



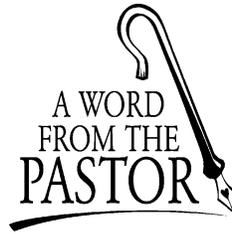
Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church September 2017

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There's no such thing as individual faith.

A confession: Sometimes I'll sit down at a meeting, a Bible Study, or other small group discussion a little less energetic for the exercise than I should be. What I'm *supposed* to do is work with the group to learn something new or come up with some new idea, maybe try to understand a piece of scripture in a new way or come up with a theme or hymn. Shoot, maybe it's just sitting down with Kristen to plan out how the garden should look.



That's what I'm supposed to do. But sometimes what I'm thinking is "Oh, I already know this." Or, "I've got a great idea that they'll all like and we can just do that." Or, "Ugh, this is old news and a waste of time."

I know, right. I'm awful.

Here's the good news: I'm always proven wrong in those moments. Someone points out some detail in a Biblical story that opens it all up in a new way. Someone makes an adjustment to my idea in way that makes it actually practical. Kristen reminds me that my plan for the garden involves a plot that gets no sun.

Jesus said that wherever two or three are gathered in his name, he is there with us (Matthew 18:20). In our society, we think of faith as a private matter. It's something between you and God. But I keep discovering that my faith is nurtured and challenged and strengthened with each of you. As we sing together and discuss together and kneel together at the altar.

It might be overstating it a bit to say there is no such thing as individual faith. But faith formed and pruned among others, faith that is rooted in the faith of generations before us and concerned for generations to come, faith that is strengthened when God is at work where two or three are gathered – that's a far more interesting faith to me. That's a faith that serves me well.

Through worship and Bible study and small group discussions and hard-fought meetings and prayers together and serving side-by-side and celebrations and driving all the way to Wisconsin to do the same with another congregation on Lake Michigan – through all these God has formed my faith and I pray God has done so for you, too. I'll take this communal faith over an individual one any day.

"Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love ..."

Pastor Daniel

TEAM STRETCH Update

Recently, a team of youth interviewed members in between services seeking feedback about the challenges they face at this time in their life. This is a part of an ongoing effort sponsored by Team Stretch, a group consisting of Jim DeLoughry, Elisa Thompson and Deacon Mary Stoneback. The team is traversing a Spiritual Formation Certificate program together for Boomers and Elders. Our goal is to lift up and support older adults in their faith journeys and connect the generations in meaningful ways that strengthens faith in Christ for all. Keep an eye out for more projects like these and we look forward to including you in the effort! A special thank you to Emmalee Krieg, Riley Tichenor and Anika Hagen in their video work and editing. Grateful to be brothers and sisters in Christ and moving through life together! *Check-out www.ascensioncos.org and click the youtube icon located in the top right corner of the webpage to view the video*

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

**Nancy Stannard & family at the death of her husband Jim.

**the family & friends of Patrick Marchbank at his death.

The August 8 CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Dan Holt led devotions by Hope and how the book of Revelation speaks of hope and how there is something better in heaven for us than what is here on earth.
- Board Directors gave brief updates on current activities and future plans.
- Pastor Daniel Smith will be starting the next book in his book club this month.
- Pastor Dan Holt talked about gearing up for fall activities around the church.
- Donna Crump noted we had received the contract from the Joshua Group for helping lead our strategic planning efforts. Donna said she was close to completing the list of people who will be participating in the ministry site review later in the month.
- Greg Gulliksen gave an update on the sanctuary upgrades. This past month he put up shade fabric for the congregation to review and provide feedback. Greg also working to get bids on the other work to be performed in order to see how much of the new lighting we can get installed.
- Rex Rudy reported that we catching up on our general offerings. The board of Stewardship continues to review.
- Greg Gulliksen noted he had begun the staff review process per our Employee Policy.
- Mary Stoneback gave a report on activities she had been working on this past year and what she was looking at doing this coming year. She talked about serving God in this time and space and noted all the activities we do at Ascension that serve God.
- Rex Rudy handed out a schedule outlining the budget planning process as well as a list of planning issues from previous years that the executive committee had put together.
- Pastor Daniel Smith led closing with prayers and the Lord's Prayer.
- The approved minutes of recent meetings are posted on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall and are available in electronic format from the church office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have had a change of address or phone number please contact the church office with your new address or phone number. This will help us stay current with information on how to contact you. As many of our youth head off to college please send along their address for the

upcoming school year so we may be able to stay in touch with them. Although they are not physically present with us they are still members of our Ascension family.



What's Happening

September is here which means many of our fall activities are beginning. Be watching for information concerning these and other activities in this newsletter, bulletins, and on "What's Up." Some of the activities happening this fall are confirmation; Sunday School; Gods Work, Our Hands, the 500th anniversary of Lutheranism, Thrivent Builds, Social Outreach opportunities, small group involvement, and many other opportunities to get involved.

"A Community of Grace, Called to Serve."

Peace be with you, Greg Gulliksen, President CPC
637-9313 / greg.gulliksen@gmail.com

WATCH FOR CHILDREN

School started in August. Our Children's Learning Center continues to have kids being dropped off and picked up, and our Sunday School will be getting started soon, so there will be more children running around outside. Please be careful when entering and exiting our parking lot from both the south and north drives any day of the week and at any time of day. It is easy to miss children and adults walking along Circle Drive when exiting the north drive.

WHAT'S UP

Are you a part of "What's Up"? What is What's Up you ask? What's Up is a digital way to keep up with what is happening at Ascension each week if you are not able to be at church Sunday morning. It is like an electronic bulletin insert. An email is sent out each Friday to those who wish to participate. How can I participate? Glad you asked, here's how. Send your email to the church office at office@ascensioncos.org and request you be placed on the What's Up distribution list.



500th Anniversary of the Reformation

On October 29, 2017, we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, but over the course of this year, there have been a series of events, classes, and materials made available to our Ascension family to give us a better understanding of the reformation. The Ascension Endowment Committee recently approved a grant to cover the cost of the lunch that we will have after the service on the 29th, so MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR! This lunch will be in lieu of our church picnic and will have a German theme honoring the German roots of the Reformation and of the Lutheran Church. The timing also coincides with October Fest so we can expect German beer and wine with our lunch. Late Breaking News: The Edelweiss Accordion Players will be playing music for us during the luncheon.

As part of our celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we are creating small groups to study a book written by Kelly Fryer, Reclaiming the "L" Word - Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core. This small book focuses on core beliefs we have as Lutherans. We will discuss the first two chapters in between services at Ascension on 17 September. Then we will meet in the small groups at members' homes for the next four weeks. We'll conclude by discussing the final chapter at Ascension between services on October 22nd. We have purchased a number of these books that participants can have for free. It is our hope that participants can grow in their faith and find deepened sense of belonging in our community.

We will have sign-up sheets in the narthex. If you have any questions, you can talk to the Pastors or with John Hayes, Board of Lay Ministry.

Connecting Ascension Riders and Drivers (CARD) Program

A couple of weeks ago, the daughter of one of our senior members approached me to see if our church had a ride sharing program for members without cars. Her Mom can no longer drive, but she still lives at home and needs rides to doctor appointments, grocery stores, church, etc. The daughter lives out of town. I had to say that we don't have a ride sharing program at Ascension, but maybe it's time to start one up. As a result, the Board of Lay Ministry is interested in seeing how many people could use a

program like this and how many drivers are willing to provide rides when their calendars allow. If you are in need of rides or are interested in providing rides, please contact John Hayes at (719) 572-1052 or at blazehayes@aol.com. Drivers would need to use their own cars and have their own auto insurance.

Thoughts on an Abundant Life

All right, the kids are settled in school, the stores are full of Halloween "stuff" and FOOTBALL IS BACK.

HURRAY [pick your favorite] I pick Football

But September is also a great month for looking for something just for yourself, like a book club or Bible study, or a craft class. It is called the Self Improvement Month. I may start doing more walking outside in the cooler temperature instead of just the YMCA. I have a great walking path around my office and an hour for lunch. [No excuse really]. Pick an activity that means something special to you, it will be easier to maintain it and at the completion you will have a great sense of accomplishment and joy. We can never have enough JOY.

For those with families I know that the schedules can start to get overwhelming with the addition of school activities. Be strong, there might be an activity to do as a family where everyone gains something new. I learned basketball by going with my Mom to her granddaughter's games [I was my Mom's driver in her later years] it was great fun. Whatever you do, the blessing of doing it with family will be the best reward.

Learn new skills and new activities this month to engage in the world around you or maybe just breathe new life into previous activities. "... glorify God in your body, and in your spirit." 1 Cor. 6:19-20

Special Days in September:

- 9/6 Read a book day
- 9/11 Pray for peace
- 9/14 Cream-filled donut day
- 9/16 Talk like a pirate day

God's blessings on your days! Sara Petz

HOLIDAY BAZAAR



2017 Holiday Bazaar at Ascension

It's that time of year when everyone is getting ready for the fall and upcoming holidays! The Ascension youth will be hosting their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, October 28th, from 9am to 2pm. Mark your calendars to get a jump on all your shopping needs! If you are interested in having a space at the Bazaar, please contact Kirsten Johnson at (719) 440-5896. Spaces are filling up! Lunch will be offered by the youth. All proceeds benefit the youth as they prepare to head to the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in Houston next summer.

SUP

September SUP is happening Thursday September 21, 12 pm - 1:30 pm. Special guest will be a Dietitian from Penrose St. Francis. We're hear about the most recent health trends and well, food for thought (pun intended!). There will be a time for questions too. Main dish is provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Let Mary Stoneback know you can attend to help with planning, m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org and [303.475.4886](tel:303.475.4886)

Thank You!

We would like to thank you all for the compassion, love and support that you have shown to us through all of the years and especially these last couple of months. To know all of you is to truly know that the spirit of our Lord is strong and never wavering. Thank you from the deepest part of our hearts.

Nancy, Matthew and David Stannard

Thank You!

Thank you to my Ascension family for your abundant prayers, cards, meals and well wishes before and during my recovery from hip replacement surgery. I am healing well and getting back to a normal life. You all continue to be a profound and greatly appreciated blessing in my life. Peace and blessings to you all - Alice DeLoughry



Notes from the Music Room

Summer has flown by! Heartfelt thanks to each and every

one of the musicians who made the music this summer so beautiful, varied, and meaningful! As fall begins, the chancel choir will be rehearsing on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and singing at Sunday services on the first and third Sundays of the month. Choir is a welcoming group and excited to invite new voices join in as we prepare wonderful music to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and, of course, our annual Christmas Cantata. All singers, and even those who feel that they are not singers, are invited to come try it out! As if that isn't your cup of tea, the bell choir is also accepting new members to come ring with them on the fourth Sunday of each month. You might learn some good/bad bell puns in the process! And for our other instrumentalists, we save the second Sunday of the month (and other times throughout the year) for solos and ensembles of all sorts. Contact Megan Miller (music@ascensioncos.com) or chat with organist Teresa Kissing to choose a time to come share your talents!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!
Megan Miller

IHN Update

It's that time again! Lend a hand to those in need through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Ascension will be hosting IHN October 1-8. Signups will be held September 17-24 between services.



Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30am for fellowship and casual Bible Study. We will be discussing Chapter 2 from the book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha*

World, by Joanna Weaver. Hostess for the September 14 gathering will be Bev Broin and Joan Magee. If you are new to Ascension or just looking for a casual Bible Study group, we hope you will come and join us! Please see Nancy Shatto for a book, 719-426-9444 or njshatto@yahoo.com.

~~US & THEM~~ WE:

Faster Pastors Run for the South Sudan Project

Our team of Faster Pastors are mostly pastors who aren't well known for moving fast but who have been running relay races together for the last six years raising funds for different causes. Last year and this year, they are running the "Flamingo Foliage." It's a 10-person team running 165 miles through the mountains. The pastors say it is a lot of fun without much sleep.

Their cause this year is the South Sudan Project. The project includes building a Lutheran center and clinic, training mission leaders, conducting outreach programs and ultimately raising up a culturally diverse church in this newest country in the world.

South Sudan is situated in eastern Africa. Two Sudan natives, who sought asylum in the U.S. during the wars in their country, have become ELCA pastors. They came from feuding tribes in their homeland, but now together they hope to grow the Lutheran church and bring healing to their new country. They will be spreading the message of God's love and hope. There will be a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall Sept. 3 to answer your questions and accept your donations to help the Faster Pastors and the South Sudan Project spread the good news of Jesus Christ near and far.

Board of Social Outreach

God's Grace in Action; 2018 Estimate-of-Giving Program

As the days begin to shorten, and Summer begins to wane; we are reminded of all the wonderful things Ascension Lutheran Church has accomplished so far this year! Your generosity and commitment has allowed us the funds to make improvements to our buildings, expand social programs, enhance opportunities for fellowship, and propel our mission of service to new heights! Success comes from planning; and our budgeting process formed the foundation for those plans. As you know, last year's Estimate-of-Giving Program was the bedrock of our 2017 budget.

As we look forward to our plans for 2018; formulation of a realistic, and yet ambitious, budget will be critical. The cornerstone of that budget will be laid down in the coming weeks. Your Board of Stewardship is pleased to announce that the God's Grace in Action; 2018 Estimate of Giving Program will launch on September 3rd and will close on October 22nd of this year. You can look forward to several events where we will share additional information and answer your questions. There will also be future

newsletter articles and updates in the weekly bulletin. Members of our congregation will share what stewardship means to them during the announcement portion of each service.

The compassionate life is a grateful life, and actions born out of gratefulness are not compulsive but free, not somber, but joyful, not fanatical but liberating. When gratitude is the source of our actions, our giving becomes receiving and those to whom we minister become our ministers. We truly look forward to transforming a series of events into a meaningful experience for us all.

1 Peter 4:10 - As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

We look forward to being of service to the entire congregation!

Your Stewardship Board—"The Stew Crew"

BECOME INVOLVED...

****Coffee Fellowship Hour – Smell the Aroma!** Please help keep the coffee hours going by signing up to host a Sunday morning Fellowship Hour! All directions for coffee making are in the coffee station, or just ask for assistance. One or two people is all it takes, and you are so appreciated! See the sign-up sheet on the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

****Prayer Ministry** – as we pray for people it helps us to have updates to keep us connected to the person and situation. If you have a prayer concern or would like to become a member of our Prayer Chain, contact the office, 634-1694 or office@ascensionlutheranelca.org.

****Funeral Committee** – Contact Val Rudy, 577-4637, if you would like to be added to the list of volunteers to help with food or serving at funerals. We are always looking for volunteers!

****Quilts for New Beginnings** – meets every Wednesday from 9-1 in the Fellowship Hall. They spread out quilts in all phases of creation, and if you'd like to help put together quilts for a good cause, come and join us. No experience necessary, just a good heart willing to learn and participate.

****Mercy's Gate – formerly Northern Churches Care** – Pantry items and toiletries are collected in the cupboard in the Fellowship Hall. Ongoing needs: crackers, mac & cheese, oatmeal, spaghetti, corn, green beans, spaghetti sauce, tomato products, tuna, gravy toothpaste, tooth brushes, face soap.

****Knotty Kneedlers** – We continue to make small blankets and now sweaters and baby burial buntings for the Indian reservations, as well as prayer shawls. If you would like to become involved in this ministry, or just want to join us for fellowship and work on your own project, we meet every Wednesday at 1pm, in Fellowship Hall. Contact Bonnie Vawter, 579-6707, with any questions.

BECOME INVOLVED...

****Terrace Gardens Bingo** – Prizes and Volunteers are needed. Our church has been supporting bingo at the Terrace Garden Healthcare Center for about 35 years. *Thank you for your continued support of this program.* We call three games of bingo from 10:00-11:00AM on the third Wednesday of each month for the residents. We normally have about 15 players. We call out the numbers until every player wins in each game. After they win, we help them (if needed) to the prize table where they can pick out a prize of their choice. The prizes are all donated by members of the Ascension family. We could use some of the following prizes: our #1 need is for gently used men's clothing (sizes Large and higher), then we also have a need for women's clothing (large and Plus sizes), hygiene products (body washes, lotions, tooth paste, shampoo, etc), playing cards, some small containers of ladies' perfumes, adult coloring books/crayons, and lady's jewelry. Please mark items as "Bingo Prizes" and place them in the Terrace Garden Bingo box located on the counter behind the Welcome Center. The residents really look forward to our bingo each month and it is rewarding to help them. Please contact John Hayes at 572-1052 or at blazehayes@aol.com if you'd like to help or learn more about this Outreach program.

****Campbell's Soup Labels:** Please just cut the UPC bar code and the picture of the "point value boy" from the following products: Campbells - soups, chunky soups, Healthy Request, Supper Bakes; Pepperidge Farm, Spaghetti-Os, Swanson, V-8 beverage caps and Prego Spaghetti Sauce. Thanks for continuing to collect these to help the people with disabilities.

****Pop can tabs** help the Ronald McDonald House. They may be placed in the container in the cupboard in the Welcome Center.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet at 5:30PM on September 16th at Ascension. If your card playing skills are a little rusty or you would like to learn how to play this great game, we have help sheets and bridge instructors available to help. Feel free to contact John or Kathy Hayes at (719) 572-1052 or at kittypawz@aol.com if you have any questions about this group.



Rally Day for Sunday School is September 10th from 9:15-10:15. We will be celebrating the 500th year since Martin Luther's Reformation. We hope you will join us.

Youth update:

As we begin the 2017-2018 school year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our congregation for all of your support during the 2016-2017 school year. Special thanks to all of our volunteers and donors at the annual spaghetti supper and the annual Easter pancake breakfast. With the funds that we raised we were able to help send middle school and high school youth to Colorado youth gatherings. We would also like to thank all of the donors who helped nine youth and three adults travel to Wisconsin for their summer mission trip. We are very excited about the different activities taking place throughout the school year and especially for the national youth gathering, which will take place in Houston in 2018.

Upcoming events:

- **Ascension Lutheran shirt sales - coming soon**
- **Reformation 500th anniversary memorabilia - coming soon**
- **Holiday Bazaar - October 28 (9 am -2pm)**
- **Annual spaghetti supper, raffle, and talent show - November 5 (5pm – 8pm)**

Kim Knoche –
Director, Ascension Board of Youth Ministry

Attention HS Youth!

Based on your feedback, we're going to offer MORE REGULAR gatherings for the HS Youth this year!

Our first gathering will be serving together at God's Work, Our Hands on Sunday September 10th, 1 pm. All HS youth will get to do the same service project together!

High School Youth Group continues every other week, with a gathering on September 24, 5:30-7 pm at the church. You can count on things like small group discussion on God, life and even what it means to be a Lutheran. There will also be fun activities and service opportunities. Food-wise, we'll start with potlucks, and friends are always welcome! We can even cook a few meals together. You'll get to help plan your time too! Friends are always welcome!

Confirmation Begins September 6

Confirmation is in full swing! Our first official gathering of the year is Wednesday September 6, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. It's a family potluck night so parents and youth will get to learn, pray and have some fun together! This year we are welcoming the following 6th graders and their parents: Kadence Baun, Austin Coltrin and Lachlan Bramschreiber.



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CHURCH STAFF

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Pastor Dan Holt – off on Friday
Pastor Daniel Smith
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Diaconal Minister of Faith Formation – Mary Stoneback
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Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org
October newsletter deadline: Sept. 17

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Paul Amick, Beth Ayen
(Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Eunice Bluhm, Dale & Dorothy Brown, Sharon Budd (Sister of Darcy Ayen), Brad Buhler, Jerri Butschky, Dennis Caldwell, Brandon Cordova (son of Tony & Ginger), Michelle Courtright, Libby Dollar, Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Ron Elsdon, Elaine Glover, Sam Green (friend of Eric Dyer), Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Ralph Hathaway, Mark & Laurie Hauschild, and their son & daughter, Ryan Hauschild and Heidi Woerdeman, Dan Hillyer, Richard Ingalls, Paul Johnson (Father of Russ Johnson), Teddy & Lynni Lockner (Great-grandson of Ruth Andersen & his mother), Jeff Sebben, Jerry Smith, Cathy Stanley, Virginia Stanley, and all of our men and women serving overseas.