

*Ascension*  
Lutheran Church  
May 2019

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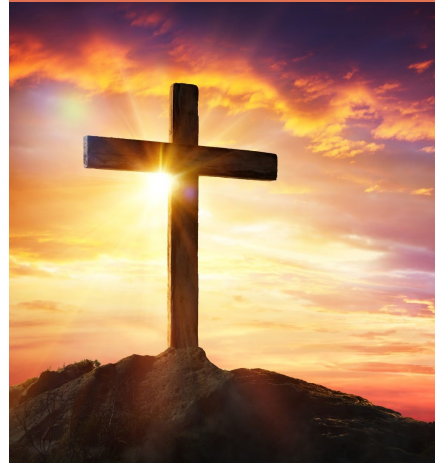
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### Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

A couple of years ago this reflection ran across my desk:

*“Out of the stale darkness, he rises into the light, bright rays of sun split the tops of trees, and clouds depart and blue fills sky – the smell of angels lingers in the air – his hair feels the cool breeze again. This was not the garden, but a new world made from the eruption of hope and a life that could not be held down.*

*We were witnesses to the life that rose from the dead. God’s relentless love, who comes close to us moving stones from tombs opening the heart to another possibility, death no longer stands. My heart races in my chest*

*as I step forward to face the future, my future, that I grasp with open hands with new naiveté, a child toward a mother to be held and lifted up, and cradled with care. At times I hesitate and I grasp onto memories of what once was but I know that I am not alone in my apprehension. I feel the hands of others holding me. These are my sisters, my brothers, who are not strangers to my fears and frailties, who have also confronted a hope that frightens them – who can feel their own scars, both fresh and old, they step in pace with me – the weeping women at the gravesite, the scared disciples waiting in the upper room.*

*This is our future, where we walk together toward our new home built by the hands of a wounded king – the new Zion, forsaking the kingdoms marked by boarders and divides where all our settlements are only temporary shelters, sanctuaries of rest for the wounded and weary. Then the Christ returns to visit us, as Galilee’s boats pull to shore, these places seem familiar – the lapping water and the sand, but we are not to return to these lands, nor those dreams – but become pilgrims, to set our belongings in another home, to wash our sandy feet in some other place, to lay down our tired souls on a distant promise, quilted from both the today and the tomorrow.*

*And we dine as a day sees another setting sun sitting across from each other once again – seeing each sweet face laughing deeply feeling whole once more. And we see the Savior’s smile, he knows our journey’s end and pours us another cup full of his own love and this time, our eyes tell him that we understand.”*

Welcome to the season of Easter. I, for one, am grateful to be here. Although I am grateful for the season of Lent, I often feel like maybe we linger just a little too long in the season and in so doing our souls begin to wander and languish. But the promise and joy of our God is that our God does not leave us to wander for long before we are met with the surprise and joy of the empty tomb. Resurrection, my friends! It is what we are about in these Easter days and what we share with the world. Resurrection – death-crushing, impossible, unbelievable, soul-quenching resurrection. Joy out of sorrow. Life out of death. Thanks be to God!

May God bless you richly in these Easter days and may you see resurrection ever about you.

See you in church!  
Pastor Chris

### Pastoral Acts

**Baptism**

Magnolia Ruth Wittchow, April 7  
Tammy Lynn Tenwinkel, April 21  
Mikaila Michelle Schroder, April 21

**Wedding**

Aleah Maas & Austin Owens, April 13

### Understanding the Symbolism of the Latino Alfombras (Carpets)

During Holy Week, the Latino Ministry led the effort to bring a Central American Holy Week tradition to the Spanish sanctuary and the narthex. In Central America, these carpets would be created directly on the pavement of the main streets in town, but we used plywood as a base to protect the actual carpet. The sawdust was donated by Bliffert and was colored ahead of time using fabric dye purchased with a grant from Thrivent.

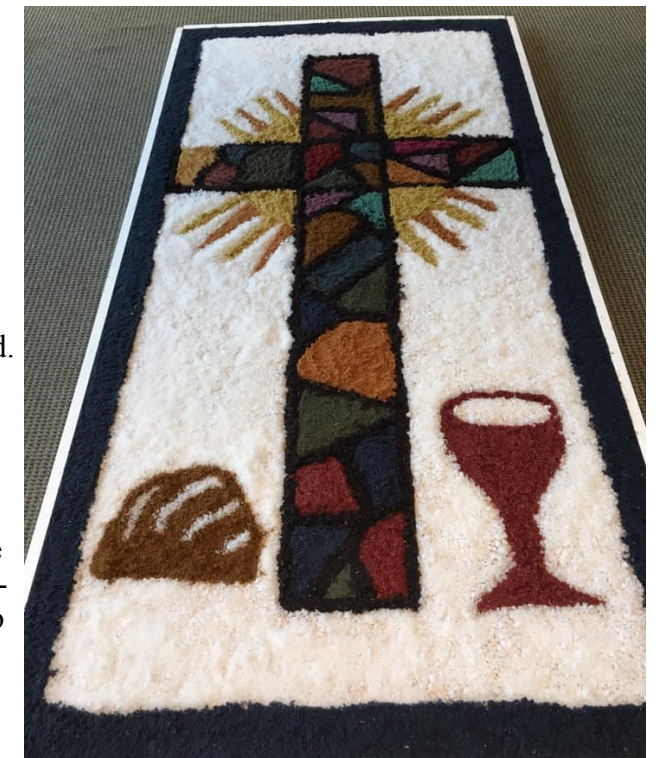
Here is some of the symbolism behind these carpets.

Alfombras are a bookend to Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem on a path of cloaks and palms; the alfombras beautify his walk to the cross.

As Jesus walked to the cross on Good Friday, the procession walks on the alfombras, destroying the artwork on their way to the altar. As Jesus dies, the world becomes an uglier place for three days, so the beauty of the alfombras comes to an end. It is also symbolic of the tearing of the curtain in the temple.

Alfombras are traditionally made primarily with sawdust and enhanced with salt and sand. Salt is mentioned over forty times in the Bible. Sand represents both the earth and Jesus’ connection to the sea and fisherman. Sawdust is used because Jesus was the son of a carpenter. It also reminds us of the passage from Genesis that we are from dust and we will return to dust.

Gracias to everyone that joined the Latino ministries for our Holy Week activities.



## Unclouded Day

Vicki Taylor, Director

Saturday, May 18, 2019 • 7:30 pm  
St. Luke’s Lutheran Church  
Waukesha

Sunday, May 19, 2019 • 4:00 pm  
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church  
Oconomowoc

### Jubilate Chorale

Tickets available from Ascension members Scott Greger, Sara VandenHeuvel, and Vicki Taylor.

**BLAST News**

On May 5, we will celebrate the end of the BLAST year. Our students have had many different opportunities to learn some of the Old Testament stories, the life and teachings of Jesus, according to the four Gospels, and how they can show the love of Jesus to others. Of course, none of the above would happen without members of the congregation volunteering to teach, organize, direct our Puppet Program and help with events like Road to Bethlehem and Road to the Cross. We are thankful for all of you! **We are also thankful for the support of our staff — Mr. Tony, Director of Faith Formation, Ms. Vicki, Director of Music and Amy and Tamie for always helping Susan and Vicki in the office.** What you do not see on Sunday morning is Ms. Vicki rushing out of church to teach music to at least two, sometimes three groups, of children. You also do not see Mr. Tony and Pastor Chris teaching First Communion and Stepping Stones or Mr. Tony working behind the scenes to support the BLAST staff. Last but not least, **Joan Birmer, who kept track of the Noisy Offerings, BLAST Offerings and carried all of that change to the bank!**

Please take time to thank the following members who have given of their time to teach our students: **Sarah Anderson, Lynn Parkhurst, Ric Simon, Danielle Rintala, Jeana Wagner, Kurt Burie, Linda Blodgett, Sandy Sadowski, Carolyn Ingelfield, Julie Kinunen, Beth Hoffmann, Cheryl Anspach (Puppets) and our student assistants Kurt Werner and Andrew Marien.**

*Vicki Marien & Susan Williams*

**Wow! 17 Goats & 51 Bags of Feed**

On Sunday, April 7, BLAST had hoped to receive enough offerings from the students and the “Noisy Offering” to buy one more goat; so we could send seven goats to each Goat Project. What a wonderful surprise to learn the students had given \$125 and the congregation had given \$401. When we added in the remaining money in our account, \$76, we had enough to purchase four additional goats and 12 more bags of feed. Thank you to our students, their families and the entire congregation for blessing the El Salvador and Tanzania Goat Projects!

**Thrivent Action Teams**

Now is the time to consider ministries that you can assist financially through Thrivent Choice Dollars. It takes a two week time period to request and receive your seed money of \$250. We are so blessed to have so many small group ministries, mission outreach and other worthwhile service projects to support. Talk to wing leaders. They already have projects that can use funding.



Think of the ministries you're involved with and how seed money could benefit them. Seed monies can be used for service projects, fundraisers and education. You can apply online at [Helping People Live Generously | Thrivent](http://Helping People Live Generously | Thrivent). You need to fill out a simple form with basic information. Let the Holy Spirit lead you in your gift to help our church and community. For additional questions call Donna Savin at 262-544-5619 or call 1-800-THRIVENT.

**“Live Generously” — Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Thank you for those in our congregation that directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Ascension. I know that there are many choices for you to consider to support ministries. By directing Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. Ascension received \$1,154 from Thrivent Choice last month.

**Be The Village**

Our mission statement for our Be The Village ministry is *Educate, Support, and Care* (children and families in Foster/Adoption Care system). We hosted a community speaker who presented a Foster Care/Adoption Care Presentation on April 7, Karen Schlindwein, executive director of Chosen, Inc., spoke to our congregation. She shared a power point presentation on information and statistics about the foster care system, and how Ascension Church can make a difference. Approximately 25-30 attended. One of our goals with our new Be the Village ministry is to educate our congregation and community about the foster system and their needs. We are grateful for Karen for sharing her story and presentation. The next meeting will be held between services on May 5 in the West Hall. Please to join us.

We would like to thank all of you who donated to Chosen this month for baby items. The items will be wonderful for babies entering foster homes. Thanks!



**Resources to Become A Foster Parent**  
 Saint A's Foster Care  
 Children's Hospital of WI  
 Foster Care  
 Waukesha County Health and Human Services

**Talk 'n' Tie Event May 19**

Are you crafty? You can help children in the foster care system by participating in this new Be the Village service project. We discovered a need for fleece tie blankets for teenagers in the foster system. On May 19 between services, we will have tables filled with cut tie blankets and we invite everyone, young and old to sit on a chair, tie a section or more on some blankets, visit, and enjoy some provided refreshments. Families are welcome. People will be available for assistance if needed. Come join the fun, help a teen in foster care and be a part of our new village! We are grateful for Thrivent to help us with the cost of materials.

**Chosen Volunteers Needed**

Are you looking for some volunteer opportunities? Chosen is looking for volunteers to help once a month to sort clothing in their facility. If interested, please contact [Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org) Thank you!

**Plant Sale Pick-Up: May 18, 8:30-11 a.m.**

Mark your calendar for May 18 to pick-up plants ordered through Ascension to benefit Care Ministries.

**Christian Line Dancing Through May 20**

Are you looking for a way to get some physical exercise? Linda Elder is leading the Christian Line Dancing Class through May 20. (Day after Easter to Monday before Memorial Day). 5 Weeks at 6 pm. Cost is \$10 for 5 weeks. This is a great way to get out of the house and tone up your body. Fun for all ages! Hope to see you then!



**Hope (Healing Our Pain...Eventually)**

Hope Ministry is a group from our past and present GriefShare members. We are having a picnic Tuesday, June 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the shelter at the park next door. Rain or shine ( in the West Hall in church in case of inclement weather). RSVP to Brenda if interested in attending. [Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org) or 262-547-8518.

**Blood pressure screening May 5<sup>th</sup> between services**

Last one before fall! Please remember to take care of your health.



### Care Ministries Volunteer Potluck May 16

We are not able to do our work in all of our ministries without all of our “Worker Bees.” We appreciate the busy hands that knit our baptismal blankets, hats and mittens, make and send cards and condolences to our congregation in times of need or difficulties, those that make meals, send care packages, visit our homebound and hospitalized or rehab, members as well as so many others. We appreciate you and would love to extend an invitation for you to attend a fun potluck dinner on Thursday, May 16, at 6 p.m. Entertainment will be provided.

### Young at Heart (55+): Welcoming Spring With Many Activities Potluck Lunch

On Wednesday, May 15th at Noon, please join us for a Pot Luck Luncheon in the East Hall here at Ascension. After lunch, Bill Anderson and friends will play music for all to enjoy. There will be time for games to follow.

### Spring Trip to the Dells

On Thursday, June 6th, ride a Coach Bus to the Wisconsin Dells to enjoy a boat trip on the Upper Dells. Beautiful Scenic Trip! After the boat trip, we will enjoy lunch at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant before returning to Waukesha. We will leave Ascension at 8 a.m. and return around 4 p.m. The complete trip cost is \$65.00 per person. Payment is due by May 19th. If you have questions, contact Celeste Defenbaugh at 262-3770-4522, Beth Hoffmann at 262-542-7447, or Arlene Davis at 262-542-9119.



### Twiddlemuffs: Knit Wits Helping People with Dementia & Alzheimer's

Ascension's Knit Wits make “twiddlemuffs” and donate them to the ADRC for distribution. Then, the ADRC distributes the twiddlemuffs to individuals with dementia during home visits and/or at Memory Café's for them to keep and use at home, in the car or wherever they would like to take them.

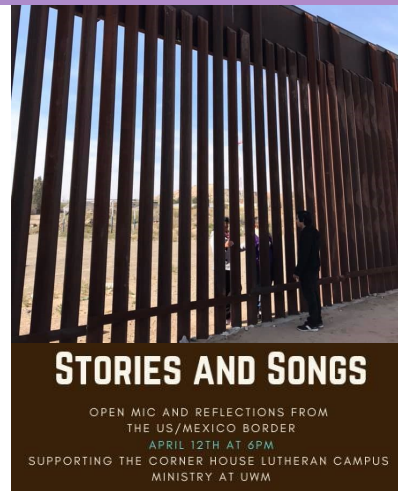
Thanks to the generosity of Ascension's Knit Wits, it is estimated that over 100 twiddlemuffs have been distributed to individuals with dementia in Waukesha County, according to the ADRC.

Here's why twiddlemuffs are helpful:

A twiddlemuff is a knitted or crocheted tube with accessories, such as ribbons, strings, buttons or beads sewn on to them. They usually have multiple textures, with different things sewn on the inside and outside of the muff. This allows for the person's hands to stay warm while they "twiddle" with the accessories. The twiddlemuffs provide stimuli for the hands to keep them busy, often providing a positive effect of calmness and comfort, as well as movement and brain stimulation. The twiddlemuffs also help people stay warm. As people age, they may find that their hands and feet get cold easier. There are a number of reasons why this feeling of cold may be happening, whether medical, age-related or environmental. People with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias may not be able to tell us that their hands are cold. Figuring out what the individual needs can be a challenging situation and one that many caregivers have had to work through. One solution is to provide the individual with a twiddlemuff. *(Excerpted from The ADRC Connection, March 2019, by the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Waukesha County.)*

### GMS SYNOD: Lutheran Campus Ministry

In January, Shirley Wehmeier spent an evening at the Corner House, the home of Lutheran Campus Ministry at UWM sharing our experiences working with refugees and new immigrants. In return, several students and Pastor Rachel participated in a tutoring session at Ascension so they could experience working alongside our tutors with our students from varied backgrounds. This was all part of their preparation to travel to the border for their spring break to truly experience what was happening there. In April, Ascension members participated in a special event where Pastor Rachel and the students shared their experience through stories and songs. It was an inspirational evening and hearing their honesty and passion about what they saw and heard at the border was awe-inspiring to all who were there. These young people are strong in faith and guided by God's love and are ready to go into the world and lead. We were truly blessed to be a part of this special evening and to hear firsthand what they had seen and heard.



### PARTNERSHIP NEWS: El Salvador

We are excited as our plans are coming together for our summer trip to visit our sister parishes in El Salvador. We will be involved with some exciting environmental sustainability projects, working and learning side by side with our brothers and sisters from San Jorge. We will be learning about the Lutheran World Relief cocoa project and exploring ways we can work together to expand that project to benefit the people of San Jorge. Along the way, we'll visit projects Ascension has sponsored along the years: the dedication of the new land for the Usulután church, visiting the hardware stores, and seeing all of the BLAST goats. Contact Sarah Aparicio for more information.

### PARTNERSHIP NEWS: Tanzania

Our brothers and sisters from Tanzania are entering their third month of drought. Please keep them in your prayers. On our visit in the summer of 2018, we learned that sending the money for our school meal program in the fall wasn't a good fit for a culture where food costs fluctuate greatly depending on the time of the year. When we sent the money in the fall, \$6000 fed half of the school children. By sending the money earlier, we were able to feed all of the children for a little over \$3000. We will find out soon how the drought is impacting costs this year.



*Tanzania loses \$96.6 million a year due to drought affecting maize and legume crop yields, accounting for a 1.65 percent loss of the country's Gross Domestic Product, according to a report on food security in Africa.*

### Tanzania & El Salvador Mission Trip Dinner

With a mission trip headed to El Salvador and hosting a delegation from Tanzania a few months later, we are in a rare situation of needing to raise money for two mission trips at the same time. We have faith that the people of Ascension will step us to support both delegations.

In order to support both trips, we will be hosting a catered dinner from That's Amore Italian Restaurant with beverages, appetizers and desserts and a silent auction on May 11. Even if you never plan to travel on a mission trip, you can do your part by helping with the success of these trips by participating in the dinner event. Tickets will be available on April 28 and May 5 after services. Please invite a friend to join you for this fun event. The cost is \$12 each for individuals or \$35 for a family.

Please contact Al Gilgenbach, [agilgenbach@gmail.com](mailto:agilgenbach@gmail.com), with silent auction donations.

**PARTNERSHIP: Cross, Milwaukee**

We will be serving a chicken dinner at Cross Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, on Wednesday, May 1. This will be the first time we are serving chicken. This is a new menu and we will report on how it goes. If you are able to help prepare and serve, be at church by 9:15 a.m. to carpool. If you wish to provide a dessert, please have it at church by 9:15 a.m. Thanks. If you have questions, contact Arlene Davis at 262-542-9119.

Cross is in need of a new boiler to support their ministries. You can make a donation through Ascension or by visiting their [GoFundMe page](#).

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Spanish classes:** With our Latino Ministry growing, several people have asked Mission Outreach to have an introductory Spanish class to assist in communicating more effectively with guests as they attend services or activities. If you are interested in participating in Spanish classes, contact Shirley Wehmeier to let her know your interest and your availability to help us determine the level of interest.

**Community Block Party**

Our Third Annual Block Party will be August 10 from 2-5 p.m.. It is a fun day and all Ascension members are invited and encouraged to participate this year. The following areas need volunteers: publicity and invitations (Iva Richards); food (Arlene Davis); bingo prizes (Jessica Parent); entertainment (Shirley Wehmeier); door prizes (Steve and Carol Spieker); kids games and activities (Shirley Wehmeier). In addition to the advance activities, we will need about 40 volunteers the day of the event to make it a success. We have a great committee working on the details. Please contact anyone named above to help, to give ideas, or to help write a Thrivent Action Team grant to help with costs.

**FEATURED COMMUNITY PARTNER: Habitat Waukesha**

Habitat Waukesha started in 1989 with humble beginnings. With community support and staff working side-by-side with hundreds of volunteers, Waukesha Habitat has experienced tremendous growth. In 2019:

- At least 6 homeowners will receive the keys to their new home
- Neighborhood revitalization project will continue to brighten a gateway into the City of Waukesha
- Dozens of families will receive necessary repair or age-in-place work on their homes
- The newly expanded ReStore will offer a larger selection of affordable furniture and building materials to raise funds for the mission.

What can you do to help?

1. If you are doing home updates, give Habitat ReStore a call to arrange for their experienced deconstruction team to salvage cabinets, fixtures and more.
2. Consider volunteering either at a home site or at ReStore. There are volunteer opportunities for all skill levels. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Shirley Wehmeier for more information. We are hoping to do a build project this summer for one of our refugee families.
3. Mission Outreach will be gathering volunteers to help one of our refugee families in their build once they are approved for a house. Watch for updates on when and where.

**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness): Blue Jean Bingo**

What could be a better way to spend a Friday night than an all you can eat fish fry buffet complete with beer or soda and a dessert, a licensed bingo event with cash prizes and amazing auction items?! Join NAMI Waukesha for a fun, fast-paced evening at its annual Blue Jean Bingo. All proceeds benefit NAMI Waukesha's support, education and advocacy programs for those impacted by mental health conditions in our community. Contact Peggy Thrasher for tickets, [letstalksoon@hotmail.com](mailto:letstalksoon@hotmail.com). Get a group of your Ascension friends together for a fun night to support a great cause.

**Details:** May 17, 5-9 p.m. at the Ingleside Hotel 2810 Golf Rd, Pewaukee

**The Beginnings of Ascension**

History is one of those subjects either people love or hate. If you're one that hates history you may want to skim these few paragraphs. But if you have a little interest in the story of Ascension you may want to stick around for a few more words. Trust me there will not be a test at the end of this history lesson, just a surprise quiz.

Ascension will be 70 years old this coming September. Our church was born on the eleventh of that month on the western outskirts of the City of Waukesha. Not where the church stands now but on Madison Street and Fairview Avenue, a few blocks away. We were not large, but we filled a great need at that time. World War II had ended only a scant four years prior to our birth. Service men and women were being wed and beginning to raise families at one of the highest rates the United States has ever seen. And those men and women needed God. Most people do after seeing and feeling war like everyone did. So God filled the need and brought together a small group that gave birth to Ascension Lutheran Church.

Now Waukesha was a lot different back in 1949 than it is today. Just west of Moreland Road stood nothing but open fields and dairy farms as far as Genesee Depot. Dopp subdivision, the homes that surround our wonderful church right now, had just been commissioned but not a home had been raised yet, and you could still catch the trolley in downtown, or take the train into Milwaukee.

Waukesha was just over 21,000 people, mostly to the east of the Fox River or on the cliff side to the west. You had your choice of three movie theaters in town: The Pix, The Park and The Avon, and you still had to go to the butcher for meat, the bakery for your bread, milk was delivered, and your other necessities came from Schultz Brothers, Woolworth or the Metropolitan. You were well off financially if you made over \$4,000 a year and a new 5-room ranch home would have cost you \$8,900.

If you would have picked up the Sunday Milwaukee Sentinel (The Freeman didn't publish on Sundays in 1949) on the day Ascension came to be, the three biggest headlines you would have payed attention too in the 201 page paper would have been, "The Future of Heating Will Be Natural Gas," "The Brewers Have Beat the Saints to Clinch Third Place" (that's the St. Paul, Minnesota Saints), and "Green Bay to Play an Exhibition Game ... Against Their Rivals the New York Bull Dogs, in Rock Island Illinois."

Yes, life would have been a little different back in 1949 but now that we have set the stage for where we came to be, next month we will explore how our church was formed and by whom and those first years until we broke ground for our second church here on Dopp St.

**Quiz Time (and no cheating!)** Who was the president of the United States back in 1949? How many presidents have there been since Ascension came to be? Who was our state governor? And last, how many church buildings has Ascension been in from 1949 to today? Bonus Question for those looking for an A+: How many Pastors have we had in the last 70 years? You will get the answers next month.

*Scott Tenwinkel*

Council board member, Ascension's 70th anniversary team



*Ascension's first church*



*Rev. Lee Egloff, 1949*



*Breaking ground on Dopp St., 1966*

## COUNCIL

As we celebrate our Easter season, I want to continue to share with you activities of your council, with our themes for this year being **promoting congregational health and wellness, increasing engagement experiences, and strengthening council leadership**.

Ascension and the City of Waukesha recently partnered for an election on April 2. We had 975 community members come through our doors to vote and see our church and sanctuary. There were positive comments from voters who preferred our site to the previous voting site at Bethesda Elementary School; we had election staff who had positive things to say about working at Ascension as an election site; we had City of Waukesha election leadership who valued our partnership; and our Ascension staff had good election experiences as well. After discussion at our recent council meeting, we decided to have Ascension be an election site for 2020. This will involve four election dates next year and we think this is an excellent way for us to **engage** our community. If you are interested or have questions about becoming an election worker as a way for you to **engage** in an Ascension activity, please let me know so that I can get you connected with the Waukesha City Clerk for training.

An issue that your Council began discussing this month is the need this year to revise the church constitution. We need to bring our constitution in line with the national ELCA Constitution which is revised every three years following the church-wide Assembly; this

gathering will be occurring in Milwaukee from August 5-10, 2019. If you are interested in **engaging** with our Ascension Constitution Revision Project please let me know. I would also ask you to join me and consider **engaging** with the ELCA church-wide Assembly as they will need many volunteer staff to make this a successful event.

Having knowledgeable and experienced people in leadership positions is important for organizations. One of my observations has been that each year Ascension loses a person with important church knowledge and skills when the President completes their term and leaves church leadership. As a way to **strengthen Council leadership** the Council has endorsed setting up a Past Presidents Group which we hope will be a resource for your Council. I will keep you informed as this group is developed and better defined. It is also important to help new people develop the knowledge and experiences for future leadership and service. Mary Ellen Comp and Jeremy Poling are overseeing the Leadership Development Team with this task.

May you and your loved ones have a renewed experience of God and growth in your faith during this Easter season.

*Jay O'Grady*  
Council President

### Meet the Council — Linda Hansen

My family became members of Ascension in 1975. Over the years, we experienced all the important life events here. I was a staff member for several years. Currently, I coordinate the Living Letters group, participate in a nurture group, manage the Ascension Library, and am Secretary of the Council.

Being at Ascension for 43 years, I have experienced many changes, including the size of our congregation and of our space. But even with the changes, Ascension has always felt like home. I believe this is because of the people here. It has always been a friendly, welcoming church that offers many opportunities for spiritual growth as well as providing many ministries in which to use our talents.

### Meet the Council — Carol Ziarniak

I was born in Waukesha. We moved at an early age for me, to Racine, then to Milwaukee. I was married there and we had four children. After we retired, we moved from Milwaukee back to Waukesha where we bought a place at the Somerset Ridge condos. My husband, Jerome, died in January of 2012. I sold the condo in 2013 and moved in with my daughter at that time.

What I like about Ascension Lutheran Church: I joined this church in June of 2012 after leaving the Catholic Church. After searching for a church to join in 2012, I talked with Pastor Frank to find out about becoming a member here. I have always found Ascension to be an inspiring, exceptionally friendly worship place. I so enjoy the sermons given by Pastor Chris and Tony. Also, I'm impressed with the many different programs available for people to be a part of. From youngsters, to teenagers and to women's and men's groups.

I am a council member, a greeter and a communion server. I have found a welcoming home here.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello Ascension!

We have another good report to offer to the congregation in terms of contributions and expenses. For the month of March, we achieved a surplus in terms of contributions compared to our budget. We also saw an efficient month in terms of expenses by coming in under budgeted expenses. So, in all we continue to trend well for the year through the first quarter.

Thank you to everyone's continued support for the Church. It is exciting to see the improvements continue, we look forward to what else we are able to achieve this year.

Many blessings,  
*Michael Hamm*

### Staff

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

**Pastoral Intern** Tony Acompanado,  
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**Spanish Language Minister** Edwin Aparicio  
[Edwin@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Edwin@ascensionelca.org)

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**Administrator - Joyful Worship & Spiritual Growth** Tamie Greenwood  
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**Administrator for Spanish Worship & Communications** Sarah Wehmeier Aparicio  
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**Director of Care Ministries** Brenda Lytle, RN  
[Brenda@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Brenda@ascensionelca.org)

**Director of Faith Formation** Tony Acompanado  
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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key</b></p> <p>CR— Conf rm    EH—East Hall    HR—Hearth rm            N—Narthex    PR—Prayer rm    WH—West Hall            S—Sanctuary    MR—Music rm    YR—Youth rm  <i>Italics offsite</i></p>			<p><b>1</b>            9:30a <i>Cross meal</i>            6p Handbells S            7p AA WH            7p Ballantyne Grp 106            7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>2</b>            10a Al-Anon WH            11a <i>Span. Bible Study</i>            11:30a <i>Knit Wits</i>            12:30p Women's Group PR            5p Angel Choir MR            5:30p Joyful Sounds            6p Youth Ringers S            6:30p JOLT</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b>            9:30a Tutoring            12p Private event EH            4:30 Puppets EH</p>
<p><b>5</b>  <b>8:30a Worship S</b>            9:30a Adult Ed: Prayer            9:30a Be the Village WH            9:30 Blood Pressure N            9:30a Puppets            9:45a BLAST - Last Day  <b>10:45a Worship S</b>  <b>10:45a Span. Wor. EH</b>            6p AA begin. WH            7p AA closed WH</p>	<p><b>6</b>            9:45a Al-Anon WH            2p <i>Prayer Group</i>            6p Line Dancing EH            6:30p AMEN 106</p>	<p><b>7</b>            6:30a AMEN 106            9:30a Women's Bible HR            9:30a TGIT PR            6p Spanish Ministry PR            6:30p Mission Outreach CR</p>	<p><b>8</b>            9a <i>YAH @ Christina's</i>            11:45a Men's Lunch 106            6p Handbells S            7p AA WH            7p Ballantyne Grp 106            7:30p Adult Choir            7p Mutual Ministry</p>	<p><b>9</b>            10a Al-Anon WH            10a TGBG PR            10:30a Cloverleaf EH            11a <i>Span. Bible Study</i>            5p Angel Choir MR            5:30p Joyful Sounds            6p Youth Ringers S            6:30p JOLT</p>	<p><b>10</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>            10:30a Cloverleaf EH            5p <i>Knit Wits</i>  <i>USO events</i></p>	<p><b>11</b>            9a Knit Wits WH            9:30a Tutoring            5p Global Missions Dinner &amp; Auction</p>
<p><b>12</b>  <b>8:30a Worship S</b>            9:30a Adult Ed: Prayer  <b>10:45a Worship S</b>  <b>10:45a Span. Wor. EH</b>            6p AA begin. WH            7p AA closed WH</p>	<p><b>13</b>            9:45a Al-Anon WH            1p Living Letters PR            6p Line Dancing EH            6:30p AMEN 106</p>	<p><b>14</b>            6:30a AMEN 106            9:30a Women's Bible HR            6p Exec. Comm. CR            6p Spanish Ministry PR            7p Holloway Mtg 106</p>	<p><b>15</b>            12p YAH Potluck EH            6p Handbells S            7p AA WH            7p Ballantyne 106            7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>16</b>            10a Al-Anon WH            11a <i>Span. Bible Study</i>            12:30p Women's Group PR            5p Care Ministries            Volunteer Potluck EH</p>	<p><b>17</b>            5p Wedding rehearsal S &amp; EH</p>	<p><b>18</b>            8a Plant sale pick-up CY            9:30a Tutoring            2p Wedding</p>
<p><b>19</b>  <b>8:30a Worship S</b>  <b>10:45a Worship S</b>  <b>10:45a Span. Wor. EH</b>            6p AA begin. WH            7p AA closed WH            6p CRASH YR</p>	<p><b>20</b>            9:45a Al-Anon WH            12p Knit Wits WH            2p <i>Prayer Group</i>            6p Line Dancing EH            6:30p AMEN 106            6:30p Wing Leader mtg CR            7p Global Partnerships PR</p>	<p><b>21</b>            6:30a AMEN 106            9:30a TGIT PR            9:30a Women's Bible HR            6p Spanish Ministry PR            7p Council 106</p>	<p><b>22</b>            6p Cloverleaf EH            7p AA WH            7p Ballantyne 106</p>	<p><b>23</b>            10a Al-Anon WH            10a TGBG PR            11a <i>Span. Bible Study</i>            6p <i>AMEN @ Raised Grain</i></p>	<p><b>24</b>            10:30a Cloverleaf picnic</p>	<p><b>25</b>            9:30a Tutoring</p>
<p><b>26</b>  <b>9a Worship S</b>  <b>10:45a Worship S</b>  <b>10:45a Span. Wor. EH</b>            6p AA begin. WH            7p AA closed WH</p>	<p><b>27</b>            9:45a Al-Anon WH            6:30p AMEN 106</p>	<p><b>28</b>            6:30a AMEN 106            9:30a Women's Bible HR            6p Spanish Ministry PR            7p Holloway Mtg 106</p>	<p><b>29</b>            7p AA WH            7p Ballantyne 106</p>	<p><b>30</b>            10a Al-Anon WH            11a <i>Span. Bible Study</i></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	