

Ascension
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
April 2020

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APRIL NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

Introduction

Special Edition 2
A Note from Council 2

Joyful Worship

Pastor's Perspective 3
Latino Ministry 4
Holy Week 4
Special: Easter Worship 5-9

Spiritual Growth

BLAST 10
JOLT 10
CRASH 10

Caring Relationships

Health & Wellness 11

Mission Outreach

Partner News: El Salvador/Tanzania 12
Partner News: Meru Coffee Project 12
Farmer's Market reflection 13

Council

Risk / Crisis Management Group 14
Council Bios 15

***FEATURING SPECIAL
EASTER WORSHIP INSERT***



Ascension

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Special Edition

Welcome to a special edition of the monthly Ascension newsletter. We are living in unprecedented times and in a period of great uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic.

We are complying with social distancing and safer-at-home orders while continuing to minister to and with our community. We will do our best to nurture the connections and relationships that make Ascension so special despite the physical distance among us.

What we do will look different. However, we are grateful that we are experiencing this when we have the advantage of technology. We will be relying on email, Facebook, our website and YouTube to continue to share God's love with our church community. Worship experiences, wellness tips, music and more will be shared in English and Spanish on our various Facebook pages, found in the sidebar. Be sure to also sign-up for e-alerts, <https://tinyurl.com/ALCealert> to keep up with news from Ascension.

If you have a need for pastoral care, please contact the office. We all have access to our voicemail and email from home and we're regularly picking up mail.

We will not be able to physically worship together for Holy Week and Easter. In this newsletter, you will find descriptions of special Holy Week services. You will also find an Easter bulletin to read aloud or follow along with if you watch the worship video. Please experience resurrection joy with us on Easter Sunday however you can.

Amy Gilgenbach
Director of Administration

A Word from Council

It's hard to sit at the computer today, Sunday, March 15. It's time for church and the doors are closed. What a strange feeling. At the council meeting on Saturday, surrounded by council members and staff, making that decision to close the doors of Ascension through March 29. It was a decision not easily made. None of us have been through this or experienced this before. The best is to look for opportunities in the midst of obstacles.

The closing maybe hard, but also gives us an opportunity to dig deeper in our faith, trust in the love of God. Set aside time – talk to God, pray, read your Bible or devotions. Rest. Turn off the TV for a while. Stay in touch with family – including your church family. Finish that long forgotten project. Take a walk. Yes, and even get your spring cleaning done early. We can do this.

One last note, Ascension is a living and viable influence on us and in our community. It needs your support financially, so it can make a real living impact to our community and our love of God. Please continue to give to Ascension. I am available by email angelks1@att.net. Please let me know if you have a concern or question or just want me to call you and talk. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon. I know in my heart that great things will be happening at Ascension this year because all of you make a difference.

With God's love and our faith, we can do anything.

Karen Simington
Council President

The Wilderness of Lent

I wonder where you are in this wilderness of Lent. From ashes marked on our foreheads weeks ago on Ash Wednesday to our entrance into the wilderness and the story of the journey of Nicodemus, who travels at night, to visit Jesus – Lent is not exactly a quiet ride. Add to this season, the unfolding drama of the coronavirus and the up and down of the stock market and well, perhaps you are considering just staying home in hopes that the wilderness will calm down and then you can venture out once again.

The reality for most of us is that we cannot simply barricade ourselves inside our homes waiting and praying for the world to calm down. In fact, our call from Jesus is to “be in the world but not of the world.” In Matthew 10, Jesus shares these words, “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” The world around us can often feel like a wilderness we are forced to navigate instead of a paradise to be enjoyed. In truth, I live with both ideas of approach. The wilderness can bring great challenge but also provide excitement, adventure, and new understanding. When I find myself in the wilderness, I know that I will be expected to reexamine my ideas and renew my understanding of how the world works or at least how I think the world works.

On March 8, we celebrated a new thing at Ascension. We hosted a new mission outreach ministry – a Winter Farmer’s Market in the midst of all the other excitement that a Sunday morning at Ascension offers. We could have put lots of rules and confines around the farmer’s market experience – it can only happen between this time and that time; it can only be in these spaces. Instead, as the planning unfolded, we simply tended the details that arrived at our doorstep and did our best to approach each new wrinkle as an opportunity to be welcomed not a problem to be solved. The Farmer’s Market was a huge success. After all was said and done, the Food, Faith, and Farming Network’s 8th and final farmer’s market of the winter season was its second-best sales totals for the season. I am grateful to Lynn Parkhurst who championed this first Winter Farmer’s Market. I am grateful still more for the countless individuals who stepped out of their comfort zones to help cook, set-up, serve, clean-up, host and greet. As with any venture into the wilderness, we will have some adjustments to make before next year – but for a first experience – Ascension was a wonderful partner for the Food, Faith, and Farming Network.

It turns out that I seem to always expect the wilderness to be a place of struggle. What I often find, is that the wilderness is much less about the struggle and far more about learning new ways of walking with others. What more would Jesus ask of us in the wilderness of this Lenten season?

I wonder if I have asked for too much time walking with others. Well not with all of you but with my wife, my children, my dog. Already I have entered into a new wilderness with my family inside the ever-shrinking walls of our house. It is a new experience to have so much togetherness on this journey of Lent. Usually, I long for more of you to gather for worship, for soup, for ministry. Yet, in this moment, I could use a little bit of space and some really long walks to provide space for all of our family members in the wilderness this year. Social distancing at its finest – I think. Our house has never been so clean. Our basement has been purged. The laundry room/mud room is organized. And soon the garage. But then what? Holy Week will be upon us and we will walk the road from the gates of Jerusalem to the upper room to Calvary to an empty tomb – all of that walking happening in solitary and silent moments. The crowds that gathered to welcome Jesus into the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday are silent – yet still Jesus comes. The disciples who gathered with Jesus in the upper room are absent – yet still Jesus prays. The people who gathered at the foot of the cross will be far more distant this year – yet still Jesus remembers us. And come Easter dawn – there will be no visitors at the tomb – yet still Jesus rises.

We now know that we will not gather together in worship until the beginning of May at the earliest. A long time to be apart. Our plan, when we are allowed to gather once again, is to mark our first Sunday back together as our “homecoming Sunday.” A chance to engage, connect, celebrate, weep, and rejoice for the long night that will be over. And then hold on! The following Sunday – will bring us together for the great celebration of Easter and the joy of the resurrection. No longer apart and alone. Now all together as we praise our God. Thanks be to God!

Until I see you in church.

Pastor Chris



WORSHIP

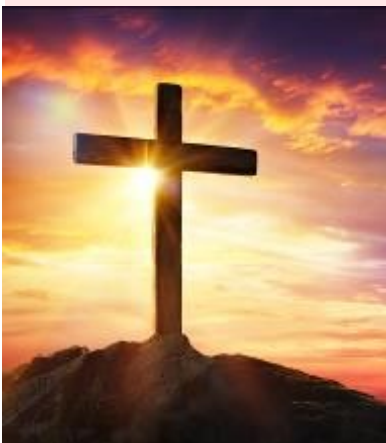
Latino Ministries Update

Our Spanish-speaking families are being impacted by the coronavirus pandemic just as our English-speaking families have been.

Most of the families have at least one family member that works in landscaping, so they just returned back to work after many months of unemployment. Most of the other employed members work in fast food, so they appreciate you continuing to visit drive-throughs since they have had their hours reduced. At the same time, they are worried about still working when much of the world is isolated for safety. Several of the families have six to eight people living in a two bedroom apartment, so they are very much looking forward to social isolation programs coming to an end.

Our Latino families are missing the feeling community at church and are especially saddened at the cancellation of Holy Week (Semana Santa) activities. In Spanish-speaking countries, this is the biggest holiday week of the year.

Edwin has been in frequent contact with the families, with regular phone calls. He has also been holding Sunday services and nearly daily devotions on Facebook. The primary goal has been to provide a moment of reflection, comfort, and worship for the Spanish-speaking members of Ascension. Pastors in many Spanish-speaking countries are not comfortable with social media, so these videos have filled a gap in many other countries as well.



Holy Week

Even in these days of the pandemic, we continue to mark the days of the journey of Jesus in life, in death, and in resurrection joy. Join with us as we worship in a new way, online (and in print in this newsletter).

Palm Sunday: “Hosanna in the highest,” will be our cry as we remember Jesus’ triumphant entry into the gates of the holy city. We will celebrate the beginning of this holy week with the reminder that our expectations and God’s expectations are not always exactly the same. Where the people want a powerful king, Jesus comes as a suffering servant riding a donkey. Through our online worship experience, we will be reminded of the coming of the promised Messiah – the chosen one of God. This worship will be posted on Palm Sunday morning.

Maundy Thursday: We will gather in the upper room with Jesus and the disciples to celebrate the Last Supper. This year, we will hear words of confession and forgiveness and be reminded of the powerful image of the Savior washing the feet of the disciples. As is tradition, we will honor the memory of Jesus’ humiliation at the hands of those in power before he is led to the cross to be crucified by the stripping of the altar and the chanting of Psalm 22. This worship will be posted on Maundy Thursday at 6 p.m.

Good Friday: The ancient title for this day is “the Triumph of the Cross.” A reminder for us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ’s life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the cross as a symbol of new life. We will share in the unfolding drama as Jesus is led to the cross. We will hear the Seven Last Words of our Savior from the cross. And we will give witness to the closing of the tomb. This worship will be posted on Good Friday at 6 p.m.

Easter Sunday: First we hear only hoped for whispers on the wind. Resurrection? Are you sure? We gather to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus, the Christ. We will hear the story of that first Easter sunrise and be surrounded by the joyful sounds of songs that have been sung for generations and songs that new generations are singing. This worship will be posted on Easter Sunday at sunrise around 6:15a.m. on our website and Facebook.



Ascension Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 12, 2020

Welcome

Call to Worship **Chorale Prelude on “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing,” H. Willan**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: A reading from Romans: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (*Romans 6:3-5*)

C: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

C: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A: Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again. Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament. Breathe your Spirit into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

EASTER WORSHIP

Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (*vs. 1, 2 and 4*)

ELW 365

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer

P: Let us pray... God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: Amen.

Song

This is Amazing Grace

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

**This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me**

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory, the King of Glory
Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory, the King above all kings
(Chorus)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
(Chorus)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel for this day comes from the book of St. Matthew, the 28th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

With Fear and Great Joy, They Stayed Home?

Pastor Chris

EASTER WORSHIP

Offering

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope (Repeat)

Prayers/Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
C: Amen.

P: Remember us, O God, and teach us to pray.

C: **Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Living Hope

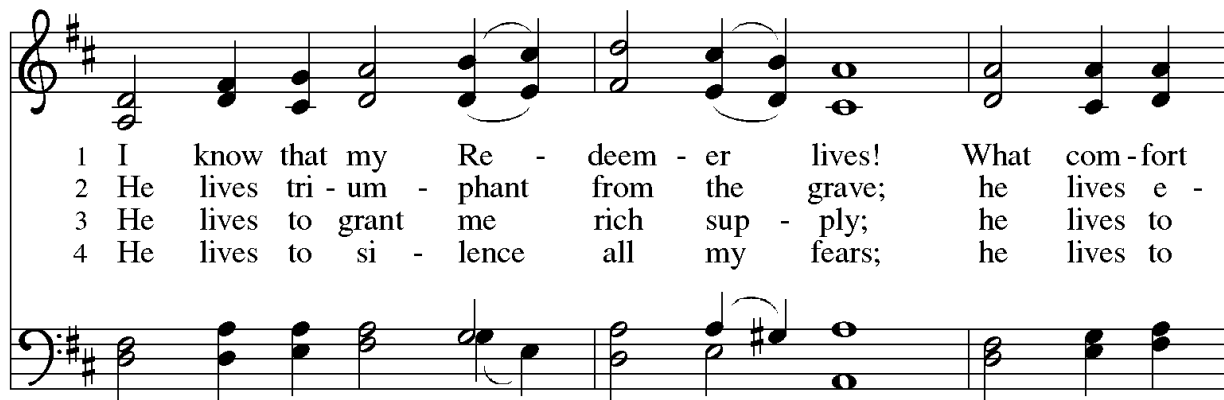
Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa (**Chorus**)

Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

Closing Hymn

I Know That My Redeemer Lives (vs. 1, 2, and 4)

ELW 619



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Postlude

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Setting by Thomas Gieschen

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

BLAST, JOLT & CRASH

Just about every area of daily life has been affected by the current coronavirus pandemic, including our student and family ministries. In this short-term period of being physically separated and unable to gather together for worship and faith formation activities, we're exploring creative ways of staying connected to God and our faith community.

Until we're able to gather together again in-person, we'll be offering several ways for students and families to connect with God and each other. Be sure to check your email as well as the Ascension Facebook page and website for updates. Although we'll be apart for a little while longer, please know that you're missed, you're loved, and you're being prayed for by name.

BLAST

We miss the sounds of children throughout the church and we're looking forward to seeing your smiling faces again soon! For now, be aware that our First Communion Stepping-Stone classes have been put on hold and so too is the service for the Rite of First Communion. These events will be rescheduled at a time TBD. However, just because we aren't able to meet in person on Sunday mornings, we still want to offer families the opportunity to stay engaged in their faith formation. So, each Saturday we'll be emailing the SPARK Family Page as a way for families to keep connected.



JOLT

Oh what we wouldn't give to have a regular JOLT night to see your faces, play games, laugh, and explore God's love for us together. And although we can't be running around East Hall together, we still want to find ways to stay connected with you. So, on Thursday nights in Lent we want to invite you to join Edwin, PC and I online for some laughter, maybe some jokes or games, hearing what you're up to for Coronapocalypse, and exploring how much God loves us and the world especially during this strange time. So, grab a snack and join us on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 7 p.m. We hope you'll join us so check your email for further details.



CRASH

No Sunday night CRASH youth group...what, are you kidding?! Sadly no, but geez do we miss hanging out with all of you! So, since we know most if not all of you are online for school and connecting with friends on social media, we thought it would be fun to meet up for CRASH virtually. On Sunday nights throughout April we'll gather together from 6 – 7 p.m. online. We'll spend some time checking in, play a few games, dive into some scripture, and if we have enough people we'll even break into some small groups for discussion. We hope you will join us, so check your email for further details.

Tony Acompañado
Director of Faith Formation



Health and Wellness

Over the past month, I have been posting health and wellness tips on Ascension's Facebook page. Sometimes daily reminders help us to focus on taking care of ourselves during these times.

If you do not have access to the internet and you would like me to help you, call and leave a message for me at church. I am able to access my messages from home. I'm also available by email, brenda@ascensionelca.org.

Our pastoral assistants and cancer care ministers are not visiting people during this time of quarantine. This causes many of our elderly to feel further isolated. We are encouraging our pastoral assistants and cancer care ministers to call people and keep connected.

Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call a friend in our congregation. It is a way of keeping connected at a distance and it can prevent loneliness during these difficult times. I have been sending out devotionals to some of our elderly in our congregation. If you are interested in getting this mailed to you, please contact me.

We are all struggling in these tough times. A popular bible verse that helps me through hard times reminds me to trust God:

"Yes, though I walk through the valley, of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for you are with me." ~ Psalm 23:4

When we think of trusting God sometimes we think of trusting him for things we need or want. God may not always rescue us from when we want out of circumstances, but he is always with us as we walk through them.

Remember that your attitude in every situation is yours to command. Maintain an attitude of faith, praise, thanksgiving, and positive expectation. Blessings to each of you as we look forward to a brighter future ahead.

Brenda Lytle, RN
Director of Care Ministries

From Brenda on Ascension's Facebook Page

Today's health and wellness tip expresses the importance of personal hygiene and self care during these quarantine times. It may seem easier to stay in the same clothes all day and not keep up hygiene habits, but here are several reasons why it is important to be clean and keep up hygiene.

Good personal hygiene habits are directly related to less illnesses and better health. Poor personal hygiene habits can lead to body odor and greasy skin and it can affect your self-esteem.

We see and know the constant daily reminder of good hand washing. Do you know WHY it is so important with this virus? The coronavirus has a lipid coating. When you wash your hands with soap and water, you surround any microorganisms on your skin with soap molecules. The molecules wedge themselves into the lipid coating of this virus prying them apart and destroying the virus. During normal daily activities, such as working and playing, disease causing germs may get onto the hands and under the nails. If the germs are not washed off before preparing food or eating, they may get onto the food and into your bodies.

More good personal hygiene habits may include washing the body often, cleaning the teeth at least once a day; washing the hair with soap or shampoo at least once a week; changing into clean clothes; and turning away from other people and covering the nose and mouth with a tissue, hand, or elbow when coughing or sneezing.

Take good care of yourselves. Use the nice towels. or the good china or bath salts whatever you have been "saving" for a special occasion. You are special and right now is the time to give yourselves a little pampering. Feel good about how you feel and it will directly affect your self esteem and prevent times of depression. The Bible teaches us that God values our physical bodies.

"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones" ~ Proverbs 3:7-8

MISSION OUTREACH

Ascension's Partnerships & Coronavirus El Salvador

El Salvador began to prepare for the coronavirus by closing schools, limiting large gatherings, and closing the borders to non-citizens on March 11. In the days that followed, there began to be laws limiting travel within the country. The first cases of the virus arrived from Spain on March 18. As of the writing of this article, there are 13 confirmed cases. There have been lots of photos on social media of our friends wearing facemasks. With the airport closed by the government, many American citizens and residents that were visiting El Salvador are now stuck there indefinitely. Included in that number are Benecio and Marta Liliana Aparicio who winter in El Salvador and were planning to return to Waukesha at the beginning of April. Church in San Jorge and Usulután is on hold until the virus has passed. For now, Pastor Julio and Pastora Blanca are calling members by phone to keep in touch. The agroferreterias have been forced to close and they are not able to pay their employees during this time. Pastor Julio has asked Ascension for help with this. All of the churches in the Greater Milwaukee have received a request from Bishop Gomez about packages of emergency food supplies for pastors throughout the country that are not receiving pay during this time. If you are interested in making an offering to support either of these needs, please contact Sarah Aparicio.



Tanzania

Pastor Makenge sent us a message on March 16 the moment it made the news that the first case of coronavirus was identified in Tanzania. The first case was in Arusha, which is in the same part of the country where our sister parish, Samaria parish, is located. As of the writing of this article, there are 13 confirmed cases, with most of them in the area around Mount Meru. Pastor Makenge, like many Tanzanians, has taken to wearing a facemask much of the time. Schools and large gatherings have been cancelled, but the president has stated he wants religious worship services to go forward as normal. The preaching points of the Samaria parish now have hand sanitizer and buckets of water for people to wash their hands when they arrive at church. They are planning to discontinue Sunday School and confirmation classes, but at the moment, they plan to continue worship as normal. The people are staying home more often than normal, but there is no social distancing at this point. There is great fear of their ability to recover from a pandemic related recession.



If there are any big changes with either partnership, we will keep you posted on the Mission Outreach Facebook page, [facebook.com/Ascension.ELCA.MO/](https://www.facebook.com/Ascension.ELCA.MO/).

Mt. Meru Coffee Available by Mail

You don't have to go without your favorite coffee while staying safer at home. Consider ordering online at [mtmerucoffee.org](https://www.mtmerucoffee.org) to feed your need.



Mt. Meru coffee: Supporting Families • Growing Futures • Changing Lives

Winter Farmer's Market Reflections

Food is a bounty of which God has given us, and it was certainly celebrated at the Winter Farmer's Market on March 8th. A huge thank you to all who attended and supported this event, making it one of the most successful first-time markets for FFFN! The joyous atmosphere and positive energy could be felt throughout the morning. Eleven hard-working vendors brought a variety of goods to sell, and new favorites could be found at each one. Ascension had the second highest total sales of the 2019-2020 market season, and your purchases supported the Harvest of Hope Fund – to which vendors generously donated 10 percent of their sales! HOH helps farmers going through difficult times, in ways such as: helping purchase cattle feed during hard weather years, repairing equipment, funding electric bills or hiring farm help during medical emergencies.



Our delicious near-sell-out brunch was made using ingredients from attending vendors as well as Kettle Range Meats, which donated the sausages. Thank you to all who helped by making and serving food, as well as everyone who enjoyed the meal! Fifty percent of the profits from the brunch support the efforts of Food, Faith and Farming Network across Wisconsin. We hope you had a chance to visit Linda Sheridan and their information booth! Please visit foodfaithandfarmingnetwork.org or follow them on Facebook, Winter Farmer's Markets and Meals for Hope facebook.com/FFFNWI/, to keep up on the amazing work they do.

Let's not forget the effort that our BLAST kids put forth! By completing market scavenger hunts with their families, each child received an apple from Log Cabin Orchard and collectively a donation will be made by Ascension to purchase a community farm through ELCA! Supporting our local farmers and paying it forward to others in need is certainly what BLAST is all about.

Ascension has shown that building connections between our faith community and those who provide our food is important. The market was a festive celebration! "Idea seeds" such as sustainability and environmental stewardship (did you notice the compostable plates, forks and cups?), economic support for our farmers and positive dialog surrounding healthy, local food have been planted. Let's continue that conversation throughout the year.

Event & Activity Rescheduling

Mission events for April and May included serving at Cross, the SOPHIA Prayer Breakfast, a Healing Hearts fundraiser and our Global Partnership fundraiser in May. When we find out when these activities are rescheduled, we'll let you know. Watch our Facebook page and subscribe to the church's e-alert for more information.



Like Ascension's Mission Outreach on Facebook
facebook.com/Ascension.ELCA.MO/

Risk / Crisis Management Group

We all have risk in life. For many that is what makes living so fun. As a child I can remember playing a game where we would take a lawn game “Jart,” the nice metal one with the pointed tip, throw it up in the air as high as we could then stand still and hope it didn’t come right back down on your head. Success brought a feeling of euphoria knowing you didn’t get hurt. Getting bonked in the head brought about a crisis. And not being able to manage the crisis would have brought failure, death or serious permanent injury, in this case.

Risk and crises come in all shapes and forms. For many, not being able to find your cell phone may be a crisis. Or sending your first child off to college, or getting a flat tire, losing a job, losing your home. Crises can also come from things we have no control over such as the coronavirus, a flood, tornado or the death of someone we love.



“As a church we also take risk and have crises. It is how we manage those risk and handle potential crises that in the end either make us stronger or leads to failure.”

Several years ago, one of our members truly believed we needed to look at our risk as a church and how to deal with risks and potential crises. Linda Hansen has been the rock that has guided a small group of us through the process of risk analysis, crisis management and continuity.

We have participated in risk management seminars with our insurance company, have reached out to other churches to get a feel for what others may have already in place for crisis plans and have read and studied countless articles on managing crises. We have looked at our building, our staff, the congregation as a whole, our presence and relationship with the community at large and even our media presence. What this has all led to are lists of things we need to do. But we have made progress. We completed training sessions, with leadership, on several crises’ scenarios, and have more planned in the future. We have verified our insurance covers what it needs to cover as far as all our physical assets. We have digitally stored important church records that previously were just paper. We have identified, leadership positions and what each person actually does and have begun to compile booklets with important phone numbers, insurance information, even who we call if our boiler goes out. These we can then use as immediate reference material when an actual crisis occurs.

Additionally, we have prioritized repairs and upgrades need to the building such as keyless entry, lighting, eliminating trip hazards in our facility and on our grounds, and the installation of external cameras to monitor what occurs around our walls.

Although we can never plan for every crisis that occurs we have tried hard to anticipate what some of those crises may be and tried to work out ways to avoid the situation or how we as a church can deal with a crisis in the smartest and healthiest way possible. As we continue to work through our crisis plan, we encourage all to ask questions, participate if you like or just simply keep us in your prayers. If you do have questions or want to be a part of our team our names are listed below. And if you have no idea who any of us are; contact the church office or flag down a Pastor and they will definitely point you in the right direction.

Ascension’s Crisis Management Team is Linda Hansen, Cynthia Carlson, Roger Nordberg, Adam Boales an Scott Tenwinkel.

Scott Tenwinkel
Crisis Management Team Member

Council Bios

Adam Boales is an at-large member of church council since February 2020. Prior to this role, Adam has been a member of Ascension since 2012, primarily attending first service. In his professional life, Adam is a Senior Systems Analyst with the Enterprise Facility Services department of Froedtert Health, Inc. Before this role, Adam was a Network Engineer for Froedtert Health, Inc. Information Technology for 12 years where he was involved in many network support and infrastructure projects ranging from new health center constructions to renovations of existing facilities. In his spare time, Adam enjoys learning about new technologies, photography/videography, volunteering, and traveling with his wife (Sarah), and two children (Jonathan, 5, and Emily, 3). Adam can be reached via e-mail, adam@adamboales.com.



Misael Lopez is an at-large member of church council since February 2020.

I was born in Usulután, El Salvador. I am from the eastern zone of this tropical country, so it is much warmer than Wisconsin. When I lived in El Salvador, I lived with my mom: Rosa, my younger brother, Nelson; and my two older sisters Paty and Clara. I started to be a part of the Lutheran church in Puerta Parada when I was a high school student. I graduated from high school in 2008. At University, I studied to become a teacher and worked to learn English. I didn't learn a lot of English but I loved to communicate with the people from other countries so the first time that I met good people from here like Sarah, Peggy, Bob and Ann and others was amazing. I am always working to improve myself so I am part of the tutoring classes. I currently work at McDonald's.

I am a happy person that is eager to always be learning and discovering new things. My favorites hobbies are painting and riding my bike on trails. I am enjoying many kinds of food and I love to travel to new places. Honestly, I love Wisconsin, this place is nice and quiet full of hills and a beautiful lake around the state. When I first saw snow, I loved it, but now I find it beautiful, but too cold. I love many kinds of music like country and pop and many other styles.

Being a part of the council of this Lutheran church is a big challenge and I am so proud to be part of this because this makes us feel included and makes me feel the love of Jesus. I am proud to be part of the council of this amazing and inclusive church that we call Ascension Lutheran Church.

Scott Tenwinkel: My wife Tammy and I have been members of Ascension for four plus years now. We live out in the "wilds" of Dousman near the Kettle Moraine Forest on a plot we share with two mutts, a flock of chickens, ducks, soon to have goats and maybe a rabbit or two and a cat. We have three kids, Dion, 19, joining the Army shortly; Tysen, 17, and Makaila, 16. You can usually find us at the 10:45 service and very often see or hear me reading, ushering or greeting you as you come in. Outside of working as a Document Control and Crisis Manager and taking care of our little herd of animals, I enjoy beating my brother, Bill, also a long time member of Ascension at golf or really any game, carpentry, mechanics and studying history. I truly feel blessed to have come to Ascension and to be a part of this very inspiring and encouraging congregation.



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