



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA  
June 2016

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WAUKESHA, WI 53188-4997

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## What's in the **JUNE** newsletter

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Thoughts on Fatherhood.....             | 3  |
| Pastoral Acts .....                     | 4  |
| Administration: Survey & Office Hours.. | 4  |
| Your Council at Work.....               | 4  |
| Financial Report .....                  | 5  |
| Children's Ministry .....               | 6  |
| Kidventure: Treasure Island .....       | 6  |
| JOLT Adventure Camp.....                | 6  |
| CRASH .....                             | 6  |
| Confirmation 2016.....                  | 7  |
| Puppets of Praise .....                 | 8  |
| Library Corner .....                    | 8  |
| From Vicar Steve Bogie .....            | 8  |
| Care Ministries: A Year in Review ..... | 9  |
| Upcoming Care Ministry Events.....      | 10 |
| Special Friends.....                    | 10 |
| A Taste of The Daniel Plan .....        | 11 |
| Prayer Group.....                       | 12 |
| Young at Heart .....                    | 12 |
| Gratitude .....                         | 12 |
| Cross Partnership: Summer Vacation....  | 13 |
| El Salvador Partnership .....           | 13 |
| Refugee Sunday .....                    | 14 |
| In Our Own BackYard: Hope Center....    | 15 |
| June 2016 Calendar.....                 | 16 |

# THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA



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1415 Dopp Street  
Waukesha, WI 53188

# OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

### Pastor President

Rev. Christian W. Marien  
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### Pastor 1st Vice-President

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

### Director of Administration 2nd Vice-President

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

### Director of Care Ministries Secretary

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

### Director of Faith Formation Treasurer

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

### Director of Music Ministries Members-at-Large

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## SUPPORT STAFF

### Administrator for Joyful Worship and Spiritual Growth

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### Administrator for Caring Relationships and Mission Outreach

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### Nursery Staff

Carli Boyer  
Rachel Stemper

### Wedding Coordinator

Lauri Eckmann  
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## MUSIC STAFF

### Praise Band Leader

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

### Folk Choir Leader

Ray Kinney [Raywk2003@yahoo.com](mailto:Raywk2003@yahoo.com)

# THOUGHTS ON FATHERHOOD

Pastor Angela Khabebe

In preparation for this month's newsletter article, I read over a 100 quotes, scriptures, and anecdotes about fatherhood. I struggled to find the balance between the wise *Father Knows Best* dad, the absent father, and the hard-nosed-no-nonsense dad. People rarely fit into a single category. I suppose most fathers play all of these roles at one time or another. That is when I rediscovered a poem by the late renowned radio personality, Paul Harvey. In his poem *What is a Father Made of?* Harvey provides a generous definition of fatherhood where he touches on the many complicated facets that reflect the depth of parenthood. Written in the 1970s, Harvey's timeless words still resonate today. I hope his words of wisdom speak to you as they did me.



## WHAT IS A FATHER MADE OF?

*A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth without an anesthetic.*

*A father is a thing that growls when it feels good - and always laughs very loud when it's scared half to death.*

*A father is sometimes accused of giving too much time to his business when the little ones are growing up. That's partly fear, too. Fathers are much more easily frightened than mothers.*

*A father never feels entirely worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He's never quite the hero his daughter thinks - never quite the man his son believes him to be. This worries him, sometimes. So he works too hard to try and smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow him.*

*A father is a thing that goes away to war, sometimes. He learns to swear and shoot and spit through his teeth and would run the other way except that this war is part of his only important job in life - which is making the world better for his child than it has been for him. Fathers grow old faster than people. Because they, in other wars, have to stand at the train station and wave goodbye to the uniform that climbs aboard. And while mothers can cry where it shows, fathers have to stand there and beam outside and die inside.*

*Fathers have very stout hearts, so they have to be broken sometimes or no one would know what's inside. Fathers are what give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough so they can have grandchildren that are smarter than anybody's.*

*Fathers fight dragons almost daily. They hurry away from the breakfast table off to the arena which is sometimes called an office or a workshop. There, with calloused, practiced hands they tackle the dragon with three heads: Weariness, Work and Monotony. And they never quite win the fight but they never give up. Knights in shining armor - fathers in shiny trousers. There's little difference - as they march away to each workday.*

*Father's make bets with insurance companies about who'll live the longest. Though they know the odds, they keep right on betting. Even as the odds get higher and higher, they keep right on betting more and more. One day they lose. But fathers enjoy an earthly immortality and the bet's paid off to the part of him he leaves behind. [Wherever a] father goes when he dies... after a good rest, he won't be happy unless there's work to do. He won't just sit on a cloud and wait for the girl he's loved and the children she bore. No, he'll be busy there too, repairing the stairs, oiling the gates, improving the streets, smoothing the way.*

I understand that some of us have buried fathers, never been fathers, do not know our fathers, or had horrible fathers. But one thing we all share, is our heavenly Father. *What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are.* (1 John 3:1, The Message)



## PASTORAL ACTS

Confirmed May 15, 2016

Anderson, Kameron  
Anspach, Genevieve  
Ehrlich, Jordan  
Gallo, Alexander

Gunderson, Brandon  
Hoff, Brandon  
James, Grace  
Keller, Kaylee

Leber, Cassandra  
Lytle, Brooke  
Martin, Maddie  
McFadden, Jacob  
Venske, Sydney



## ADMINISTRATION: SURVEY & OFFICE HOURS

### SURVEY

*Amy Gilgenbach, Director of Administration*

We'd like some information from you to help evaluate our church communications. We've developed a quick survey, available online:

<http://tinyurl.com/ALCsurvey2016>

Your responses will help target areas for improvement as we work to spread the Good News in a fiscally- and environmentally-responsible manner.

Please take a few moments to give us some feedback. If possible, we'd prefer if you answered online but if you aren't able to, a paper survey is available at the Welcome Center. Look for the pink sheet of paper.

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Starting the week of May 29, Monday through Thursday, the office will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please note -- the office will be closed Fridays at noon. The pastors are still available in emergency situations via their numbers printed in the directory.



## YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

*Paul Wehmeier, Council President*

Your church council is fully aware of the trust and responsibility that you place in us and we take our work very seriously. All that we do is as servants of God and we pray that our work is always to His glory.

Our Director of Ministries Kelly Hoeg meets with the four wing leaders on a regular basis. Please read about the wing activities in the newsletter each month. By meeting together, the wing leaders are coalescing into a work group. This is a major element for our 2025 Vision. Craig Greenwood is participating in this work.

Peter Laper, Director of Operations, has completed the work of a new mortgage. Our three-year note expired in April. The new note is for 3.8% for five years. Several members are assisting in reviewing some of our operational expenditures to determine if there are some cost savings we can take advantage of.

Please look at Patti Mueller's financial article. In it, she provides some information to help you understand the terms found in the financial reports.

Director of Administration Amy Gilgenbach has provided the council with a current list of members who have not worshipped with us for a while. Over the next several months, council members will be reaching out to these families to let them know we miss them and encourage them to return to worship and active participation in the church. Just like the parable of the lost sheep in the Bible, when one of our members is missing from our fellowship, we reach out in love, and rejoice when they return.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## APRIL 31, 2016 YEAR-TO-DATE

Pattie Mueller, Treasurer



| General Fund Activity         | April 2016 Actual    | Apr-16 Budget       | Variance to 2016 Budget |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                 |                      |                     |                         |
| Contributions                 | \$45,017.72          | \$48,075.00         | (\$3,057.28)            |
| Rent, Interest, other income  | \$1,902.14           | \$5,395.83          | (\$3,493.69)            |
| Restricted Income             | \$47,500             | \$7,500.00          | (\$2,750.00)            |
| <b>Total Income</b>           | <b>\$51,669.86</b>   | <b>\$60,970.83</b>  | <b>(\$9,300.97)</b>     |
|                               |                      |                     |                         |
| <b>Expenses</b>               |                      |                     |                         |
| Communications                | \$1,753.76           | \$2,216.66          | (\$462.90)              |
| Facilities                    | \$8,714.66           | \$8,219.32          | \$495.34                |
| Financial Development         | \$8,121.87           | \$8,083.00          | \$38.87                 |
| Leadership Development        | \$571.00             | \$1,233.33          | (\$662.33)              |
| Administration                | \$21,625.19          | \$22,280.91         | (\$655.72)              |
| Caring Relationships          | \$1,190.37           | \$2,345.25          | (\$1,154.88)            |
| Joyful Worship                | \$7,416.93           | \$8,054.49          | (\$637.56)              |
| Mission Outreach              | \$6,000.00           | \$8,208.34          | (\$2,208.34)            |
| Spiritual Growth              | \$8,040.59           | \$7,071.90          | \$968.69                |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>         | <b>\$63,434.37</b>   | <b>\$67,713.20</b>  | <b>(\$4,278.83)</b>     |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>      | <b>(\$11,764.51)</b> | <b>(\$6,742.37)</b> | <b>(\$5,022.14)</b>     |
| Mortgage Balance              | \$701,320.02         |                     |                         |
| Restricted Funds Balance      | \$144,849.90         |                     |                         |
| General Fund Balance          | (\$36,634)           |                     |                         |
| Ascension Arise Contributions | \$5,262              |                     |                         |
| Restricted Contributions      | \$0                  |                     |                         |

As a follow up to Paul Wehmeier's May newsletter article (see page 4), wherein Paul discusses the council's commitment to improve its communication with the congregation regarding the church's financial needs, I am providing detail on how to read and interpret April's financial information.

The information in the second column, *April 2016 Actual*, details the actual contributions/income received by Ascension and the actual bills paid by Ascension during the month of April.

The information in the third column, *April 2016 Budget*, is based on the annual budget that was approved last November at the Annual Meeting. Information in this column was the council's prediction on the amount of contributions/income and expenses Ascension would have this April.

The fourth column with the heading *Variance to 2016 Budget* compares how Ascension actually performed against what was predicted.

By comparing April's total income Variance to 2016 Budget, you will see (\$4,278.83). The parentheses around the amount means there was a deficit or loss. So, in April, Ascension had a deficit of \$9,300.97 in income.

By comparing April's total expenses-Variance to 2016 Budget, you will see (\$4,278.83). When there are parentheses around amounts that indicate expenses, the parentheses mean that underspending occurred. This means that in April, Ascension staff and Wing and Leg Leaders did a great job of managing the church's expenses.

In the row labeled Surplus/Deficits, you will see in the second column (\$11,669.86). In this case the parentheses around the amount means there is a deficit or loss. This means in April, even though everyone did a great job of underspending, the contributions/offerings and other income were not sufficient enough to cover the church's expenses.

As a church what do we do? I do not think I can answer this question for the entire congregation, but I know what *my* answer is to the question. I have received gifts and blessings from God and now I need to return the gifts I have received.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Tony Acompanado, Director of Faith Formation*

It is with deepest appreciation that we wish to thank all of our incredible teachers, helpers, and volunteers. In sharing your gifts of time, dedication, creativity, patience, and passion you have been invaluable in helping rebuild Ascension's Children's Ministry into a fun, exciting, relevant, and faith enriching experience for kids and their families. May God's most abundant blessings shower each one of you!



## KIDVENTURE: TREASURE ISLAND

### **WHERE KNOWING GOD IS THE GREATEST TREASURE.**

Ahoy Maties! Kids completing 5K-grade 5 for the 2015-16 school year are invited to join us June 20-24 when we set sail for an island adventure in search of the world's greatest treasure. At KidVenture: Treasure Island, kids will sing and dance to island music, taste tropical fruits, play island games, and create colorful crafts, and most importantly discover God's love is treasure forever!

You can register at <http://ascensionelca.org/events/kidventure/>

Cost: \$20/participant or \$40/family

Sign-up deadline is Sunday, June 12.

We are also seeking fun and energetic high school students and adults to volunteer to decorate, play games, lead crafts, share Bible stories, and so much more. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Tony Acompanado, Director of Faith Formation, at [tony@ascensionelca.org](mailto:tony@ascensionelca.org) or 262-547-8518.



## JOLT ADVENTURE CAMP

From June 12-15, JOLT students will travel to Wisconsin's northwoods for several fun-filled days of whitewater rafting, a high-ropes course, exploring God's beauty in all of creation, and more. Please pray for our group during our trip.



## CRASH

### **TOWELING & SENDING**

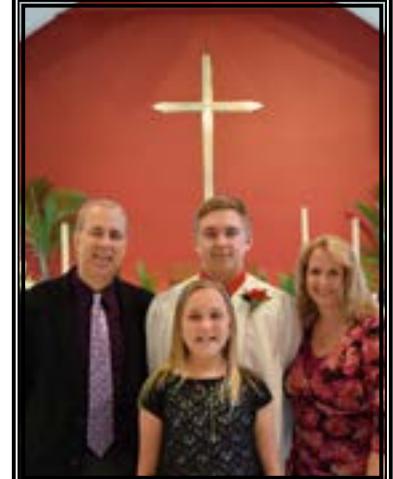
Graduating seniors, along with family and friends, are invited to join us in worship on Sunday June 5, at 9 a.m. to celebrate this amazing milestone and offer a special blessing as the students prepare for the next step in their journey.

In addition, if you are a graduating senior, please take a moment to share your post high school plans, so we can share with the rest of your church family. Please RSVP to the June 5 ceremony; include a picture of yourself with the following information: the name of your high school, the college you'll be attending, or your post-graduate plans if you're not attending college. Send information and picture no later than Sunday, May 29 to Tony Acompanado, Director of Faith Formation, at [tony@ascensionelca.org](mailto:tony@ascensionelca.org).

## **CRASH SUMMER SCHEDULE**

Summer is just around the corner, and with school wrapping up, graduation parties, family vacations, mission and adventure trips, CRASH moves into its summer schedule. CRASH will continue to meet throughout the summer on a modified schedule. Be sure to check Facebook and emails for event updates.

## CONFIRMATION 2016



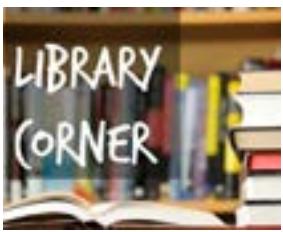


## PUPPETS OF PRAISE

*Cheryl Anspach, Ministry Leader*

With just a few short practices, the 5th grade class jumped in and performed with God sticks and puppets in a black light setting for Children's Ministry. The stage area in the East Hall was filled with a cross reminding us how Jesus is the savior for the whole world. We really appreciate their willingness to join in and make this last performance of the season special.

In summer, we are recording and editing skits for next year's Children's Ministry program. If you are going into 6-12 grade and are interested in voice acting or learning the technology, please contact Cheryl at [puppetsofascension@gmail.com](mailto:puppetsofascension@gmail.com) or 262-524-9390.



## LIBRARY CORNER

*Linda Hansen, Ascension Librarian*

Since opening our new library space, interest in our resources has been increasing. We were able to take our book sale money and purchase 19 new children's books. The variety of books chosen includes children's and family devotionals, 1st and 2nd level reading books, and Bible stories for use by babies through elementary school. Please bring your children to the Children's Library, located in the Hearth Room, so they can take a look and pick out a new book to take home.

The library will be bringing out resources on a book cart on Sunday mornings. We might display new books, a particular subject, children's books, etc. We hope this will help to acquaint you with what we carry in our library. We will set up in locations throughout the narthex. If you find something interesting, you can check it out right there.

Also, you can check out our display case across from the office. The contents will always have a theme, sometimes depending on time of year. We hope to see you soon with a book in your hand.



## FROM VICAR STEVE BOGIE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I humbly write you to provide an update on my journey towards ordination. This last year, I have served as vicar at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Menomonee Falls. It has been an awesome learning experience serving this community in Christ. Soon, I will be going through the approval process for the synod, and with God's help, the synod will approve me, so I can become a pastor in the ELCA.

On Sunday, May 15, 2016 I will be graduating from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and my internship will be ending in late June. This is a very exciting time for my entire family, and we wanted to include our brothers and sisters of faith at Ascension Lutheran Church during this most exciting time. Peace be with you.

**I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,  
DECLARES THE LORD.  
JEREMIAH 29:11**

# CARE MINISTRIES: A YEAR IN REVIEW

*Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries*

As I reflect on the past year in Care Ministries, I am filled with gratitude for our ministries and the volunteers who help bring them to life. We have seen so much growth in our ministries, which are changing the lives of many in our congregation and community. Not only have we focused on the growth of each of our ministries, but we have provided health and wellness programs and education.

## Health, Wellness and Education Programs Offered

- Yoga classes meet weekly for six-week recently with 28 participants, including members and visitors.
- We provided monthly blood pressure services.
- Ascension donated 31 units of blood this winter and up to 81 local community lives where able to be saved.
- Alzheimer's, AED equipment, anxiety and depression have been topics of health education presentations.
- This will be the third summer of Red Cross babysitting classes. We have certified a total of 28 teens in CPR, first-aid, and childcare.

- We also have sponsored two AARP Safe Driving Classes for members and visitors.
- We have hosted five sessions of GriefShare, a ministry for people who have suffered loss of a loved one. We have had 65 participants within our congregation and community. DivorceCare and DivorceCare 4 Kids are also programs that we hosted last fall. For all of these groups, Ascension's small groups and ministries have donated meals to help provide a sense of fellowship.

## Active Care Ministries

- The Meal Ministry has kept 13 volunteers busy providing 41 meals to families and individuals in need last year.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry makes beautiful shawls that provide comfort for our members and 39 shawls were given to participants in our GriefShare groups.
- Baby Blanket Ministry provides baby afghans for all of the baptisms at Ascension.
- 1000 Crosses For Christ were made for our Easter Sunday service this year.
- Spiritual Care bags were distributed to our hospitalized and homebound members. The bags included devotionals and inspirational materials.
- New Life baby baskets were handed out to our new tiniest members of Ascension.
- College Care Ministries sent out 16 care packages to our Ascension college students before final exams in December.
- Bereavement Ministry sends support and care materials to families that have suffered loss

- The Military Ministry spends time helping Ascension's military servicemen and women and does outreach activities with other ministries to help veterans and military families. The Military Ministry sent out 12 care packages for our six deployed military members and each member received one for them and one to share with a friend.
- Our Living Letters and Sunshine Ministries uplift the spirits of our Ascension families and support our members in all aspects of ministry with beautiful cards.
- Special Friends Ministry and Young at Heart Ministries are active ministries that integrate social activities along with service projects.
- We have six lay congregation members that are Pastoral Assistants. This important ministry assists our pastors with visitation to our hospitalized and homebound members. The pastoral assistants provide prayer, communion, and comfort for them.

Some goals this year are to support an SOS Angel Ministry to assist members after hospitalization or rehabilitation. We hope to start a Cancer Care Ministry to train people that can walk the journey of cancer with congregation members. This summer HOPE begins, which is a ministry for members of our GriefShare groups to enjoy social events, Bible study, and service projects. A new Walking Group starts in June to support health and fitness! If you are interested in any of the Care Ministries, please contact Brenda Lytle, [brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:brenda@ascensionelca.org) or 262-547-8518.





## UPCOMING CARE MINISTRY EVENTS

### AMERICAN RED CROSS CERTIFIED BABYSITTING CLASSES FOR TEENS

**When:** June 27 or June 29

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Where:** East Hall

**Cost:** \$35, includes Red Cross certification, course materials, and lunch. Sign up on the Care Ministries bulletin board. Limited to class size of 10 students/class. Ages 11 years-old and up. Sign up soon to ensure a space in the class. Bring the fee to the class.

### SUMMER WALKING GROUP

Do you have an interest in participating in a new walking group this summer to improve your health and wellness and become more fit? Sign up on the Care Ministries bulletin board!



## SPECIAL FRIENDS

*Marge Schroeder, Ministry Leader*

Many of you have heard about the Special Friends events but maybe do not know who and what we are. Our purpose is to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the differently-abled community by demonstrating Christ's love and providing information to our congregation so that all might fellowship, worship, and serve together.

Special Friends provides events that bring children and adults together as a group. The events are planned for our special friends, and their families can participate when they want to; however, our events also provide a time of respite for some families. We have been very fortunate to have many in our congregation join us as volunteers and buddies to our friends.

Disabilities or different abilities cover a wide range. Some are obvious, such as a person with a physical disability or functional need who uses a wheelchair or a person with a visual impairment who uses a cane. Other disabilities may be more hidden, for example, persons who have learning disabilities or autism spectrum disorder.

In the following months, we will discuss some of these differences. In the meantime, here are some insights from Deborah Elbaum, M.D., author of *Teaching Your Child about Peers with Special Needs*:

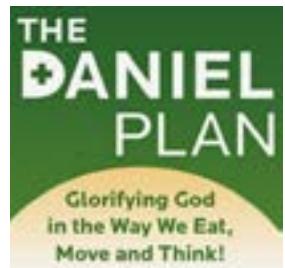
- No two people are the same – some differences are just more noticeable.
- A disability is only one characteristic of a person. People have many facets: likes and dislikes, strengths and challenges.
- Persons who are differently-abled are like all people in that they want friends, respect and to be included (acknowledged).
- People can be born with a disability (e.g. Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy) or become differently-abled from an accident or illness.
- Just because someone has a physical disability (when a part or parts of the body do not work well) does not mean they necessarily have a cognitive (or thinking) disability.

Sharon J. Davis, author of *Special Needs Ministry Handbook* says: "Learning to love people who are different from us is a challenge. It requires us to grow in understanding, wisdom, and acceptance. Placing a high value on our special needs members and respecting what God is doing in their lives is at the core of our ministry. When we give equal validity to the work of God in their lives, we place them solidly in the Body of Christ rather than on the fringe." Special Friends invites you to join us for future events. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Marge Schroeder at [mschroeder3030921@gmail.com](mailto:mschroeder3030921@gmail.com).

## A TASTE OF THE DANIEL PLAN

*Steve and Carol Spieker, The Daniel Plan Leaders*

In previous months, we discussed gluten sensitivity and the alarming number of people that are not even aware of their problem as well as the ramifications of ignoring it. This month we'd like to share some cautions about replacing glutinous food in your diet.



Since there is money to be made, food manufacturers have been quick to jump on the marketing bandwagon and create all kinds of foods processed to be *gluten free*. The problem is, like with most other processed foods, you are left with a sugary, nutrient deficient product. Just turn over any GF product and read the WHOLE ingredient list and you will discover a menagerie of worthless ingredients. As an example, the label on the popular Udi's bread lists the following ingredients: tapioca and potato starch, brown rice and teff flour, modified tapioca starch, water, vegetable oil, egg whites, evaporated cane juice, tapioca maltodextrin, tapioca syrup, yeast, flax seed, xanthan gum, salt, baking powder, cultured corn syrup solids, dry molasses and enzymes. Of those ingredients, six are specifically sugar. Five more are things that immediately turn to sugar upon entering your body. All of those ingredients can cause inflammation. Inflammation breeds disease. About the only redeeming ingredients are the minuscule amounts of teff flour, flax seed, and egg whites.

In recent years, General Mills has been quick to tout their Chex cereals are GF. A quick check of the Corn Chex ingredient list shows that every ingredient except the salt and baking soda turns to sugar. Every single thing in GF Bisquick except salt is also sugar. Need we say more?

In our travels, we have met many desperate parents of children with gluten issues that have experienced ballooning weight in their children. They find their children are always hungry. They are surprised to find they have been purchasing processed GF products filled with worthless ingredients. They are horrified when they discover that in their attempts to help their children, they are causing harm, and they are devastated!

People, in general, should be rushing toward products that are naturally gluten free. Pretty much any food that has not been processed in some way is going to be naturally gluten free. Such items include fresh fruits and vegetables, unprocessed meats, nuts, seeds, most dairy items including eggs, and the list goes on. Typically, these foods are characteristically more nutrient dense and thus will make you feel full longer.

To start your journey to health, go to [www.danielplan.com](http://www.danielplan.com) and check out the resources under the food tab. There you will find recipes, a list of *approved* foods, cooking videos and more!

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

### GARDEN PATCH OMELET (SERVES 2)

- 3 eggs
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon Sea Salt
- Dash black pepper
- 2 teaspoons coconut oil, divided
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 cup baby spinach
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup bell peppers (red, orange, yellow), diced
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup red onion, diced
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup tomato, diced
- 1 large mushroom, thinly sliced

In a bowl, whisk eggs with salt and pepper. Set aside. Heat 1 tsp. coconut oil over medium-high heat in a sauté in frying pan that has a lid. Add garlic, spinach, peppers, onion, tomato, and mushroom. Sauté until veggies are soft. Remove vegetables from pan. Set aside. Heat the remaining 1 tsp. coconut oil. Pour the eggs in the pan. Add in the veggies on top; reduce heat to low, cover pan with lid. Cook for about 2 minutes. If the egg is still uncooked, cook for another minute uncovered. Fold the omelet in half.



## PRAYER GROUP

*Bonnie Thiesenhusen, Ministry Leader*

A few months ago we (the Prayer Team) attempted to ‘put a bug in your ear’ about writing down a faith experience you have had; or about some special Bible verses that have been a great comfort to you; or how your faith has helped you during some challenging times. We would like to compile your stories into a devotional that will be available for distribution to Ascension during Advent. That seems a long time off but, as we all know, time passes very quickly, so we would like hear from you soon.

Please limit your story to one page. We encourage you to include your favorite Bible passages and a short prayer with your story.

Children may also write some short sentences or draw a picture about something special they have learned about Jesus and submit them for the devotional.

Please send them to the church office clearly marked *Bonnie T-for the church devotional.*



## YOUNG AT HEART

We are going on a trip to Cantigny Park in Illinois on Wednesday, June 8. Cantigny Park is the estate of Robert McCormick (founder of *The Chicago Tribune*) including his mansion and gardens and a military museum (WWI to present). We will leave Ascension at 7:30 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. The cost is \$50/person, which includes the bus trip and our meal. If you are interested or have questions, contact Celeste Defenbaugh at 262-370-4522, Beth Hoffmann at 262-542-7447, or Arlene Davis at 262-542-9119.

On Wednesday, June 1, we will have Breakfast at Denny's, on Grandview Blvd., at 9 a.m. Please join us for a casual breakfast and social time. No need to register ahead of time, just show up.

Our June Potluck Luncheon is Wednesday, June 15, from noon until 3 p.m. This is held in Ascension’s East Hall. If you are able, bring a dish to pass. After lunch, there will be time for games or cards. Everyone over 55 years-old is welcome. Come join us for a fun afternoon. If you have questions, call Celeste, Beth, or Arlene.



## GRATITUDE

On behalf of the VA Medical Center patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of homemade lapghans for the veterans. Your beautiful gift will benefit our veterans and keep them warm during their hospital stay. Without your support, we could not provide for the smaller niceties that make hospitalization more bearable. The commitment you have shown to our patients demonstrates your concern for America's heroes, as well as the service our veterans have given to our country. Thank you for your support. Sincerely, *Carrie Waschitz, Chief, Voluntary Services*

**DAILY GRATITUDE IS THE  
BREATH THAT BRINGS  
LIFE TO OUR FAITH.**

## CROSS PARTNERSHIP: SUMMER VACATION

*Shirley Wehmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader*

It is the time of year that all of us look forward to: school's out, the weather encourages us all to be outdoors more, and summer vacations are planned. One of the things that does not change is the Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry at Cross Lutheran Church. BOHEM continues throughout the summer and the needs are as great as ever.

What can you do to help? Offer to serve at the meal program the first week of each month or donate food (or cash) for the meal. Make a deliberate effort to purchase something extra each week and bring it to Ascension's Donation Center for the Cross Food Pantry. You can also sign up for the Cross Golf Outing to help support Cross' youth programs and BOHEM. Here is the event information:

Willow Run Golf Club

N12 W26506 Golf Road, Pewaukee 53072

(262) 544-8585

Friday, June 17

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Registration; Shotgun start at 1p.m.; Scramble format;  
Dinner buffet to follow



## EL SALVADOR PARTNERSHIP

*Bob Stoll & Tyler Thrasher, Mission Trip Participants*

One of the goals of a mission trip is to make new friends. A mission trip is an opportunity to get to know Ascension members outside of our brief Sunday morning greetings. We also get to meet people from our partnership congregations. However, as the distance of our destination increases, we tend to think that relationship-building decreases (like the mantra “what happens in <location> stays in <location>”). Unlike mission trips from years ago which required a snail-mail or e-mail exchange to keep in touch, it’s amazing how we can now continue to share through social media apps. Below is one such example.



*Salvadoran Children's Day feast  
& fiesta*

In El Salvador, after a week of meeting people from El Buen Pastor church, I wondered how it would be possible to continue our friendships. To my surprise, six weeks after our return to Wisconsin, I had an unidentified text message. After confirming with Tyler Thrasher, who is friends with Juan Carlos on Facebook, I realized this was Juan Carlos.

I remembered Juan Carlos was taking English classes. While in El Salvador, he practiced some English with me and I practiced some Spanish. Soon he was texting me about once a week or as his class work encouraged it. Once he sent me screenshots of his final paper and asked if I would help with his spelling and grammar. Hah. Like I was going to write his final paper? What happens in El Salvador stays in El Salvador.

This is just one example of small, but important, ways that we can continue to build on our friendships that began on a mission trip.

**HERE AM I.  
SEND ME.  
~ ISAIAH 6:8 ~**



## REFUGEE SUNDAY

*Shirley Webmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader*

On June 19, we will join other Lutherans in celebrating Refugee Sunday. What is a refugee? According to the US Government, “refugee status or asylum may be granted to people who have been persecuted or fear they will be persecuted on account of race, religion, nationality, and/or membership in a particular social group or political opinion.” Ascension has been active in refugee resettlement for 14 years. Over that time, we have welcomed and sponsored seven families and have worked with other refugees who have come to this area. This involves helping them adjust to a new life in a new country with a new language. The first months are very challenging as the refugees have often experienced great hardship and suffering prior to arriving in the US.

On June 19, Paw Pa So will give a faith witness about her experience of coming to Waukesha as a young child refugee from Burma and how her life has changed. Paw Pa So will be graduating from high school and heading off to college. She has been a blessing to many in our congregation.

Two of our members have been leaders in the area’s refugee program. Jeff Kirk has been involved with refugee resettlement for many years and has written a book: *10 Million to 1: Refugee Resettlement - A How-To Guide*. His book serves as a guide for many congregations as they seek to welcome refugees. Jo Buth is the godmother/grandmother of many refugees from Burma throughout the area in addition to the families who are Ascension members. She is a truly unselfish servant! We are exceedingly blessed to have these two leaders as a part of our congregation.

We will also be celebrating the success of the refugee families we have sponsored and those who volunteered countless hours to help them learn about their new country.

What is next for Ascension’s refugee program? There is a possibility that we will welcome two new family units within the next year. We will continue to learn about the families that are among us and the countries they came from. We will emphasize the challenge to become a welcoming congregation to those who worship with us or live near us who come from different places. Please join us in worship and prayers for continued blessing on this ministry.

### Registration Opens June 1<sup>st</sup> for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual 2016 OUTREACH FOR HOPE FAMILY BIKE BIDE

Ascension has been a leader for the past eight years in planning and participation in this signature event that benefits 19 financially challenged ministries in Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha.

#### New This Year!

- Easier On-Line Registration
- Virtual Rider – Anyone can Raise Funds
- \$25 Match For Each Registered Rider or Virtual Rider
- \$10 Match For Each On-Line Contribution

*Everyone Has A Path To Participate . . . Riders – Virtual Riders – Donors – Volunteers  
Catch Ascension’s Enthusiasm For Support of the Mission*



#### Spirit Spinners Relaunched!

Ascension’s Bob Stoll has agreed to lead a re-launch of Ascension’s Spirit Spinner Bike Club with the first ride planned for Sunday, June 12, 2016 – 1:00 pm. Location to be determined.

Contact Bob Stoll at 708.557.1564 or [bobstollathome@yahoo.com](mailto:bobstollathome@yahoo.com) to be added to the notification list.

#### *The 2016 Bike Ride*

**Date:**  
**Saturday, September 10, 2016**

**Place:**  
**St. Bruno Parish, Dousman, WI**

**Ride Options:**

**Trail Ride – up to 14 paved miles**

**Road Rides – 20, 30 or 50 miles on rural Kettle Moraine roads**

#### Picnic Lunch

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For more information contact  
Ascension Team Leaders:

Jeff Kirk  
262.349.7312 -or- [jeffrey@kirks.us](mailto:jeffrey@kirks.us)

Dave McAdow  
414.550.3970 -or- [dmcadow45@gmail.com](mailto:dmcadow45@gmail.com)

## IN OUR OWN BACKYARD: HOPE CENTER

*Shirley Wehmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader*

The needs of our community do not take a break for the summer. Please consider doing something for others this summer as a way to enrich your own faith-life and to bless someone in need. Ascension partners with Hope Center to provide ministry to those most in need in our community. They depend on local congregations to help provide for our neighbors. How can you help?



- **The Clothing Shop:** The Clothing Shop serves over 5,000 clients every month. Clothing is free to Waukesha County residents in need. They accept men's, woman's, and children's clothing in good, clean condition without any holes, rips, stains or tears. Donate clothing, assist in sorting clothing, or volunteer at the shop.
- **Layettes:** Layettes are given to expectant mothers. Each layette consists of brand new items like: diapers, wipes, baby wash, baby lotion, bottles, a crib sheet, blanket, newborn clothing, bibs, socks, etc.
- **Free Library:** New and gently used children's books are needed to provide literacy experiences for the families who participate in other Hope Center programs. Bring them to Hope Center where they will be sorted and shelved by volunteers.
- **Project Move:** Donate furniture or household goods in good condition or assist with moving people to a new home.
- **Financial Assistance:** Donations of gas cards or bus passes are helpful in providing transportation to work or appointments.
- **Day Center:** This program provides day shelter, breakfast, and lunch to the homeless and any Waukesha County residents in need. They are in need of the following: food items and personal care items. The Day Center also needs groups to assist in serving the daily meals.

For more information on any of the above, contact Shirley Wehmeier.

### **8TH ANNUAL TEE UP FOR HOPE**

Monday, July 11

Golf outing benefiting the homeless and hungry in Waukesha County

- Where: Broadlands Golf Club, North Prairie, WI.
- Links-style golf / rated 4 ½ stars by Golf Digest
- Registration/Lunch - 10 a.m.
- Shotgun start - 11:30 a.m.
- Appetizers/drinks - 4 p.m.
- Awards/Raffles/Silent Auction - 5:30 p.m.
- \$125/golfer, includes: 18 holes with cart, lunch, and appetizers

**HOPE IS BEING ABLE TO SEE THAT THERE IS  
LIGHT DESPITE ALL OF THE DARKNESS.  
~ DESMOND TUTU**

# JUNE 2016

| SUN  | MON   | TUES   | WED  | THURS   | FRI   | SAT  |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Room Key</b><br>CY = Court Yard<br>EH = East Hall<br>HR = Hearth Room<br>K = Kitchen<br>N = Narthex<br>NR = Nursery<br>PL = Parking Lot<br>PR = Prayer Room<br>S = Sanctuary<br>WH = West Hall<br>YR = Youth Room |   |  | <b>1</b><br>8am Private Group PR<br>9am Young at Heart, Denny's<br>9:30am Cross Meal<br>10am Staff Mtg. 107<br>12:30pm Private NR<br>12:30pm Women's Nurture PR<br>6pm Private Group 106<br>7pm Wisdom AA WH | <b>2</b><br><b>Synod Assembly</b><br>10am Al Anon WH<br>1pm Quilting at Bissett's<br>7pm Ballantyne 107<br>7pm Care Ministries 106                  | <b>3</b><br>  | <b>4</b><br>   |
| <b>5 Senior Toweling</b><br>9am Worship<br>9:30am Coffee Fellowship<br>9:45am TEA Time PR<br>10:45am Outdoor Worship<br>11:45am AMEN BBQ WH,<br>CY<br>6pm AA mtg WH<br>7pm AA closed mtg WH                          | <b>6</b><br>9:45am Al Anon WH<br>5:30pm GABS 107<br>5:30pm Prayer Group PR<br>6:30pm AMEN 107                                 | <b>7</b><br>6:30am AMEN 107<br>9:30am TGIT 107<br>9:30am Women's Bible Study HR<br>6:30pm Mission Outreach 107 | <b>8</b><br>8am Private Group PR<br>11:45am Men's Nurture 106<br>12:30pm Private NR<br>2pm Staff Mtg. PR<br>6pm Private Group 106<br>7pm Wisdom WH, HR   | <b>9</b><br>8am Synod Cluster EH<br>10am Al Anon WH<br>10am TGBG PR<br>1pm Quilting at Bissett's<br>7pm Ballantyne 107<br>7pm Military Ministry 106 | <b>10</b><br>   | <b>11</b><br>  |
| <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b><br>10am Al Anon WH<br>1pm Quilting at Bissett's<br>7pm Ballantyne 107   | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b><br>8am Knit Wits EH/WH<br>10:30am Folk Choir S                           |
| 9am Worship<br>9:30am Coffee Fellowship<br>9:45am Exec Mtg. PR<br>10:45am Worship<br>6pm AA mtg WH<br>7pm AA closed mtg WH   | 9:45am Al Anon WH<br>11:30am Knit Wits, Culver's on Grandview<br>1pm Living Letters 106<br>5:30pm GABS 107<br>6:30pm AMEN 107 | 6:30am AMEN 107<br>9:30am Women's Bible Study HR   | <b>Newsletter Deadline</b><br>8am Private Group PR<br>12pm Young at Heart Potluck EH, WH, K<br>12:30pm Women's Nurture PR<br>6pm Private Group 106<br>7pm Wisdom AA WH                                       |   |   |  |
| <b>19</b><br>9am Worship<br>9:30am Coffee Fellowship<br>10:45am Worship<br>6pm AA mtg WH<br>7pm AA closed mtg WH   | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>  |
|  |   |  | <b>KidVenture: Treasure Island, 9am-12pm</b>   |   |   |  |
|  |   |  | 9:45am Al Anon WH<br>5:30pm GABS 107<br>5:30pm Prayer Group PR<br>6:30pm AMEN 107  | 6:30am AMEN 107<br>9:30am TGIT 107<br>9:30am Women's Bible Study HR<br>7pm Council 107  | 8am Private Group PR<br>2pm Staff Mtg. PR<br>7pm Wisdom AA WH | 10am Al Anon WH<br>10am TGBG PR<br>1pm Quilting at Bissett's<br>7pm Ballantyne 107 |
| <b>26</b><br>9am Worship<br>10am Coffee Fellowship<br>10:45am Worship<br>12pm Praise Band S<br>12:30pm CRASH BBQ<br>6pm AA mtg WH<br>7pm AA closed mtg WH  | <b>27</b><br>8:30am Babysitting Clinic EH<br>9:45am Al Anon WH<br>12pm Knit Wits WH<br>5:30pm GABS 107<br>6:30pm AMEN 107     | <b>28</b><br>6:30am AMEN 107<br>9:30am Women's Bible Study HR  | <b>29</b><br>8am Private Group PR<br>8:30am Babysitting Clinic EH<br>7pm Wisdom AA WH  | <b>30</b><br>10am Al Anon WH<br>1pm Quilting at Bissett's<br>7pm Ballantyne 107   |   |  |