre-testing and is stronger now than since last November. Marissa and I will remain with her until the end of October, and that gives us a chance to do some home assignment visits.*

*Other updates: Megan (23) has finished the educational component of her Masters final project in Tanzania and returns to Finland next week for her final semester. Oh, and she got engaged last month to another Makumira music graduate, Emmanuel Ndale! Tentative plans are for a March wedding. Marissa (22) is with us in the States and continues to progress on piano, harp, recorder, and now guitar. She is a big help for me and Carol. Nathan is back in Austin, TX as a Computer Science major and also continues to work part-time for People Patterns.*

*I (Randy) have been living a double life as primary caregiver for Carol and head of various activities at Tumaini University Makumira in Tanzania. I plan to make one more trip this year. In August, I made a "quick" trip to the Philippines and Malaysia to work on collaborative activities with Makumira. It was a very full few days, packed with many meetings, performances, and connections with Tanzania. Please see the Cultural Arts Centre website ([www.cac.ac.tz](http://www.cac.ac.tz)) and Facebook for more details.*

## About Membership

This article is for those of you whom we welcome as part of our church community but who may not have made an official commitment to Ascension for one reason or another. Your kids (or grandkids) come to BLAST, JOLT, or CRASH because you realize children's faith development is important. Or maybe you're a part of Knit Wits, GriefShare, other small groups, or Bible studies and thought, "Maybe I'll come to worship." Maybe you've met and been inspired by Pastor Angela or Pastor Chris at a wedding or funeral and have been hooked ever since. Maybe you've met Vicki Taylor or Ben Janzow at a community event. In any case, I'd like you to consider what it means to participate in this community of faith in a deeper way.

We all have reasons to hold back. For one, *commitment* is a thorny word. We may greet each other and share the peace of the Lord every week (or once every couple of months). And we might know names and recognize faces, but we're there to be fed, sing songs, hear the Word, and leave. We feel good and we've done our duty, right? Until next time, my friend.

But what we hear on Sunday tells us that we are meant to live in a community of faith, and, as such, to love and to help one another and others of the world.

We are church together, our faith tells us ([www.elca.org/About](http://www.elca.org/About)).

10 minutes of directions and 15 minutes of driving reach. We were welcomed by friendly people and offered a place to sit, no easy task considering all the child gear we were toting. During that worship, we heard music and Word that spoke to us. And every service since then, it's been the same.

Over the years, we've built relationships and have had experiences that deepened our faith, whether through other parents sharing daily struggles, small group studies, BLAST, CRASH, or leadership roles in the congregation. And through Ascension's highpoints -- building the Spiritual Growth wing as a congregation, the baptism of children; but also through tragedies, deaths of family members, and too many young members of our congregation. Getting through all of this would not have been possible without the support of the church community. What I learned was, as a community with the help of God, we lift each other up to reach goals and we hold each other up in difficulties, all the while learning about the power of God's love.

But the first step our faith journey was the commitment on our part.

If you are an occasional attendee, event participant, or believe church is something that is only important for your children, please consider what might be holding you back from deepening your relationship with Ascension and making a commitment to membership.

*Just as God has joined us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism, we are also joined to others, not only in the ELCA and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), but in all communities of Christian faith around the world. In Christ none of us lives in isolation from others. Jesus is our peace and has broken down the walls that divide us – walls of judgment, hatred, condemnation and violence – and has made us into one, new human community. (Ephesians 2:14-15).*

I don't know what called you to visit this community of faith. But I can tell you what called my family. As a young family beginning our faith journey, we visited different churches and denominations. We visited traditional Lutheran churches, progressive Catholic churches, non-denominational churches, and every kind in between. It went on three years or, as in the life of a young family, one and a half children.

Finally, one Sunday, we were brought by my parents who had recently moved to Waukesha to Ascension, to a rather plain church in a corner of town that took

I encourage you to speak to Pastor Chris or Pastor Angela about any questions you have.

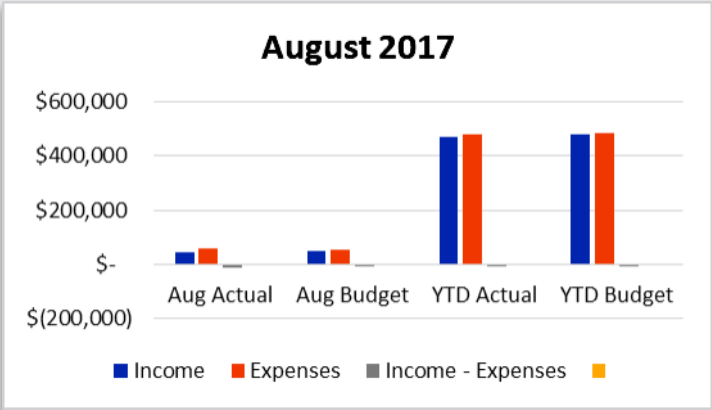
If you'd like to attend our **Starting Point class Oct. 22**, between services, please fill out the online form at [tinyurl.com/AscensionNewMembers](http://tinyurl.com/AscensionNewMembers) or contact the church office.

Maybe this community of faith is somewhere you can feel at home, plant some roots that grow your faith, and be supported when times are difficult.

*Amy Gilgenbach*, Director of Administration



CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMUNICATIONS



Treasurer’s Report

August saw a decline in general giving, falling \$3,000 behind budgeted totals. Nevertheless, important contributions were made to mission outreach programs such as El Salvador Partnerships. Expenses exceeded budgeted totals for the month as well. Overall we’re \$6,800 behind where we would like to be now.  
*Darwin Moore, Treasurer*

Helpful Communication Info

With the beginning of a new cycle of ministry, I would like to remind church and ministry leaders about the communications and calendar guidelines/deadlines that we’ve established over the past couple of years for Ascension. The goal is to have material that is fresh and interesting for readers so that your message gets through and your activities are well-publicized.

**E-alert and bulletin announcements** -- For a short news brief (two to three lines) about an upcoming event. Events will be run two weeks prior to the event, unless there is something related to the event that will take place sooner, i.e. event registration. If that is the case, please re-write and re-submit periodically to keep things interesting. The deadline for both e-alert and bulletin announcements is **noon on Tuesday**. Please email to me, [admin@ascensionelca.org](mailto:admin@ascensionelca.org). E-alert announcements can link to our website for expanded content.

**Newsletter** -- For articles about your group’s activities, purpose, and ministry. Deadline is the **12th of the month prior**. Please focus on activities only in the next month to keep material fresh and interesting for readers. Please do not submit the same article for repeated months. Make changes and make it interesting for people. No pre-printed or full-page flyers are permitted due to space constraints. Consider submitting a photo (not clipart) with your article. Email newsletter items to Kate Mattson, [kate@ascensionelca.org](mailto:kate@ascensionelca.org).

**Website** -- If you have information on the website that needs to be updated (and we recommend that you update information at least yearly!), please send the changes to Kate Mattson, [kate@ascensionelca.org](mailto:kate@ascensionelca.org). If you have a new ministry or mission page you would like on our website, please review it with your wing leader and then submit it to Kate.

**Social media** -- Ascension has a Facebook page and we’d love to have a photo of your event and a small brief to announce it. Please follow our page and share with your friends. We occasionally post announcements to Facebook. If you have something we should share, please email it to [admin@ascensionelca.org](mailto:admin@ascensionelca.org) or post it on our Facebook page.

**Media screens in the narthex** – We use information from the calendar, newsletter, e-alert, or bulletin to create these eye-catching displays.

**Narthex displays/tables** -- Please know we are limited in the amount of narthex space we can use. Stand-alone displays (tripods) in the narthex are generally discouraged. With space constraints and potential impediment to traffic flow, there’s a chance your display may not be seen. Reservations are required for table use. Please contact me to schedule or with questions.

**Calendar reservations** – Please contact me to reserve meeting space, preferably by the Tuesday to the week prior so it can be printed in the bulletin calendar.

Thanks, all. Please contact me if you have any questions.  
Many blessings on your new fall ministry season!

*Amy Gilgenbach, Director of Administration*

**SAVE PAPER!** Subscribe to our weekly e-mailed announcements: Ascension’s e-alert list reaches just over 400 people/households each week. We use MailChimp, a free, online email service that complies with legal email list privacy and subscription requirements. Please sign up online at [tinyurl.com/newsalertALC](http://tinyurl.com/newsalertALC).

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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
1 8:30am Worship 9:30am Puppets WH 9:45am BLAST EH 10am Fellowship 10:45am Worship 10:45am BLAST, Offsite 5:30pm PA Group HR 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	2 9:45am Al-Anon WH 5:30pm Prayer Grp, PR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Cancer Care PR	3 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5:30pm GriefShr Meal WH 6pm GriefShr YR	4 8am Private PR 9:30am Cross Meal, Offsite 12:30pm Women's Grp PR 3:45pm Tutoring 106, 107 6pm JOLT Dinner WH 6:15pm Handbells S 6:30pm JOLT EH 7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR 7pm Mikecz Grp PR 7:30pm Choir S	5 10am Al-Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir 5:30pm Joyful Sounds 6:30pm Handbell Workshop S 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	6	7 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH
8 5K Bible Presentation 8:30am Worship 9:45am 3rd Grade Stepping Stone WH 9:45am BLAST EH 9:45am BP Check HR 10:45am Worship 5:30pm PA Group HR 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	9 9:45am Al-Anon WH 1pm Living Letters 106 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Cancer Care PR	10 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 1pm SOPHIA 107 5:30pm GriefShr Meal WH 6pm GriefShr YR 6:30pm Mission Outreach 7pm Holloway Grp 107	11 8am Private PR 9am YAH Breakfast, Offsite 11:45am Men's Grp 106 3:45pm Tutoring 106, 107 5:30pm Yth Ringers S 6pm JOLT Dinner WH 6:15pm Handbells S 6:30pm JOLT EH 7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR 7pm Mikecz Grp PR 7:30pm Choir S	12 Newsletter Deadline 10am Al-Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir 5:30pm Joyful Sounds 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107 7pm Care Ministries PR	13	14 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH 9am Knit Fest EH
15 8:30am Worship 9:45am BLAST EH 10:45am Worship 5:30pm PA Small Grp HR 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	16 9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Knit Wits EH 5:30pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Cancer Care PR	17 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 1pm Pastoral Asst PR 5:30pm GriefShare Meal WH 6pm GriefShare YR 7pm Council 107	18 8am Private PR 12pm YAH Potluck EH, WH 12:30pm Women's Nurture Grp PR 3:45pm Tutoring 106, 107 5:30pm Yth Ringers S 6pm JOLT Dinner WH 6:15pm Handbells S 6:30pm JOLT EH 7pm Mikecz Grp PR 7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR 7:30pm Choir S	19 10am Al-Anon WH 5pm Angel Choir 5:30pm Joyful Sounds 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	20 6:30pm Family Movie Night EH	21 9am Knit Fest EH 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH
22 3rd Grade Bible Presentation 8:30 Worship 9:45am BLAST 9:45am New Members Class, PC's Office 10:45am Worship 12pm Military Packing WH 2pm Reformation Event, Offsite 5:30pm PA Small Grp HR 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	23 9:45am Al-Anon WH 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	24 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5:30pm GriefShare Meal WH 6pm GriefShare YR 6pm Cloverleaf EH 7pm Holloway Grp 107	25 8am Private PR 3:45pm Tutoring 106, 107 5:30pm Yth Ringers S 6:15pm Handbells S 7pm Mikecz Grp PR 7pm AA Wisdom WH, HR 7:30pm Choir S	26 10am Al-Anon WH 10am TGBG PR 5pm Angel Choir 5:30pm Joyful Sounds 7pm Ballantyne Sm Grp 107	27	28 9am Tutoring 106, 107, HR, PR, WH
29 Reformation Sunday New Member Reception 8:30 Worship 9:30am Puppets EH 9:45am BLAST 10am Adult Ed S 10:45am Worship 12pm Praise Band S 5:30pm PA Small Grp HR 6pm The Daniel Plan 107 6pm AA Beginner WH 7pm AA closed WH	30 9:45am Al-Anon WH 12pm Knit Wits EH 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	31 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5:30pm GriefShare Meal WH 6pm GriefShare YR	<div>KEY EH East Hall      PR Prayer Rm. HR Hearth        S Sanctuary N Narthex        WH West Hall NR Nursery      YR Youth Rm. PL Parking Lot</div>			