



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA  
April 2018

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**APRIL NEWSLETTER CONTENTS**

**Pastors' Perspectives**

[Pastor Chris ..... 2](#)  
[Pastor Angela ..... 3](#)  
[Pastoral Acts..... 3](#)

**Spiritual Growth**

[1st Communion ..... 4](#)  
[BLAST & JOLT..... 4](#)  
[CRASH..... 5](#)

**Caring Relationships**

[Journey of Hope ..... 6](#)  
[Blood Pressure Screenings ..... 6](#)  
[Spring Yoga..... 6](#)  
[Healing Hearts..... 6](#)  
[GriefShare/HOPE..... 6](#)  
[Young @ Heart ..... 6](#)  
[A Taste of the Daniel Plan ..... 7](#)

**Mission Outreach**

[Meru Day of Prayer ..... 8](#)  
[Global Partnerships ..... 8](#)  
[Outreach for Hope Devotions..... 8](#)  
[SOPHIA Breakfast & Silent Action ..... 9](#)  
[Cross Food Pantry ..... 9](#)  
[Mission Outreach on Facebook ..... 9](#)

**Administration**

[Treasurer's Report ..... 10](#)  
[Communications..... 10](#)  
[Masthead ..... 11](#)  
[Calendar..... 12](#)

# Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Ascension finds itself in a time of hopeful expectation! Easter is upon us and with the announcement that the tomb is empty, we find ourselves looking to the joy of spring—the earth coming alive as the edges of winter begin to give way to the warm winds of life—new life. What would God have us do in the world to God's great glory? How shall we look to the world around us and see the face of Christ calling out to us?

We have seen the miracle of Easter morning – the empty tomb was a welcome sight. Here at Ascension, we have also seen the power of God at work through our "Raise the Roof" Miracle Sunday on March 25th. As of the writing of this article – the week before Miracle Sunday – we have already raised \$94,000 of our \$300,000 goal to tend the roof, other deferred maintenance, and the expansion of our ministries. Thanks be to God!

Now that Easter Sunday has come and gone are you already setting yourself up for summer break—or is there still a hunger that gnaws at you calling you to something new, something different, something more in your relationship with God? The lilies have bloomed, the trumpets have sounded, the tomb stands empty and in these days of appearance as Jesus shows himself to the disciples and countless others before he ascends into heaven there is energy, curiosity, expectation in the air...do you feel it?

I tell you God is at work at Ascension! Do you believe it? Do you feel God's presence—the Holy Spirit at work? The fruits of our labor in service to God are not in vain—nor do they go unnoticed! God is at work at Ascension and we are beginning to see the work of God all around us. We give thanks to God for the 12 first communion candidates who celebrated their first communion on Palm Sunday or will celebrate their first communion on April 8. What joy to welcome these fourth graders to God's altar. Please join me in prayer asking God's blessing on the journeys before each of our first communion candidates. We are also grateful for the work of musicians and altar guild who took extra time behind the scenes to prepare for the powerful and moving worship of holy week. We have received new members and look to the future where God will invite more people into the midst of our community. God is at work! The Holy Spirit is on the move and we are looking forward to the blessings of God among us in the gifts of each other!

We are preparing to celebrate Confirmation Sunday. On May 20th at both services we will welcome 16 young adults into our midst as full partners with us on our journey of faith. What joy to hear their stories unfold – to watch the next chapter of their lives begin to take shape.

As we have traveled the road of Lent to the cross—we are now on the road of the cross that carries us into the future. During Lent we were following Jesus to the cross—now, we look to Jesus who leads us within the shadow of the cross into the future. The cross was never an end but a place to begin again and again and again. Where will God in Jesus Christ take us in the days ahead? Where do we want to go as God's people? Where do you want to go as God's child? Who cares? As long as we travel together—following in the footsteps of our God!

May God grant you joy in these Easter days!

*Pastor Chris*



# Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen." — Luke 24:5*

Happy Easter! Maybe it's just me, but Lent seemed exceptionally long this year. I'm so glad our Hallelujah time is finally here! On Easter morning, we arrive at the tomb with the faithful women who come to anoint Jesus' body as was the religious custom of the day. But instead of the traditional anointing, the women experience an encounter that is unbelievable. Early that Sunday morning, while it was still dark, the women went to the tomb with spices and oils to anoint Jesus' body for burial. They had no idea how they would enter the tomb because of the large stone covering the entrance. They wondered who would roll the stone away for them. But they walked to the tomb in faith. Upon their arrival, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. But that was just the beginning of their astonishment. They went in the tomb but Jesus was not there. The women were perplexed. But then they were greeted by two men in dazzling white garments. The angels asked them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here. He is risen!" Terrified, these faithful women bowed their faces to the ground. The men in dazzling clothes reminded them of what Jesus said. And then the women remembered the promise of our savior. Jesus' promise was beyond belief. Jesus promised that after he endured the horrible and dishonorable death of the crucifixion, he would live again. Jesus promised that on the third day he would rise from the grave.



Certainly these events were beyond belief, but that didn't stop these dedicated women. This loyal band of women rushed home to share the Good News with the rest of the disciples. Arguably, they are the first evangelists of the Good News. Christianity owes a debt to these women. In fact, this event was the beginning of all Christian preaching. But unfortunately, that first Easter sermon, when the women proclaimed, "Jesus is not dead. He is RISEN! He is risen indeed, HALLELUJAH!" fell flat. Nobody believed them because women were not considered to be credible witnesses. Thankfully, at the end of the day, the disciples' belief, or unbelief for that matter, is irrelevant. The promise of the Resurrection is not contingent upon our belief because Jesus is beyond belief. The truth, the power, and the mystery of the resurrection does not depend on the disciples' belief, confusion, questions, skepticism, or doubts. When Jesus exhaled, "It is finished", he was going on a journey to hell and back to make a way of salvation for every doubting, questioning, disciple that ever lived (or ever will live).

Two thousand years ago, Jesus made a way of salvation for all of humanity. Jesus is greater than our deepest fears. Jesus is beyond our heaviest doubts. Jesus is even beyond our staunchest, most faithful beliefs. Christ has triumphed. He is living! Hallelujah!

*Pastor Angela*

## Pastoral Acts

- Baptism**
- Caroline Elizabeth Graser
- Rosalie Nicole Graser
- Funeral**
- Waltraut Grusdat



## SPIRITUAL GROWTH



### First Communion

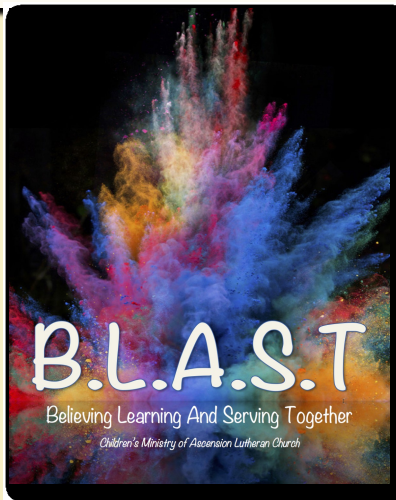
The following students are celebrating the Rite of First Communion this season.

Mathias Kasten Amorsen	Konami Justice Khabeb
Olin Charles Kinunen	Aubrey Mae Knapek
Lily Elizabeth Pociask	Addyson Esther Grace Probst
Veda Jewil Schaefer	Audrey Joy Ann Sieg
Cheryl Ann Werner	Leolin William Zwicky

The sacrament of Holy Communion is a tangible reminder of God's great love for us, and these Stepping Stones classes are an important time of faith building and conversation on this journey.

### BLAST Calendar

April 1	No BLAST – Easter Break
April 8	First Communion
April 15	The Great Commission
April 15	Music with Ms. Vicki, 3 & 4 yr olds, 9:55am, classroom
April 15	Music with Ms. Vicki, K-2nd gr., 10:15am, music room
April 20	Family Movie Night: Ferdinand
April 22	The Good Shepherd / Puppets Presentation
April 29	Philip and the Ethiopian
April 29	Music with Ms. Vicki, K-2nd gr., music room
April 29	Music with Ms. Vicki, Gr. 3-5, music room



### Family Movie Night

Join us for the final Family movie night of the season. The featured film will be: Ferdinand. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie begins promptly at 7 p.m. Popcorn and beverages are provided but we also invite you to consider bringing a snack to share. All kids in attendance are entered into a drawing to win a copy of the movie.



### JOLT Schedule

There is no JOLT on April 4. Regular Wednesday night JOLT classes resume on April 11. There are three classes remaining (April 11, 18 and 25) before JOLT Wednesday night classes take a break for the summer. JOLT meets 6:30 to 8 p.m.

### CRASH Silent Auction

You are invited to help CRASH students reach their fundraising goals to attend the Youth Gathering in Houston this June by participating in their silent auction Sunday, April 22.

You can generously bid on auction items after both services and then enjoy lunch after the 10:45 a.m. service. Bidding will close at 12:30 p.m. Winners will be announced and auction items distributed after the auction closes.

In addition to purchasing from the auction, you can also help by donating auction items. Auction donations can be the following —

- **Services:** childcare, car repair, landscaping, painting, complete house cleaning, tree cutting, etc.
- **Vacations/getaways:** Do you have a spare week at a timeshare? How about a lakeside or mountain cottage?
- **Tickets:** Do you have season tickets to baseball, basketball, football, the symphony, ballet, or other theater?
- **Products:** Do you or your employer have a product suitable for auction?
- **Theme Baskets:** Create your own basket using a theme of your choosing. Do you love exotic coffees and teas, cooking, or how about a favorite wine and cheese? Some creative themes are: beach party, games, gift cards, spa, and much more! Consider putting together a basket with some of your favorite things.

Items may be donated until 4 p.m., on Friday, April 20. Contact Tony to make a donation or if you have questions.

### Confirmation Capture

On Sunday April 29th, 12 to 3:30 p.m., 9th grade students and parent(s) will gather with PC and Tony for a time of conversation and activities in preparation for their upcoming confirmation. Lunch will be provided. Additional information will be sent directly to the families of those preparing to be confirmed.

### CRASH Calendar

April 8	6 – 8 p.m.	Youth Group
April 15	6 – 8 p.m.	Youth Group
April 22	9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Silent Auction Fundraiser
April 29	12:00 – 3:30 p.m.	9th Grade Confirmation Capture





## CARING RELATIONSHIPS

### Journey of Hope

Our new Journey of Hope Cancer Ministry has had a lot of positive feedback from our members diagnosed with cancer. Our trained members have connected and assist them as they are walking their cancer journey. Do you know of someone that belongs to our church family that would benefit from this ministry? Please contact Brenda Lytle, [Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org).

### BP Screenings

Mark your calendars for BP Screening! Blood Pressures will be done between church services in the Hearth Room once a month. Care Ministries is providing health professionals for this free service for health promotion! There are only two opportunities left for the year, April 15 and May 6.

### Spring Yoga

Spring Yoga Begins April 16!  
Care Ministries is hosting a six-week session of yoga April 16-through May 21, from 6-7 p.m. in East Hall. Cost is \$3 per class or \$18 for the six sessions. Bring your fee, mat, and water bottle and let's get in shape and ready for our warmer weather ahead!

### Healing Hearts: A Celebration of Hope April 14

There are endless causes of childhood grief... death, divorce, opioid addiction, separation, abandonment, incarceration, and deportation, to name a few.



Healing Hearts of Waukesha County is a community-based organization whose mission is to serve and support grieving children and their families, offering free peer-to-peer grief support.

Join us for their main fundraiser, a Celebration of Hope, April 14. This dinner will be held at the Marriot in Waukesha. Care Ministries has purchased a table for this event and if you are interested in attending and supporting Healing Hearts, please contact Brenda Lytle at [Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org).

*Brenda Lytle*, RN, Director of Care Ministries

### Grief Share/HOPE (Healing Our Pain...Eventually)

Mark Your calendars for the upcoming events and watch the Care Ministries bulletin board for updates!

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| April 17 | Pizza and movie night (movie TBD)                   |
| May 5    | Breast Cancer Walk, Frame Park (more info later)    |
| May 19   | Chosen Walk (more info later)                       |
| June 13  | HOPE Picnic at the park next to the church 6-8 p.m. |

### Young at Heart Breakfast & Potluck

All are invited to join us on Wednesday, April 9, 9 a.m. at Christina's Restaurant, 350 Delafield St., for breakfast. No need to register, just show up for an hour or so of visiting.

Also, Wednesday, April 16, we will be having our potluck luncheon here at church in the West Hall, noon to 3 p.m. Bring a dish to pass if you are able. There will be plenty of time for socializing and playing games.

Questions? Call Celeste Defenbaugh, 262-370-4522; Beth Hoffmann, 262-542-7447; or Arlene Davis, 262-542-9119. Thanks.

### A Taste of the Daniel Plan

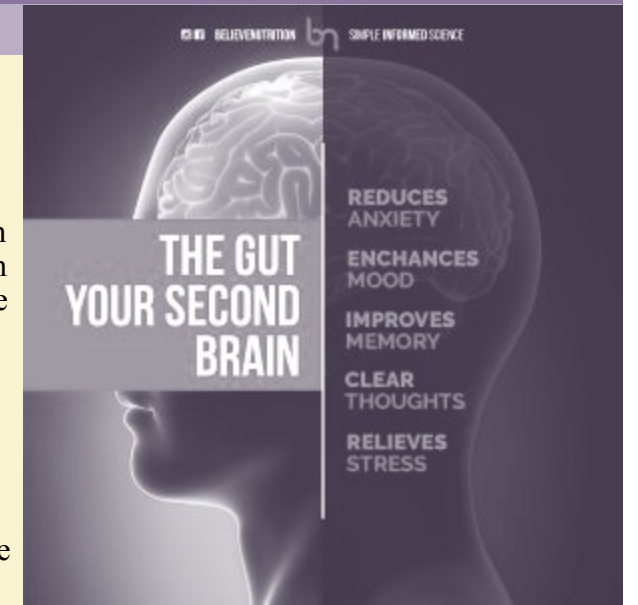
We have reported many times on the vital importance of your "gut." As a reminder, the term "gut" does not refer to the slang term people often use for their stomach. Rather your gut comprises your whole digestive tract which includes your esophagus, pancreas, gall bladder, small and large intestines, liver, and of course, your stomach. What we are about to tell you about your gut is hopefully going to turn your world upside down and motivate you to take better care of this vital component of your God created body.

We have reported in the past that 70 percent of your immune system is located in your gut. Yes, it is true that your gut is what keeps you resistant to colds, flu and even more dastardly things like cancer. But as the over-caffeinated infomercial announcer often says, "But wait! There's more!" At a recent workshop we attended, we were surprised to learn our gut actually produces 70 percent of the dopamine and serotonin in our bodies. In case you don't know this, dopamine and serotonin are your "feel good" chemicals that affect your brain function. Dopamine is responsible for regulating your "mood center" in your brain. It is what regulates sensations of pleasure, pain and is also responsible for movements in our bodies. Among other things, degeneration of dopamine can result in the onset of Parkinson's disease. Serotonin has an equally important role. It is responsible for regulating your mood, social behavior, quality of sleep and memory as well as other things. What is even more surprising is for years, people have believed anxiety and depression resulted in conditions such as IBS, constipation and stomach upset. Researchers are finding it may be quite the opposite. Irritation in the gut may be sending signals to the central nervous system that trigger changes in mood!

Are we seeing any correlation here?!?! An alarming number of people in the U.S. are suffering from anxiety, depression, trouble focusing and sleep disorders. An equally alarming number of people are living with debilitating gut issues such as IBS, gluten sensitivities, cancers in the organs of the gut...and the list goes on!

The Five Essentials of the Daniel Plan all work together to help you reconstruct your mind body and spirit. God does not make junk! Your body is an amazingly crafted wonder which needs to be cared for. That is what being a good steward of your body is all about. The health of your mind, body and spirit all work together to keep your body in the condition God intended when it was conceived. His plan for his people is to be healthy, vital and energetic so we can all serve one another. Consider joining us for the next 6 week Daniel Plan study starting on Sunday, April 8, 6-8 p.m. in room 106 where we will teach practical and time saving ways to make lasting changes in your life. If you are interested or have questions contact us at [cspieker@budgetblinds.com](mailto:cspieker@budgetblinds.com).

*Steve & Carol Spieker*



### Mark Your Calendar

The next 6-week Daniel Plan study starts on April 8th, 6-8 p.m., in room 106.



# MISSION OUTREACH

## Meru Day of Prayer

On April 27th Ascension will join other congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod for a day of Prayer with the Diocese of Meru. Our brothers and sisters in the Meru Diocese of Tanzania will feel the power of prayer and love of Christ as we lift them up in prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for peace and prayers for strength, hope and wisdom.

The Tanzania Lutheran Church has a vision to reach out with the Gospel to 50 percent of the un-reached people of Tanzania. Each Christian in the church is made aware of the involvement in mission activities as they reach out with both sharing the Gospel and living the Gospel through social services. Through this outreach the Tanzania Lutheran Church has grown to over 6.1 million people in a population of 45 million people. Mission and Evangelism is the backbone of the Church. Such a focus is a positive response to the Great Commission of our Lord to proclaim the Gospel to all Nations.



## Global Partnerships

As a part of our covenant with our partners in El Salvador and Tanzania, we commit to learn more about their cultures. We enjoyed a fun and tasty way to experience that by sharing soups from each of the countries at a recent Lent soup supper. We tried Salvadoran soups such as: Sopa de Pollo Salvadoreña (Salvadoran Chicken and Vegetable Soup), Salvadoran Red Bean Soup, and Sopa de Chorizo con Huevos (Salvadoran Chorizo and Egg Soup). From Tanzania, we experienced the new flavors of: Ndizi Na Nyama (Meat and Banana Stew), Coconut Pumpkin Soup, and African Peanut Soup. These soups were among 13 soups from our partner countries and the 120 home made tortillas made by Jenny Aparicio. Thank you to all the experimental chefs. What a fun way to share our journey of becoming better familiar with our brothers and sisters from El Salvador and Tanzania!

## Outreach for Hope Devotions

If you have been participating in the Outreach for Hope Devotions campaign to share a Dollar a Day for Poverty, please remember your donation of \$40. The offerings received will support the 19 congregations and ministries of the Greater Milwaukee Synod which are working to be the presence of Christ in the poorest communities of our Synod. You may send your offering directly to Outreach for Hope or bring it to church and place in mailbox 22 and Mission Outreach will get the donations to Outreach for Hope. We hope your discipline of Lenten devotions and daily offering has blessed you during this holy season.

We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19.



## Breakfast & Silent Auction

Please join us for SOPHIA of Waukesha's Annual Breakfast & Silent Auction Fundraiser, Saturday, April 28. 8:30 a.m. at La Casa de Esperanza, 410 Arcadian Ave., Tickets: \$40

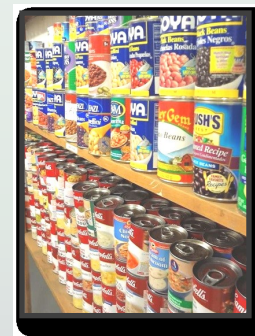
The keynote speaker is Reggie Jackson on "Using a Historical Lens to Build Racial Understanding."

The keynote address will take a close look at the historical forces that have created racial divisions throughout our nation's history, to gain a better understanding of how we became a nation that is so divided by race. We will look at some common sense solutions that will assist us in making progress towards building a racially just society that we will all benefit from as Americans.

Event details, tickets, and how to get involved, please visit SOPHIA's website, [sophiawaukesha.org](http://sophiawaukesha.org), or contact Ascension's Bob Stoll, 708-557-1564 or [bobstollathome@yahoo.com](mailto:bobstollathome@yahoo.com).



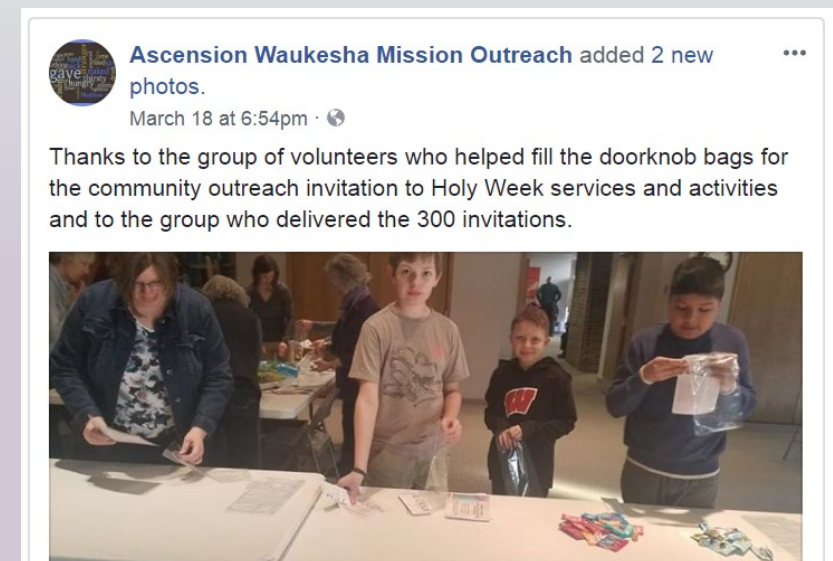
America's Black Holocaust Head Griot Reggie Jackson



## Cross Food Pantry

During April we will collect main dish items including tuna, mac and cheese, canned pasta products, one-dish meals, etc. Each week, 200 bags are filled and distributed to the people who participate in the Bread of Healing Ministries. Our donations make a critical difference.

## Follow Us on Facebook!





## Treasurer's Report

Contribution shortfalls continue for the month of February. Last month we were short of contribution goals by \$8,300 and this month the figure is negative \$7,300. The results are unfavorable when compared to last year at this time as well, when contributions were \$5,400 more than they were this year.

On the spending side, our expenses were right in line with the budget figures. Your church leaders are doing a fine job of managing the funds they have to work with.

Our rental homes have undergone some renovation before changes in tenants. Repairs have been completed at 1325 Dopp St. for \$7,000. New tenants have moved into 1319 Dopp St. Clean-up has been done on 412 S. Moreland. The Moreland property was put on the market and, very shortly, received an accepted. Good news.

*Darwin Moore, Treasurer*



## So Many Ways to Keep in Touch

In this time of the year when there is so much going, it can be hard to keep track of everything. Fortunately, Ascension has a number of ways you can keep up-to-date with our many activities and events.

Consider these ways to stay in touch with Ascension.

1. By attending church — printed in almost every bulletin are weekly announcements and prayers.
2. Subscribing to our e-alerts, online at <https://tinyurl.com/ALCealrt> or by e-mail to the church office, [admin@ascensionelca.org](mailto:admin@ascensionelca.org).
3. Media screens in the narthex — If you're here for ministry or other activities, please take a moment to look at the screen. I guarantee you'll learn something new about Ascension.
4. Monthly newsletter — some of the content overlaps with bulletin and other announcements but you can also read more in-depth ministries articles.
5. Website — On our website is the church calendar, upcoming events (along with descriptions), and many other juicy tidbits, including sermons and reflections and ministry information.
6. Social media — Ascension has a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ascensionlutheran/](http://www.facebook.com/ascensionlutheran/)) that we use to highlight particularly interesting parts of worship and ministries, perspectives from our wider church community plus upcoming events in addition to pictures of recent events.



*Amy Gilgenbach*  
Director of Administration

## Executive Staff

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

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

**Director of Administration**  
Amy Gilgenbach  
[Admin@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Admin@ascensionelca.org)

**Director of Care Ministries**  
Brenda Lytle, RN  
[Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org)

**Director of Faith Formation**  
Tony Acompañado  
[Tony@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Tony@ascensionelca.org)

**Director of Music Ministries**  
Vicki Taylor  
[Vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Vicki@ascensionelca.org)

## Support Staff

**Administrator - Joyful Worship & Spiritual Growth**  
Tamie Greenwood  
[Tamie@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Tamie@ascensionelca.org)

**Administrator - Caring Relationships & Mission Outreach**  
Vacant

**Praise Band Leader**  
Ben Janzow  
[Ben\\_janzow@yahoo.com](mailto:Ben_janzow@yahoo.com)

**Nursery Staff**  
Becca Tenwinkel

## Ministry/Operations

**Director of Ministries**  
Kelly Hoeg  
[khoeg@wi.rr.com](mailto:khoeg@wi.rr.com)

**Director of Operations**  
Cindy Carlson  
[cynthiacarlsonlc@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiacarlsonlc@gmail.com)

## Church Council

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

**First Vice President**  
Jay O'Grady  
[Jayograd@wi.rr.com](mailto:Jayograd@wi.rr.com)

**Second Vice President**  
Karen Simington  
[angelks1@att.net](mailto:angelks1@att.net)

**Secretary**  
Linda Hansen  
[Lindahansen@wi.rr.com](mailto:Lindahansen@wi.rr.com)

**Treasurer**  
Darwin Moore  
[myddml@twc.com](mailto:myddml@twc.com)

**Council Members-at-Large**  
Chris Holloway  
[Christine.holloway@cdw.com](mailto:Christine.holloway@cdw.com)

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

Aaron Niezwaag  
[theniezwaag@gmail.com](mailto:theniezwaag@gmail.com)

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

Scott Tenwinkel  
[Stenwinkel@legacybakehouse.com](mailto:Stenwinkel@legacybakehouse.com)

Carol Ziarniak  
[cziarniak@wi.rr.com](mailto:cziarniak@wi.rr.com)

## Wing Leaders

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

**Spiritual Growth**  
Vacant

**Caring Relationships**  
Cheryl Anspach  
[cheryllynnaa@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryllynnaa@yahoo.com)

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



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LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA

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

## OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY  
9 a.m.—5 p.m.  
FRIDAY  
9 a.m.—12 p.m.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 EASTER</b> <b>6a Worship</b> 9:30a Puppets EH <b>8:30a Worship</b> <b>10:45a Worship</b> 6p AA begin. WH 7p AA closed WH	<b>2 Church office closed</b> 9:45a Al-Anon WH 2p Prayer Grp PR 6p Wing leaders PR 6:30p AMEN 106	<b>3</b> 6:30a AMEN 106 9:30a TGIT PR 9:30a Women's Bible Study HR 4p Private PR	<b>4</b> 12:30p Women's Nurture Grp PR 3:45p Tutoring 106 PR 7p AA WH 7p Ballantyne mtg 106	<b>5</b> 10a Al-Anon WH	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9a Tutoring 106, HR, PR, WH
<b>8</b> <b>8:30a Worship</b> 9:30a Puppets WH 9:45a BLAST EH PR SG <b>10:45a Worship</b> 6p CRASH YR 6p Daniel Plan 106 6p AA begin. WH 7p AA closed WH	<b>9</b> 9:45a Al-Anon WH 1p Living Letters 106 6:30p AMEN 106	<b>10</b> 6:30a AMEN 106 9:30a Women's Bible Study HR 4p Private PR 6:30p Mission Outreach PR 7p Holloway 106	<b>11</b> 8a Private PR 9a YAH, Christina's 11:45a Men's Grp PR 3:45p Tutoring 106 PR 5:30p Youth bells S 6p JOLT EH 6:15p Handbells S 7p AA WH 7p Ballantyne 106 7:30p Choir S	<b>12 Newsletter Deadline</b> 10a Al-Anon WH 10a TGBG PR 5p Angel Choir MR 5:30p Joyful Sounds 6p Care Min mtg 106	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9a Tutoring 106, HR, PR, WH 10a Memorial Garden clean-up 6p Healing Hearts dinner
<b>15</b> <b>8:30a Worship</b> 9:30a Puppets EH 9:45a Adult Ed S 9:45a BLAST SG PR 9:45 BP screening <b>10:45a Worship</b> 12:30p Tanzania mtg (St. Luke's) 6p Daniel Plan 106 6p AA begin. WH 7p AA closed WH	<b>16</b> 9:45a Al-Anon WH 2p Prayer Grp PR 6p Yoga EH 6:30p AMEN 106	<b>17</b> 6:30a AMEN 106 9:30a TGIT PR 9:30a Women's Bible Study HR 4p Private PR 6p Private EH 7p Council 106	<b>18</b> 8a Private PR 12p YAH EH/WH 12:30p Women's Grp PR 3:45p Tutoring 106 PR 5:30p Youth bells S 6p JOLT 6:15p Handbells S 7p AA WH HR 7p Ballantyne 106 7:30p Choir S	<b>19</b> 10a Al-Anon WH 5p Angel Choir MR 5:30p Joyful Sounds	<b>20</b> 6p Family movie	<b>21</b> 9a Tutoring 106, HR, PR, WH 9a Knit Wits EH, WH
<b>22</b> <b>8:30a Worship</b> 9:30a Puppets EH 9:45a BLAST SG PR 9:45a Adult Ed S <b>10:45 Worship</b> 6p Daniel Plan 106 6p AA begin. WH 7p AA closed WH	<b>23</b> 9:45a Al-Anon WH 6p Yoga EH 6:30p AMEN 106	<b>24</b> 6:30a AMEN 106 9:30a Women's Bible Study HR 4p Private PR 7p Holloway Group 106	<b>25</b> 8a Private PR 3:45p Tutoring 106 PR 6p JOLT 6:15p Handbells S 7p AA WH HR 7p Ballantyne 106 7:30p Choir S	<b>26</b> 10a Al-Anon WH 10a TGBG PR S	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9a Tutoring 106, HR, PR, WH
<b>29</b> <b>8:30a Worship</b> 9:30a Puppets EH 9:45a BLAST SG PR <b>10:45a Worship</b> 12p Praise Band rehearsal S 12:30p Confirmation Capture EH WH 6p Daniel Plan 106 6p AA begin. WH 7p AA closed WH	<b>30</b> 9:45a Al-Anon WH 12p Knit Wits EH 6p Yoga EH 6:30p AMEN 106					

**KEY**

EH East Hall	NR Nursery	YR Youth rm
HR Hearth rm	PR Prayer rm	<i>Italics offsite</i>
MR Music rm	S Sanctuary	
N Narthex	WH West Hall	

