



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA  
October 2015

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# THE *Ascension* NEWSLETTER



*Ascension*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA



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1415 Dopp Street  
Waukesha, WI 53188



**MONDAY - THURSDAY**

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

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Vacant

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## MUSIC STAFF

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### Praise Band Leader

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

### Pianist

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

## GET TO KNOW THE ELCA

Because God has been good to us, we can share that goodness with others, and our church is an excellent vehicle to use. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is a four million member church that draws on our rich and vibrant faith that connects us to Lutherans all over the world. Our ministries throughout the nation and the world are extremely efficient and solidly ethical. The ELCA and 300 health and human service organizations participate in an alliance known as Lutheran Services in America, which serves more than six million people each year in the United States and the Caribbean. That's 1 in 50 Americans every year. That's HUGE! We Lutherans serve 1 in 50 Americans! As part of this alliance, we support more than 285 social ministry organizations affiliated with the ELCA. Chances are, if you want to start a ministry, the ELCA is already doing it!

The ELCA has so many ministries that there is no way I can list all that we do nationally and globally. So, let's begin with our home congregation. Through Ascension's Mission Outreach wing, we embrace our Companion Synods: Tanzania and El Salvador. Companion Synods are a concrete expression of our communion and fellowship with the 140 Lutheran churches of The Lutheran World Federation. There are 65 synods in the ELCA. Each synod has at least one international church companion. We are part of the Greater Milwaukee Synod; therefore, we embrace the relationships that the ELCA has prayerfully assigned to us. Ascension and Cross Lutheran have enjoyed a long history with El Salvador. In fact, churches in our area were instrumental in providing asylum for Salvadorans during their civil war. We also enjoy a deep and abiding relationship with Cross Lutheran in Milwaukee. Ascension focuses on our three partnerships and builds relationships that are mutually uplifting.

We belong to an amazing church that is active in the world. When people are facing a crisis or are at their most vulnerable, we respond with care and compassion, ready to serve and love our neighbor. Here are several examples of how we, the ELCA, serve God and the people of God (*descriptions taken from [elca.org](http://elca.org)*).

*Pastor Angela Khabeib*



### **ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN**

A child dies from malaria every 60 seconds. But we are changing that grim statistic. Since the ELCA Malaria Campaign joined the global movement to fight malaria, we have seen a reduction in the number of deaths from this disease. But we're not done yet. We are committed to raising \$15 million by 2015 to support work in 13 of our companion churches in Africa. We are going to make malaria history!

### **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**

More than 800 million people - that's 1 in 8 people in our world today - are chronically hungry and cannot lead active daily lives. Did you know that 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 per day? Or that in the United States, more than 50 million people do not know where their next meal will come from? Or that 46.2 million Americans are living in poverty. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. In 2012, our support of ELCA World Hunger totaled \$18.6 million. ELCA World Hunger supports projects and programs in 43 U.S. states; 56 countries (including the U.S.); 388 food pantries, homeless shelters and other projects in the U.S.; 239 sustainable development, health and other projects around the world; and 15 education and networking programs in the ELCA.

### **HIV AND AIDS MINISTRY**

AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 25 million people worldwide. The ELCA, along with the international community, has pledged both resources and action.

### **LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. The ELCA is currently responding to U.S. flooding and fires; Middle East and Europe refugee crisis; the Nepal area earthquake; the Ebola outbreak; unaccompanied and migrant children, and the South Sudan conflict.

*continued on pg. 4*

## **LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE (LIRS)**

We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace, and human dignity for and with all people. In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, LIRS has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States since 1939. This ongoing partnership and work is driven by God's love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry. Now, we are working to resettle immigrants from Syria.

## **GLOBAL CHURCH**

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world, together. 70 million Lutherans do make a difference! As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA is one of 142 member churches in 79 countries all over the world. Walking and working together, we seek to accompany our companions. Accompaniment is defined as walking together in a solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality. The ELCA lives out accompaniment in relationships with global companions in the following ways:

**Mutually:** All of us have gifts to support God's mission. There is no mission to, only mission with and among.  
**Inclusively:** We seek to build relationships across boundaries that exclude and divide. **Vulnerably:** Just as Jesus became vulnerable to us, we open ourselves to others. **Empowering:** We seek to identify and correct imbalances of power, which may mean recognizing and letting go of our own. **Sustainably:** To ensure local ministries last, we seek to embed mission in ongoing relationships and communities.

## **PUBLICLY ENGAGED CHURCH**

We pursue justice and seek peace. Our faith and our call to boldly serve and love our neighbor take us into some interesting and challenging aspects of life: advocacy, corporate social responsibility, racial justice, science and ethics, peacemaking, justice for women, social issues, and community organizing. We are drawn into every corner of life, society and its institutions to bring the good news of Jesus Christ and to work for lasting, positive change that upholds human dignity.

## **PEACE NOT WALLS**

The ELCA is working for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel through our campaign, Peace Not Walls. Peace Not Walls connects ELCA members to our companions and promotes dignity, full respect for human rights, healing and reconciliation. With our Palestinian Lutheran companions, we also accompany Palestinians and Israelis, Jews, Christians and Muslims working together for peace with justice.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

There is a great need for your time and skills for doing God's work in the world. Locally, God is already doing great things through ELCA congregations, Lutheran social ministry organizations, and projects in our area. Check out our synod's website: [milwaukee-synod.org](http://milwaukee-synod.org). Nationally, there are a wealth

of volunteer opportunities: ELCA-affiliated camps and retreat centers across the United States; Lutheran Disaster Response sites; Lutheran social ministry organizations; Mission Builders donate their time and technical know-how to help with construction of new churches.

There are also long-term service opportunities through Holden Village, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Urban Servant Corps, and Border Servant Corps. We even have short-term and long-term service opportunities around the world through ELCA Global Mission.

## **ECUMENICAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS**

The ELCA is not an island. We are committed to fostering unity among the children of God for the sake of the world. The ELCA Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations team cooperates with partners, such as The Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Our Full Communion partners are the Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church, Moravian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, and United Church of Christ. We are dedicated to living out our baptismal calling to be light to the world. We serve our awesome God in amazing ways.

*Chances are, if you want to start a ministry, the ELCA is already doing it!*



## **PASTORAL ACTS**

**Baptisms**

September 27

Eli Greger

## LIVING FAITH

*Pastor Chris Marien*

Dear People of God,

I take it as pure joy to be sitting outside in the middle of September relishing every moment of 72° and the delight of sunlight and blue skies. I know before too long, the days will announce fall with a new wind blowing and a fresh chill in the air. For now, we rejoice in the gift of the breeze coupled with the warmth of the sunshine to bring mums to bloom and one last ripened tomato from garden to table.



*Children's Sermon*

The beginning of fall programming in our congregation brings joy as well. So much to celebrate. So much offered from God's open hands. There is something for everyone. I am always stunned at the sheer amount of ministry happening in and through the community of Ascension.

Alongside my constant surprise at the number of active ministries moving in and through Ascension walks the almost unbelievable fact that Pastor Angela celebrates her first anniversary as pastor with us at Ascension. She is a gift in so many ways and brings a perspective to the congregation that deepens our understanding, strengthens our faith, and inspires our hearts. I am grateful for her presence among us.

It is no secret that our Children's Ministries have undergone a significant transformation over the past two months. Our Director of Faith Formation, Tony Acompanado, receives much of the credit for this transition along with the dedicated teachers who have taken a "leap of faith" in walking with our Children's Ministry in this inaugural year of newness. So far so good. We have spent a good deal of time redefining our Children's Ministry in the light of experience.

In these days of ministry, I often ask this question, "What does it mean for faith to come alive?" Answers to that question are all around us. However, one moment has stood out, for me, more than any other. In the midst of our Kindergarten Stepping Stone, we revised our activities to make everything we do hands-on. Our kindergarten students had a blast. Playdough brought the story of Noah's Ark to life. Legos helped to explain the story of Solomon building the temple. Finger paint and candied gel decoration taught the students about the moment where Jesus spoke of himself as the vine and all of us as the branches. Forty-five minutes flew by. Before we knew it, class was over. The best part for me was sharing with the parents and students an opportunity to bless each other at home with the sign of the cross. It may sound simplistic – perhaps it is. And yet, for me, it is pure joy to link playdough and Legos and paint to the stories of our faith. This new stepping stone was like sunlight and blue skies all rolled into one moment of watching parents and students share a moment around the living Word of God. I can't wait for what's next!

Peace be with you.



## YOUR COUNCIL AT WORK

*Nada Draeger, Council President*

Our September council meeting began with devotions led by Pastor Chris. Doug Bue, Cathy Rapp, Lee Ehrlich, Roger and Barb Nordberg are graciously giving their time and expertise to lead the stewardship committee for the 2016 Stewardship Drive. Their preliminary meeting was held Sunday, Sept. 13, and you will read more from Doug regarding the process in this newsletter. Cindy Carlson and Paul Wehmeier passed out Ascension's Ministry and Mission Survey to the congregation at both services on September 13 and 20. Please take the time to read it and to fill it out. This survey reflects the many opportunities here at Ascension to become more involved, and our ultimate goal is to have 100% participation by the congregation. Craig Greenwood joined us for the second half of the meeting for an evaluation of the revisions and recommendations made on the action plans for the four Wings to align with our months of work on the Vision ARISE 2025. Craig presented the format and expectations for the first listening session. By the time you read this, that meeting will have happened, and we will be busy taking your questions and input into consideration at October's council meeting.

It was awesome to see the participation and enthusiasm with the roll out of the Adult Education hour in between church services. Please take advantage of this new opportunity for learning and fellowship. Nametags were worn for the first time in a very long time and this practice will be continued with more frequency going forward because of the very positive feedback we received.

So many amazing things are happening here at Ascension! Be a part of it!



## PHOTO DIRECTORY: TIME IS RUNNING OUT

*Linda Elder, Communications Leg Leader*

Have you made an appointment to have your family's picture taken for Ascension's photo directory? Pictures are being taken on Sunday mornings: Oct. 4, 11, and 18. Sign-ups continue on Sunday mornings before and after both services, so stop by the registration table and make your appointment soon! We also welcome walk-ins.

Registration is also available online at <http://tinyurl.com/AscensionSignUps>. We appreciate your assistance in registering in advance for a time slot, not only to make this easier for your family preparations, but also so we can plan accordingly.

Don't have time or can't get family together on Sunday morning for your picture? You can submit your photo via email to Amy Gilgenbach at [admin@ascensionelca.org](mailto:admin@ascensionelca.org). Photos must be in JPEG format and are subject to church approval. We respectfully request that no family pets be included in your picture. Due to copyright laws, pictures taken by a professional photographer cannot be submitted. Please submit picture of family in appropriate attire with all faces visible. Photos should be current or no more than six months old. If submitting your photo via email, please include the following information: family members's names, address, city/state/zip, phone (home and cell), and email address. Questions? Please contact Linda Elder at 262-650-9182 or [labs4fun@wi.rr.com](mailto:labs4fun@wi.rr.com).

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

*Doug Bue, Acting Treasurer*

August 31, 2015 Year to Date

<b>General Fund Activity</b>					
	2015	2015	Variance	2014	Variance
Item	Actual	Plan	to 2015	Actual	to 2014
			Plan		Actual
<b>Income</b>					
Contributions	\$405,850	\$440,700	\$(34,850)	\$437,618	\$(31,768)
Rent, Interest, & Other Income	\$33,472	\$38,292	\$(4,820)	\$41,661	\$(8,189)
From Restricted Funds	\$46,927	\$46,285	\$642	\$3,132	\$43,795
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$486,249</b>	<b>\$525,277</b>	<b>\$(39,028)</b>	<b>\$482,411</b>	<b>\$3,838</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Communications	\$17,308	\$16,067	\$(1,241)	\$18,485	\$1,177
Facilities	\$103,218	\$103,153	\$(65)	\$110,662	\$7,444
Financial Development	\$64,760	\$64,829	\$69	\$64,807	\$47
Leadership Development	\$951	\$1,467	\$516	\$5,536	\$4,585
Administration	\$174,874	\$173,758	\$(1,116)	\$132,089	\$(42,785)
Caring Relationships	\$17,399	\$17,395	\$(4)	\$16,457	\$(942)
Joyful Worship	\$65,730	\$65,025	\$(705)	\$40,525	\$(25,205)
Mission Outreach	\$34,373	\$37,096	\$2,723	\$45,076	\$10,703
Spiritual Growth	\$54,444	\$63,038	\$8,594	\$56,659	\$2,215
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$533,057</b>	<b>\$541,828</b>	<b>\$8,771</b>	<b>\$490,296</b>	<b>\$(42,761)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(46,808)</b>	<b>\$(16,551)</b>	<b>\$(30,257)</b>	<b>\$(7,885)</b>	<b>\$(38,923)</b>
<b>Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>\$793,168</b>				
<b>Restricted Funds Balance</b>	<b>\$162,345</b>				
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$(39,178)</b>				
<b>Ascension Arise Contributions</b>	<b>\$76,034</b>				
<b>Restricted Contributions</b>	<b>\$55,653</b>				

## What the numbers mean:

- Our general contributions are 7.9% behind plan for 2015, and they are 7.3% behind 2014 actual.
- Our bottom line is \$30,257 behind plan.
- Our general fund balance is currently at a loss of \$39,178.



## MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES

*Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministries*

Our children's instruments have arrived! We deeply appreciate the generous support of donors, the Sunday School Memorial Fund, and budgetary funds which will allow us to offer an engaging musical experience for the children of Ascension. Thank you for supporting the gift of music.

All of Ascension's music ensembles have resumed; however, new members are welcome at any time. Email [vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:vicki@ascensionelca.org) for more information or to join.

- Handbell Choir, Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 p.m.
- Ascension Choir, Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 p.m.
- Angel Choir (Grades K-3), Thursdays, 5:15-5:45 p.m.
- Joyful Sounds Choir (Grades 4-9), Thursdays, 5:45-6:30 p.m.
- Folk Choir (contact Ray Kinney, [raywk2003@yahoo.com](mailto:raywk2003@yahoo.com))
- Ascension Praise Band (contact Ben Janzow, [Ben\\_Janzow@yahoo.com](mailto:Ben_Janzow@yahoo.com))



With grateful hearts for her exceptional musical gifts and her ministry here at Ascension, we bid farewell to our choir accompanist and organist, Rhonda Kwicien. Rhonda has accepted a position as full-time organist and choir director at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee beginning in October.

The Nordic Brass returns to Ascension on Sunday, Oct. 25, Reformation Sunday. The five-piece brass ensemble will join us for 8:30 a.m. worship on that day.



## PUPPETS OF PRAISE

### FLOAT FOR ISLE OF MISFIT TOYS CHRISTMAS PARADE

For several years, Puppets of Praise and Special Friends have sponsored the Ascension Church float in the Waukesha Christmas Parade. This is a chance to connect with our community and share the message of God's love in a fun way. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping paint, assemble, and decorate the float. We are also looking for volunteers to walk the parade route and pass out candy on Nov. 22. Watch for upcoming announcements or contact Cheryl Anspach, [puppetsofascension@gmail.org](mailto:puppetsofascension@gmail.org).

### PUPPETS OF PRAISE PERFORM

Our first performance for Children's Ministry will be Oct. 4. We will tell the story of Adam and Eve, naming all the animals. It reminds of us how amazing and creative God is. The following Sundays, we continue to meet during education time for home visits and practice. To view the schedule online, visit the Ascension website and look for *Puppets of Praise* under *Connect*. Any questions, contact Cheryl Anspach, [puppetsofascension@gmail.org](mailto:puppetsofascension@gmail.org).



## PRAYER TEAM: NEW TIME

Consider taking another step in faith and join the Prayer Team on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Prayer Room from 5:30-6:30 p.m. (note the new meeting time) as we offer up prayers of praise and thanksgiving and for the needs of our church family and friends, community, nation, and the world. You will not be asked to pray aloud if you do not wish to do so.





## OCTOBER EVENTS

*Tony Acompanado, Director of Faith Formation*

### 4th Bully Free Event (6–9 p.m.)

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Jr. & Sr. High students and parents, you're invited to

join us for an in-depth exploration into the societal dilemma of bullying. Our time together includes a showing of the gripping PBS-Independent Lens documentary entitled *Bully*, followed by an honest and insightful discussion and resource sharing of how we can stand up against this epidemic.

### 10th Six Flags Fright Fest (8 a.m.–11 p.m.)

Rollercoasters, fun and frights...what could be better! Cost: \$40/person (covers admission, parking, and transportation). Students are responsible for their own meals and optional spending money. Contact Tony to reserve your spot today. **Sign-up and payment deadline is Oct. 1.**

### 18th Special Friends/CRASH Green Meadows Farm Event (12–4 p.m.)

Don't miss this amazing day filled with fun and excitement as the Special Friends and CRASH Ministries come together. The day will include a brief worship service, pumpkin patch, and more. Cost: \$10/person. **Sign-up and payment deadline is Oct. 1.**

### 25th CRASH/JOLT Random Acts of Kindness Event (2–6 p.m.)\*

Scavenger hunt format, selfies, partnering with JOLT, and concludes with pizza and an exciting conversation on service...all we can say is IT'S A BLAST! We will travel in and around Waukesha serving unsuspecting people. Cost: Bring \$5 cash.

## OCTOBER JOLT

1	6:30-8 p.m.
8	6:30-8 p.m.
15	6:30-8 p.m.
22	No JOLT
25	2-6p Random Acts of Kindness event with CRASH*
29	No JOLT

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: THE EXCITEMENT HAS BEGUN!





## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

*Doug Bue, Stewardship Team Member*

### MANAGING GOD'S BLESSINGS, GOD'S WAYS, FOR GOD'S GLORY

**God's Blessings** – The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (Psalm 24:1). When we realize that everything we have comes from God, it changes our perspective. Owners fight to keep what they have and strive to obtain more for themselves. Managers use what they have been given to obtain the best benefit for the owner, and they receive a reward for a job well done.

**God's Ways** – No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money (Matthew 6:24). The world focuses first and foremost on self-fulfillment and self-gratification. God asks us to be generous servants of others' needs. In fulfilling the needs of others, we become fulfilled. True contentment can only be found in God.

**God's Glory** – In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). When we seek to glorify God rather than glorify ourselves, we take another step toward becoming more like Christ. Worldly glory may last for a moment, yet God's glory lasts forever.

As we enter fall, many people view financial pledging and giving as stewardship. Hopefully the information above will help us understand that giving is not stewardship, giving is something a good steward does. Stewardship is about how we handle our entire Christian life, not just our finances. As we learn how our Lutheran lens shapes how we see and understand the scriptures, also consider how our Lutheran lens shapes how we live out our faith through our actions.

### 2016 MINISTRY SUPPORT

We continue to do amazing ministry at Ascension. From vibrant worship to intimate groups to individual relationships, we are sharing God's message of love and grace and helping people strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

As we look to the future, we would like to continue the great work we are doing and increase the impact our ministries have on our members, our community, and the world. We are in the midst of setting our vision for the future. As we seek God's guidance and direction in setting this vision, please consider what part you will play in helping make this vision a reality.

Ascension's Ministry and Mission survey is a great way to support our ministries by making your time and abilities available for God's service. If you have not completed a survey yet, please do so. Copies are available online and in the church office.

Also, please look for more information later this month and early next month about how you can use your financial resources to support our ministries in 2016. We are grateful for every gift we receive, and we are excited by the results of our ministries that those gifts support.

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ~ 1 Peter 4: 10*

## CARE MINISTRIES UPDATES

*Brenda Lytle, RN, Director of Care Ministries*

We have so much to be thankful for this season with our Ascension Care Ministries. We have been blessed with wonderful programs that have helped to enrich the lives of many. In June and August, we held three Red Cross Babysitting classes at Ascension and certified a total of 28 teens. The classes were fun, interactive, and instructed the teens to handle very important life skills in caring for children. We will teach these classes again next summer.

Currently, Ascension has three programs providing care and support for people in the midst of turmoil and grief.

**GriefShare** is for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Pastor Angela facilitates, and we have 10-12 active participants. Many of these people find comfort by connecting with others that are grieving and experiencing God's presence through their difficult times.

**DivorceCare** is a new ministry for those that are dealing with the effects of a divorce. Kathy Kuhn facilitates, and we have about six participants that attend. This ministry offers support to a group of people that feel like their lives have been turned upside down. This faith-based program gives them tools to help put their lives back together.

**DivorceCare 4 Kids** focuses on children. Pamela Hamm, a psychotherapist, facilitates. We have 10 children registered ranging in age. These children struggle with the effects of divorce. Many struggle with anxiety, school issues, and are happy to be with other children who share common experiences and stresses. DC4K is a "safe place" to share their feelings. These children can feel isolated during divorce, and this program helps children learn that they are never alone with God in their lives.

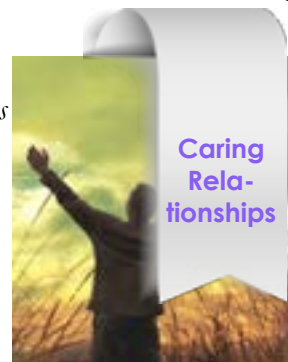
So many people are suffering with grief and loss. Families are fractured and broken in divorce. As well as accommodating our members in need, Care Ministries has reached out into the community and invited many people from outside our church into our walls for these programs. Our thanks to volunteers who have made meals for our programs and for the members who have contributed to the *Adopt A Child* fundraiser!

Care Ministries extends gratitude Bill Rudd as he steps down from his Pastoral Assistant role. Bill has been a wonderful, kind, and caring Pastoral Assistant to countless members of our Ascension family for the past 13-14 years.

Care Ministries thanks Nada Draeger as she steps down as the leader of our Respite Ministry. Nada implemented Respite from a passion she had and she was able to help members in our congregation that struggled with care-giving needs.

## YOGA RETURNS IN OCTOBER

Looking for some time for yourself - a way to clear your mind; increase your health and flexibility; and connect with friends for an hour a week for six weeks before our busy holiday schedules begin? Join us for Ascension's yoga class beginning Oct. 19, in East Hall, from 6-7 p.m., on Monday nights. Jessica Popp from the YMCA will be the instructor. The cost is only \$12 total for the entire six-week program. Sign up on the Care Ministry bulletin board. Bring your fee and yoga mat to the first class. (Mats are also available at the class). This is the perfect class for those of you who are curious about yoga. Try it...we know you will like it!



## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Care Ministries offers free blood pressure screenings between services in the Hearth Room on Oct. 18, Nov. 15, and Dec. 6. Mark your calendars and stop by our table to meet our friendly Ascension health care professionals!



*Ethel Dehnart*

## HOMEBOUND MINISTRY: FORGET ME NOT

*Iva Richards, Pastoral Assistant*

*Each month, Care Ministries will highlight the biography of a homebound Ascension member.*

When you see Ethel Dehnart at Ascension on a Sunday, it will more than likely be at the 10:45 service. With her will be her daughter Bev Janke, who faithfully sees that her mom gets to church. (You may also spot them at Taco Johns on Taco Tuesday).

Ethel was 94 on May 15, 2015. She was born Ethel Bahr, the oldest of 11 children of a tenant farming family. In 1939, she graduated from Waukesha High School and went to work the lunch counter at the Walgreens on the Five Points. For many years, it was a gathering place right in the heart of a busy downtown Waukesha.

Soon Roy Dehnert came calling, and the two were married in 1943. They raised three children, Bev, David, and John. Ethel's two sons live in the south now, and last January, Bev and Ethel flew down to see them. When the children were youngsters, the family moved to the house on Pine Street, where Ethel still lives.

Ethel and Roy joined Ascension when it was a little start-up church on Fairview Ave. Ethel taught Sunday school for 10 years, started a phone ministry, and, until a few years ago, led a small group Bible study. She remembers Gert Ullsberger and Loretta and Haskill Reichert being regular members at that time too. They did everything that needed to get done at the fledgling church, from cleaning to setting communion, to cooking, to singing in the choir. The congregation was small then and "everybody just pitched in and made it happen."

After the children were in school, Ethel went back to school too. She studied accounting at WCTC for two years. Much earlier, when she was a teenager, she dreamed of going to college, but, it being the depression era, all available resources went to simple survival. "People just can't understand how tough those times were unless you lived it."

Ethel is a gifted artist. She has painted oils and watercolors; she writes poems and stories and plays the organ and accordion. One of her first efforts was a pamphlet she wrote at the age of 8 that she called "Scribbles." Over the years she has written many poems and a children's book "Where's My Moo" which she coauthored with her sister. She also wrote a book for Lent that was used at Ascension. Ethel's framed paintings decorate the walls of her home but they are not for sale. (Don't even ask!) She was able to describe each piece, and she remembers where she was when she painted it. An organ is an important part of her living room. She never took lessons, so she always plays *by ear*.

Two strokes have taken much of Ethel's eyesight "and a chunk out of [her] middle." She keeps a tidy house and makes her meals with Bev's help. These days her joy comes from listening to most any kind of music. She also loves to tend her flower garden and watch the wildlife and birds in her yard. She still occasionally plays her organ, locating the melodies by feel and with her musical ear.

How lucky we are at Ascension to have Ethel Dehnart and her daughter Ben Janke in our midst! They bring a rich heritage and a love of the Lord into our lives most every single Sunday of the year. Praise God for their lives.

Here is one of Ethel's poems. Enjoy!

### **MEMORIES**

*As I stand alone at the window  
On this snowy winter day,  
I think of days gone by when  
My children were at play,  
Making angels, forts and snowmen  
They would pass the time away.  
Now years have passed & times have changed  
And we live far apart,  
But the memories we built & the love we share  
Have been cherished from the start.  
Though I am now alone, my day is warmed  
By the sunshine in my heart.*

Ethel Dehnart, February 1999

## KNIT WITS

Now that summer is over, and the Knit Wits have a great stash of yarn, it's time to get back to making charity hats and lapghans and other projects. We always welcome new members. If you'd like to knit or crochet a hat, baby blanket or lapghan, but don't have time to join us, feel free to bring your creations to church any Sunday and give them to me. Thanks again to everyone for your generous support of our mission to keep the community warm. Join us!

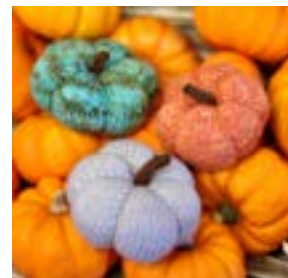
Our upcoming activities include:

### October

- Mon. 10/5: Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Mon. 10/12, noon-3 p.m.: Lunch & Knit at Broadway Café, 500 E Broadway St.
- Sat. 10/17: Knit Fest, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Mon. 10/26: Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm

### November

- Mon. 11/2: Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Sun. 11/8: Blessing of hats, lapghans and USO baby items, 8:30 and 10:45 worship services
- Mon. 11/9, noon-3 p.m.: Lunch & Knit at Broadway Café, 500 E Broadway St.
- Sat. 11/14: Knit Fest, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Mon. 11/30: Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



## MILITARY MINISTRY

The Military Ministry will begin collecting items for military care packages, beginning Sunday, Sept. 27 through Oct. 11. Boxes will be packed on Tuesday, Oct. 13. A list of items to be collected will be available by the collection bin. If you have an immediate family member serving our country, please let us know so we can include them in our mailing.

We are updating our list of current servicemembers and veterans. If you have a family member in the military and would like them to receive encouraging notes and care packages, please contact us. If you are new to Ascension and a veteran, please let us know so we can update our records as well.

We continue to dispose of tattered or old flags. There is a black crate in West Hall by the other collection bins to place the flags.

If you have questions or would like more information contact Sheri Greger, [sheri\\_frogs@yahoo.com](mailto:sheri_frogs@yahoo.com) or 262-424-6219.

*Sheri Greger, Military Ministry Leader*



Want to know more about Ascension's Supermoms? Want to get involved? Then join us at the next Supermoms general meeting on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 8:30 a.m., at Starbucks, 21481 Highway 18 (East Moreland and Parklawn), Brookfield 53186.

You don't have to be a *mom* to be part of this awesome group! Aunts, grandmas, great-grandmas, sisters, nieces, girlfriends... ALL ARE INVITED!



## YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart is open to anyone over 55 years of age. On Wednesday, Oct. 7, meet at Denny's, on Grandview, at 9 a.m. and enjoy fellowship and a "Dutch-Treat" breakfast. Then on Saturday, Oct. 17, a group will be meeting at Ascension in the rear parking lot, at 1:15 p.m. to enjoy Milwaukee's Premier *Doo-Wop* group Four Guyz in Dinner Jackets at the 3 p.m. performance. After the show, we will have dinner at the Mineshaft in Hartford. Finally, on Wednesday, Oct. 21, we will have our monthly potluck lunch in Ascension's East Hall. This month we will be entertained by Benhi Khabaeb on the drums. We start with lunch. If you are able, please bring a dish to pass. After Benhi's performance, there will be time for games. If you have questions, contact Celeste Defenbaugh, 262-370-4522; Beth Hoffmann, 262-542-7447; or Arlene Davis, 262-542-9119.



## A TASTE OF THE DANIEL PLAN

*Steve and Carol Spieker*

WHY? Do you ever wonder why you do something? Why do you choose to go to work every morning? Is it because you need to support your family financially? Is it because you like the activities you perform every day? Is it because you like the affirmation you receive from your peers? Why do you come to church every Sunday? Is it because you imagine there is someone standing at the parking lot entrance taking attendance? Is it because you want to foster a deeper relationship with the Lord? Or could it be, you just like coming to hang with some friends and drink some coffee?

*Why* is a big question in the decisions we make living our lives. Take for instance choosing to live a healthy lifestyle or not. Unfortunately, all too many of us today choose not to attempt to lead a healthy lifestyle. We've heard the plethora of reasons: not enough time, too expensive, my kids/spouse don't think healthy food tastes good, I don't like to exercise....

*Why* is really just another word for *motivation*. So what would it take to motivate you to move toward living a healthier lifestyle? Consider these words from I Corinthians: "Do you not

know that your bodies are temples to the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." Did you ever consider when you are trashing your body as a result of an unhealthy lifestyle it is no different than borrowing a friend's classic '65 Mustang and driving it recklessly through a muddy cornfield?

What's keeping you from leading a healthy lifestyle? What is the *why* that would convince you to change? Is it because you are in pain and tired of feeling sick? Is it so you feel healthy and vibrant so you can live out God's purpose for your life or to live long enough to see your grandchildren grow up?

The Daniel Plan is a step by step process that will help you find your "why" and then teach you what to do to move toward health. A new The Daniel Plan small group is now forming. We will begin the six-week study on Sunday nights at 6 p.m., at Ascension, on Nov. 8. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining the group.

### LUNCHEON PARFAIT

(Adapted from an *I Quit Sugar* Recipe)

Mix quinoa, chia seeds, ground flax seeds, cacao powder and milk in medium bowl. Refrigerate 1–2 hours. When ready to serve, layer quinoa mixture with fruit mixture, yogurt, and chopped pecans in glass or bowl. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

- ½ c Cooked Quinoa Assorted Fresh/Thawed Frozen Berries
- 3 T Chia Seeds Brennan's Double Berry Spread (optional-to glaze fruit)
- 1 T Ground Flax Seeds Plain Full Fat Yogurt (we recommend Fage brand)
- 2 tsp Cacao powder Chopped Raw Pecans
- 1 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> c Almond or Coconut Milk

## GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

*Shirley Wehmeier, Mission Outreach Wing Leader*

As ELCA Lutherans, we are called to serve God by serving others. We do not do service in order to gain God's favor, rather, we serve as a response to God's grace and love for us. We serve in order to share God's love with others as an expression of our faith. Many ELCA congregations participated in God's Work. Our Hands. activities on Sept. 13. Ascension is focusing on service throughout our fall small group campaign. We have a long history of small groups doing service/volunteer projects during the fall campaign. This year, we are stressing the theme: God's Work. Our Hands. to align us with the ELCA effort to develop faith through service. Mission Outreach has prepared a listing of service/volunteer opportunities for small groups, families, and individuals. Small group leaders or others looking for a place to serve, if you did not get a copy of the volunteer opportunities, contact Shirley Wehmeier at [pwehmeier@wi.rr.com](mailto:pwehmeier@wi.rr.com).



## EL SALVADOR PARTNERSHIP

*Sarah Aparicio, Mission Outreach Member*

We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in El Salvador and especially our partner congregation, San Jorge. The drought is affecting many people as they wait for rain to water their crops so they will have food stability for themselves and their livestock. We also pray for peace throughout their country as they continue to have conflicts with gangs.

## TANZANIA PARTNERSHIP

### MALARIA CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION

Rhonda Hill, Director of Discipleship for the Greater Milwaukee Synod, invites Ascension to Celebrate Generosity on Friday, Oct. 16, 6-8 p.m., at St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, Greendale. This is a celebration of the ELCA Malaria Campaign drawing near its end. This event will encourage and familiarize you with the work, people, and regions of the campaign. You will also receive information about program and ministry developments in the churchwide organization. As a part of this celebration, we want to showcase the work of congregations. If you would like to share the efforts of Ascension, email Rhonda Hill, [rhonda@gmselca.org](mailto:rhonda@gmselca.org). If you would like to carpool, please contact Beth Hoffmann, 853-4906.

### MERU VISIT

Mission Outreach is excited to announce that the Greater Milwaukee Synod will welcome visitors from our companion synod the Lutheran Church of Tanzania in October. We often think of doing mission trips to our partners, but helping our partners visit us is also an important part of learning to know more about each other's ministries. On Oct. 18, Pastor Lema will be at Ascension. He will preach and share the ministries of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania during the adult education time. What a great opportunity to get to know our brothers and sisters from so far away!



## CROSS PARTNERSHIP: FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

In October, we'll be collecting mac n cheese for Cross Food Pantry. We are challenging Ascension to build a tower with the collected boxes that will reach Ascension's ceiling. Help us by bringing boxes of mac n cheese each week. As partners with Cross Lutheran, we take seriously the responsibility of helping stock their food pantry. Without their partners, Cross's ministry to their neighborhood would not be possible. Each week, 200 bags are filled with food to help the people who attend the Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry.





## IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

### MISSION OUTREACH FACEBOOK PAGE

Check out our Facebook page at Ascension Waukesha Mission Outreach. We update the page frequently on Ascension's Mission Outreach Wing, ELCA, and Greater Milwaukee Synod mission activities. If you have participated in a mission or outreach activity and have pictures to share, please send the information and pictures to Shirley Wehmeier, so we can include them on Facebook.

### MENTORS NEEDED AT HOPE CENTER

You are invited to be a part of Coming Together, a cooperative program between Hope Center and St. Vincent DePaul Society. Mentors are needed to assist struggling individuals to learn to build more resources and move beyond thinking about making a change to actually doing it. Mentors will guide the partner to create an individual plan to reach their goals of a stable, secure life. For more information, contact Shirley Wehmeier.



### THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. Benefit members are eligible to lead two teams per calendar year, and associate members are eligible to lead one per calendar year.

Bring a team together to make an immediate impact on a cause you care about. Thrivent will help get you started. Go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com), look under *Making a Difference*, and find *Thrivent Action Teams*.

Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity, or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent action kit, which includes, a promotional banner, invitations and thank you cards, Thrivent action team t-shirts, and a \$250 community impact card you can use as seed money to purchase project supplies and create promotional materials.

Report your success by sharing your stories, photos, and volunteer team info with Thrivent after your event. This information must be shared with Thrivent before applying to lead your next Thrivent action team. Any questions, contact Donna Savin, 262-544-5619 or [donnasavin@att.net](mailto:donnasavin@att.net).



## GRATITUDE

### FROM MARVIN GOETTER

Maddie and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support these last few weeks while I underwent a quad-bypass. I'm recovering well, and rehab is going great. It was a scary time, but your support made it much easier. Ascension is truly family.

### OUTREACH FOR HOPE BIKE RIDE

Thank you to all who participated, volunteered, or sponsored a rider. The event continues to be a successful way to provide support for Outreach for Hope as they serve the poorest congregations in our synod.

### WALK FOR WATER

The ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water presents Ascension Lutheran Church with a certificate of appreciation for the generous support of ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water at the 2015 Youth Gathering in Detroit, July 15-19, 2015, in the amount of \$40. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger will help provide water for drinking, sanitation, hygiene, and agriculture in dozens of countries. Thank you!



## OCTOBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Room Key</b> EH = East Hall HR = Hearth Room K = Kitchen N = Narthex PL = Parking Lot PR = Prayer Room S = Sanctuary WH = West Hall YR = Youth Room				<b>1</b> 10am AI Anon WH 1pm TGBG PR 1pm Quilting, Bissett's House 5:15pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30pm Handbell Workshop S 6:30pm JOLT EH, WH 7pm Ballantyne 107 7pm Care Ministries 106	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8:30am Worship 9:15am Puppets EH 9:45am Children's Ministry/Adult Ed 10:45am Worship 6pm AA mtg WH 6pm CRASH EH, YR 6pm Pr. Angela Group HR 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>5</b> 9:45am AI Anon WH 6pm Prayer Group PR 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Knit Wits WH	<b>6</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5pm Care Ministry Meal WH 6pm DivorceCare 107 6pm DC4K 103 6pm GriefShare YR 6:30pm Mission Outreach HR 7pm Mutual Ministry PR 7pm Holloway 106	<b>7</b> 9am Young at Heart, Denny's 9:30am Cross Meal 12:30pm Women's Nurture PR 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>8</b> 10am AI Anon WH 1pm Quilting, Bissett's House 5:15pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30pm Handbell Workshop S 6:30pm JOLT EH, WH 7pm Ballantyne 107 7pm Military Ministry 106	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> CRASH, Great America
<b>11</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Children's Ministry/Adult Ed 9:45am Puppets, Visits 19:45am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Stepping Stone WH 10:45am Worship 6pm CRASH EH, S 6pm Pr. Angela Group HR 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>12</b> 9:45am AI Anon WH 1pm Living Letters 106 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>13</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5pm Care Ministry Meal WH 6pm DivorceCare 107 6pm DC4K 103 6pm GriefShare YR 7pm Holloway 106 7pm Military Ministry WH	<b>14</b> 11:45am Men's Nurture 106 6pm Handbells S 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>15</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 10am AI Anon WH 1pm TGBG PR 1pm Quilting, Bissett's House 5:15pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30pm JOLT EH, WH, S 7pm Ballantyne 107	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30am Property Day 9am Knit Fest WH 10:30am Folk Choir S
<b>18</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Presentation</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Children's Ministry/Adult Ed 9:45am Puppets EH 9:30am Blood Pressure Check HR 10:45am Worship 12pm Special Friends & CRASH, Green Meadows Farm 6pm Pr. Angela Group HR 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>19</b> 9:45am AI Anon WH 5:30pm Prayer Group PR 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107	<b>20</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am TGIT 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5pm Care Ministry Meal WH 6pm DivorceCare 107 6pm DC4K 103 6pm GriefShare YR 7pm Holloway 106 7pm Council EH	<b>21</b> 12pm Young at Heart EH, K 12:30pm Women's Nurture PR 6pm Handbells S 6pm Cloverleaf EH 7pm Wisdom Grp WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>22</b> 10am AI Anon WH 1pm Quilting, Bissett's House 5:15pm Angel Choir S 5:45pm Joyful Sounds S 6:30pm Handbell Workshop S 7pm Ballantyne 107	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9am Handbells S 4pm Special Friends, MKE Zoo
<b>25</b> <b>Reformation Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Children's Ministry/Adult Ed 9:45am Puppets EH 10:45am Worship 12pm Listening Session EH, WH 12pm Praise Band S 2pm CRASH EH, YR 6:30pm Pr. Angela Group HR 6pm AA mtg WH 7pm AA closed mtg WH	<b>26</b> 9:45am AI Anon WH 6pm Yoga EH 6:30pm AMEN 107 6:30pm Knit Wits WH	<b>27</b> 6:30am AMEN 107 9:30am Women's Bible Study HR 5pm Care Ministry Meal WH 6pm DivorceCare 107 6pm DC4K 103 6pm GriefShare YR 7pm Holloway 106	<b>28</b> 6pm Handbells S 6pm AA Speaker EH 7pm Wisdom Grp EH WH HR 7:30pm Choir S	<b>29</b> 10am AI Anon WH 1pm Quilting, Bissett's House 1pm TGBG PR 5:15pm Angel Choir S 7pm Ballantyne 107	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>All Hallows' Eve</b>