



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

May 2018

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Finding and Creating Self

Recently I ran into a bumper sticker that said, “Don’t find yourself, create yourself.” As someone who values finding myself, I found myself arguing with it. I have found that looking in and discerning what is already going on in me is often a helpful process. For instance, if I am struggling with doubts, I look inside and find the voice of faith within and then let that speak more loudly. The same finding myself process works for other things like deciding what I might want to do with my spare time. I can take some time and look in and notice my wants and needs and make choices accordingly. I may realize I need alone time or I may find that connecting with friends would be helpful. Finding oneself is often a good choice.

I would agree that creating yourself can be helpful too. God has created us to be creative. But I find my family history, personality and social context can be very determinative of who I am. I can get in ruts. Nevertheless, there is room to create myself by thinking and acting in new ways. For example, a long while back, I remember how impressed I was that another pastor was leading a small group in a hike up Pikes Peak. It seemed like such a long distance with a big elevation gain. When someone invited me to join them hiking up Pikes Peak, I went along and did just fine. Eventually I started hiking other 14ers and entered the Pikes Peak Ascent. Creating oneself begins in thinking in new ways and then taking action. An important ingredient in this is having people to encourage and support you.

We wisely look both to find ourselves and create new possibilities. I think this is true as a congregation as well. We both look back at our history and values and look forward to new possibilities that help us create ourselves. I believe this is largely what we are about as a congregation in our Purpose Mapping with Kristin Wiersma. Up to this point, we have largely been finding ourselves by thinking about our history and reflecting on our values. We will eventually get to doing some creating



of where we want to go. That is when we make decisions around what we need to change to move ahead. To that creative end, I would invite you to pray for the Holy Spirit’s leading and encouragement. To that creative end, I would invite you to engage in conversations and activities around our Purpose Mapping and visioning.

Pastor Dan

News from Our Nominating Committee

Ascension needs your help to keep our Christian education, worship, property, billing and so forth dynamic and active. We understand that God calls each of us to a variety of things and part of our call is to serve in and through our faith community.

To that end, our nominating committee is making calls right now and asking people to consider serving. Please prayerfully consider their ask. Also, if you need to say no to one area, be open to consider another. Remember our core statement that we are “A Community of Grace, Called to Serve.

If you would be willing to discuss how you can serve and what that means in terms of commitment, please contact me at (719) 332-5390 or ayenbill@gmail.com. Bill Ayen, Chair, Ascension Nominating Committee.

Voices of Grief

VOICES of GRIEF is a video documentary that invites you to begin the conversation toward hope and healing about the loved ones you still grieve. This video and open conversation will be held on Saturday, May 12, from 10 AM to Noon in the Ascension Library. For additional information call Rich Johnson 719-264-8196 or Elisa Thompson 719-641-5184.

CHURCH COUNCIL



The April 10 CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Dan Holt led devotions and talked about St. Paul and how God changed his life when he was called. He discussed our calling and what is the cost of discipleship. Answering the call to serve is worth it because it gives us a chance to grow in our knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord.
- Board Directors gave brief updates on current activities and future plans heading into the summer.
- Pastor Daniel noted the video of sermons will soon be posted on our website. The sanctuary aesthetics team has reformed and is looking at new paraments.
- Pastor Dan talked about working with the nominating committee filling positions.
- Greg Gulliksen gave an update on the sanctuary upgrades. The gypsum board work, painting, window tinting, and shades are all scheduled to be completed in the month of April. The board of worship had looked at additional carpet samples. The board will decide on what carpet to go with in May. Carpet will be replaced in July.
- Greg Gulliksen gave an update for Donna Crump who was out of town. Greg noted there would be two Sunday mornings of Community Panel discussions during the adult education time between services. Greg encouraged all CPC members to attend the Leadership Summit and Debrief on May 19. Kristin will give feedback to the CPC on the 19th and will discuss the findings during the adult forum on May 20.
- Rex Rudy discussed the financial Administrator position. Council voted to approve working towards hiring a consultant to be a financial administrator for the church. Rex will get with his committee and research different options for a financial administrator and come to the May CPC meeting with a recommendation.
- 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.

CONGREGATION MEETING

We will be holding a congregation meeting at 9:15am on Sunday, June 10, 2018. We will be voting on our next executive committee, board directors, and board members. All are highly encouraged to attend and take part in this aspect of our community of faith.

Tentative Agenda

Call to Order
Opening Devotions
Roll Call of Voting Members
Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes 2/25/18
Financial Administrator Position
Capital Campaign Update
Purpose Mapping Update
Vote for 2018-2020 Congregation Planning Council & Boards
Closing Prayer



It was great to see so many people at the Small Group Fair. Did you sign up for a small group? Did any look interesting to you? There are so many ways to get

connected at Ascension. Hope you get to attend a small group this summer. A big thank you to Bev Godec for your service to Ascension and the small group program. You will be missed.

There are always a number of activities at Ascension in the month of May. Some are the culmination of study for the past few years such as confirmation. There are activities to participate in such as congregation surveys, Sunday school for all ages, and more. Upcoming summer activities such as Day Camp.

There are many ways for you to participate at Ascension. This is your church. I encourage all to get involved or be part of at least one or more activities in May and on into the summer. In this newsletter there will be information on the activities mentioned above as well as many other opportunities to get involved.

The nominating committee continues to meet with the Pastors and leadership of the congregation concerning calling congregation members to sit on boards, be board directors, and sit on the executive committee. If you receive a call by the nominating committee to serve at Ascension please give prayerful consideration to the opportunity to contribute to the ministries of the congregation in this capacity.

Congratulations to all of our youth being confirmed this year. You did it!

Congratulations also to those graduating high school and college.

Be watching the newsletter and bulletin for upcoming summer activities.

“A Community of Grace, Called to Serve.”

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

SANCTUARY FINISHES

Thank you to the Board of Property and Grounds and to all who helped clear furniture and help put furniture back as part of our sanctuary finishes work in April. Our last phase will be the carpet replacement. The carpet will be replaced sometime in July.

Thanks again! Capital Campaign Completion Team

Meet Our Youth!

This coming July, 13 high school youth and four adults will go to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. We want you to meet the group. Find them throughout the newsletter!

RILEY TICHENOR, Age 13, Discovery Canyon Campus, Grade 8

Favorite Band? One Republic because it is what I used to listen to when I was younger.

Greatest Strength? I am able to talk to new people and I'm not afraid to get up on stage.

When I'm bored I...like to hang out with friends or play Xbox.

I wish I knew how to...build a computer and how to program.

Life Motto? Keep trying even if you fail.

A time I felt close to God...when my dad was deployed to Afghanistan because my mom, my brother, and I had no other family in Colorado.

I'm excited for Houston because...I want to see new things and to help around the city with hurricane clean-up.

Ask me about...The Denver Broncos!

Organ Evaluation Committee

About three months ago, the Ascension Worship Board formed an Organ Evaluation Committee. The Introduction to their Charter states: *Since it has been determined that having an organ is essential to worship and special music at Ascension Lutheran Church and since there has been significant discussion about the quality and value of our current instrument, the Worship Board of the church has formed an Organ Evaluation Committee.*

The Organ Evaluation Committee has been asked to first determine what would be required to get our current organ in better working order and keep it maintained...and if that is even economically and technologically possible. Second, they are being asked to determine what might be the options for replacement.

The committee has been busy looking at the well-documented history of our organ and getting third-party opinions on the quality, usefulness and value of our current instrument. They have also been going to various churches in the area to listen to replacement options including new and used electronic and pipe organs.

The Organ Evaluation Committee will be giving a Temple Talk on Sunday, May 6, followed by some educational demonstrations by Ascension organist Teresa Kissling.

The Organ Evaluation Committee is chaired by Jim Melzer and is made up of Cheryl Johnson, Gail Tucker, Dan Oltrogge, Megan Miller and Teresa Kissling. We're certain they'll do a great job and thank them for their work.

WOW

We are five months into the year, we've had winter, spring and summer so far. It will be interesting to see what the rest of this month will bring [I am so confused]. But I do know if I don't have my vegetable garden well on its way I won't get a full harvest before it starts to freeze again. [Hard lesson learned]

Ancient times set aside the fifth month and focused on fertility, of new life and new beginnings. Not a bad idea, we have just completed the celebration of the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. This would be a good time to find a "new focus", a new beginning of an element of our life or journey in our life. Perhaps something that would grow into the summer and be a harvest of joy and satisfaction in the fall. It can be something as simple as making a new friend or finishing that bible study on your book shelf and then sharing it with your family. Summer has a tendency to see our community scatter to the four winds on that special vacation. We see fewer people in the chairs on Sundays. This isn't a bad thing, it is what it is and those special vacations can fill our lives with happy memories of "summers with family". I sure have some of those. But [there is always a "but"] keep an eye out for something new to start or set in motion towards that joyful harvest in the fall.

May also has some special celebration days, Mothers' day is May 13th, Teachers' appreciation day is May 8th and my very favorite celebration is NATIONAL NURSES WEEK MAY 6-12TH. And last but not least is Memorial Day May 28th.

Celebrate life in every month and see what blooms! Sara Petz

KARISSA KOCOUREK, 17, Pine Creek High School, Grade 11
Favorite Band? Niall Horan.

Greatest Strength? Creativity.

When I'm bored I...Read, play clarinet, and pet cats!

I wish I knew how to...play multiple instruments and be open to talking to people I don't know.

Life Motto? Live every day to its fullest.

A time I felt close to God...when I was with my family and friends at my best friend's memorial service.

I'm excited for Houston...to grow in my faith in God our Father while developing current friendships.

Ask me about...marching band, gymnastics and my plans after high school.

MILLIE BRAMSCHREIBER, 14, Discovery Canyon, Grade 8

Favorite Band? Imagine Dragons (learned about the group from hearing one of their songs on the radio), Wildermis (my friends sister's band! Look 'em up!) and any Broadway Show (but "Evan Hanson" is my favorite)

Greatest Strength? Empathy, makes me a good friend.

When I'm bored I...like to watch Netflix (esp. Stranger Things), paint, cook and hang out with friends.

I wish I knew how to...play the cello and ballet.

Life Motto? Hakuna Mattata and Jeremiah 29:11.

A time I felt close to God...When my cousin Matthew was born.

I'm excited for Houston because...I get to learn more about God and make memories with friends.

Ask me about...my love for musicals and Broadway!

SUP

Our next gathering is Thursday May 17, 12 pm - 1:30 pm.
More information to come. RSVP with Karen Rubinow at
nodak@sidkar.com.

LUKE BRITSCH, Age 17, Air Academy, Grade 11
Favorite Band? I enjoy Hank Green, the Internet.
Greatest Strength? Being absolutely hilarious.
When I'm bored I...do homework.
I wish I knew how to...throw a frisbee fore-hand.
Life Motto? Viva la Revolution.
A time I felt close to God...At RTLK singing con mis amigos.
I'm excited for Houston...and spending time with friends
getting closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus.
Ask me about...my incredible sense of humor!

EMMA SNIDER, Age 14, Timberview Middle School, Grade 8
Favorite Band? Ben Platt is my favorite musical artist and he
plays Evan Hanson in a Broadway musical called, Dear
Evan Hanson.
Greatest Strength? My school career and keeping up my GPA.
When I'm bored I...like to listen to music and play with my
spider.
I wish I knew how to...juggle.
Life Motto? "if you never leap, you'll never know what it's like
to fly."
A time I felt close to God...right after my grandfather's death.
I talked to him and prayed a lot. I was grieving, and I liked
having someone to talk to.
I'm excited for Houston because...I get to grow closer to my
friends through activities and even just hang out in our
rooms. I have never been to Texas and I want to see what
it's like!
Ask me about...musicals!

Downsizing Update from Team Stretch

As part of the ongoing Adult Faith Formation Program, a
"Toolkit "on Downsizing and Letting Go was presented on
Palm Sunday. If you missed it, we had presentations on the
spiritual, psychological and practical aspects of this subject so
relevant to many of us. As a result of the interest and questions
raised, here are some websites on where to take items that you
would like to dispose of or donate. Thanks to Nancy Albertson,
Thrivent Financial, and Denise Davis, professional organizer at
Effective Organizing Solutions for providing the sources.
Bikes Together. <http://bikestogether.org>
El Paso County Recycling www.elpasoco.com
American Girl™ Dolls www.girlagain.com
Used Kindle's <https://www.kindleclassroomproject.org/>
Professional organizer
www.effectiveorganizingsolutions.com/
A Call to Order - Professional Organizers
www.acalltoorderco.com

We look forward to more "Toolkits" on topics of interest
throughout the year. If you have ideas or suggestions, please
contact , Mary Soneback, Elisa Thompson, or Jim Deloughry...
"Team Stretch."

THANK YOU!

The Youth Board, middle school and high school youth would
like to thank the congregation for supporting the Easter pancake
breakfast. Thanks to generous donors we raised \$777 in
donations, which is used for financial assistance for the middle
school and high school youth attending the Rocky Mountain
Synod youth gathering.

Sincerely, Kim Knoche, Board Director of Youth Ministry



Ascension Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund

Thanks and God's blessings to the following donor(s) for
gifts to the Endowment fund:

Bill Yocum, birthday

JORDAN TICHENOR, 15, Discovery Canyon Campus, Grade 10
Favorite Band? One Republic. My dad introduced me to their
music.
Greatest Strength? I am a good leader because I am good at
staying on task and keeping others on task. I am also good
at listening to everybody's ideas.
When I'm bored I...read books, swim and play video games.
I wish I knew how to...program better.
Life Motto? A quote from Star Wars, "Do or do not. There is
no try."
A time I felt close to God...when I went to Wisconsin because
that was the first time I went on a trip away from home and
my family.
I'm excited for Houston...to meet other Lutherans from all
across the country and get to do community service in
Houston.
Ask me about...swimming!

EMMALEE KRIEG, 8th grade, Watson Junior High School
Favorite Band? I like all kinds of music and I play the violin
and sing.
Greatest Strength? I am compassionate and like to make others
feel happy.
When I'm bored I...play sports, especially volleyball. I like to
play the sims (even though I haven't in a while because of
Lent!) I also love to watch comedy reruns.
I wish I knew how to...Do CPR, cooking, a jump serve in
volleyball and learn how to react in sad or awkward
situations better.
Life Motto? Don't live in the shadows of what people think you
should be.
A time I felt close to God...I remember having a lot of panic
attacks and anxiety when I was younger. I like to think God
helped me thought that.
I'm excited for Houston because...I'm looking forward to
spending time with friends and getting closer to God.
Ask me about...music!

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

**John Sandager at the death of his mother.

MEGAN JOHNSON, 17 years old, Junior at Lewis-Palmer High School

Favorite Band? Greatest Showman/All things Disney – they make me feel like a little kid, and it connects me to my inner-spirit.

Greatest Strength? Organization. My room, schoolwork, and daily activities are all organized to keep me in time and enjoying life without stress and mess.

When I'm bored I...I play the clarinet, listen to music/symphonies, watch Disney movies on Netflix, or read books.

I wish I knew how to...play the cello and/or a different instrument.

Life Motto? Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

A time I felt close to God...This summer in Wisconsin, I had the honor of volunteering at the Shalom Food Center in Kenosha, WI. The first day, I was tasked with guiding people around the store, and helping them pick food and house items that could help them for the rest of the month. The first woman I helped happened to be deaf and I felt as if I couldn't help any, as I only knew the alphabet in sign language. However, when she asked me my name, through an interpreter, I signed my name to her and her face lit up! I helped her for the next hour shop, and she was happy. God was with me the entire way, because even with a language/communication barrier, I was still able to help her improve her day.

I'm excited for Houston...and spending more time with friends from church and learning how 30,000 other people worship and live through God.

Ask me about...clarinet adventures!

US & THEM WE:

2018 "WELLS FOR LIFE" WORLD HUNGER CAMPAIGN: As I write this, donations for our campaign to purchase wells for people in need are still trickling in. However, to date, you have generously given over \$8,400 toward this cause! WOW! We are in awe and thankfulness over your willingness to help others around the world have access to clean water! Thanks to your gifts, we can purchase 3 wells, and still have money left over to contribute to other types of water projects like irrigation ditches, etc. We cannot say "thank you" enough.

Upcoming - A TASTE OF HOPE: Want to come to a fun event to help support Lutheran Family Services? This year's "A Taste of Hope" will be held Thursday, May 10 from 5-8 pm at Great Wolf Lodge. Participants will have the opportunity to taste samples from a variety of different local restaurants. For more details, see the invitation posted on the kiosk.

Blessings,
Sharla Saunders – Director, Board of Social Outreach

MIKAYLA BRITSCH, Age 14, Grade 10, USAFA

Favorite Band? I like Taylor Swift (pre 1989) and I discovered her by being a female child.

Greatest Strength? My intelligence and I can make funny jokes that no one understands.

When I'm bored I...like to read fantasy, dystopia, YA and y realist.

I wish I knew how to...to control my volume level.

Life Motto? Low expectations are the key to happiness (Phil Dunphy)

A time I felt close to God...I feel close to God at Rainbow Trail camp and when I am alone. I like to listen to how full and pregnant silence can be and know God is there. I also enjoy seeing wide-open spaces and see God through people too.

I'm excited for Houston...to spending time with my peeps.

Ask me about...the Reformation!

Connecting Ascension Riders and Drivers (CARD) Program

A few months 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 could 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 was sorry to say that we didn't have a ride sharing program at Ascension, but that we would start one up. As a result, the Board of Lay Ministry is connecting people who need rides with drivers who have some spare time. 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. *We are now providing rides for three of our members.*

KATIE JOHNSON, Age 17, Junior at Lewis Palmer High School

Favorite Artist? Currently listening to musical sound tracks, inspired by my parents.

Greatest Strength? I'm compassionate and enjoy helping people. I am also always willing to talk and listen.

When I'm bored I...watch YouTube.

I wish I knew how to...draw.

Life Motto? "Always Keep Fighting"

A time I felt close to God...My time in Wisconsin last summer surrounded by other teens who had a faith in God like I did made me feel really close to God and it helped my faith grow even more.

I'm excited for Houston because...I get to spend time with the youth of this church and see how my faith continues to grow.

Ask me about...what I do for work.

Bridge Group

Our Bridge Group will meet on May 19th at 5:30PM at Ascension. The specific date will be provided in the church bulletin. 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.

Notes from the Music Room



As we enter May, we are reading about the actions of the early church and the Holy Spirit. During this month, choir will be singing several pieces in a Gospel music style. I think that most of us would say that we know Gospel music when we hear it, but what is it? Gospel music developed in the mixing pot of the United States when illiterate European and African worshipers met beginning in the 17th century. Both had traditions of call and response in their singing. In Scotland, it was known as "lining out" when the Presbyterian congregation would sing verbatim the line of music the leader had just sung. When this came to African-American churches in the Carolinas, this basic repetition was quickly filled out with ornamentation and harmonization. Think of the people you know who aren't "musically-trained" but can make up Bluegrass harmony parts or imitate Whitney Houston's flowery ornaments. Often words and music would be repeated with the leader singing new words and music in between choruses or even on top of this chorus. Clapping and stomping also went along with the singing, since many churches did not have instruments until decades later. Though existing hymns were often sung adapted into this new style, Spirituals developed as powerful songs to connect African-American experience with their Christian faith.

The term "Gospel Song" didn't appear until the 19th century, when it referred to the new repertoire of music that had developed out of this mix of European and African traditions. In both black and white communities, the revival movement really spread the style, so gospel songs were written to be more tuneful, easily-sung, and full of spirit than some older church hymns. As the Pentecostal movement grew, it carried Gospel music with it, and brought popular instruments into it. In the 20th century, it continued to develop within Pentecostal and African-American churches, but also became a popular art form as it went out on records and into the airwaves with groups like the Fisk Jubilee Singers, the Carter Family, and later Mahalia Jackson and even Elvis Presley. Gospel Music continues now, with many sub-categories, but the fundamentals remain: it is singer and chorus dominated; features more lively rhythms than many hymns; and is grounded in the personal feeling of the believer. Can I get an Amen?

Soli Deo Gloria! Megan Miller

EVAN ASIANO, Age 14—Jenkins Middle School

Favorite Band? My favorite artist is Tower of Power. I went to a concert with my mom and dad. They have great horns!
Greatest Strength? Playing music. I've been doing it for a long time.

When I'm bored I...I like to build and collect models.

I wish I knew how to...fly planes.

Life Motto? Try to put 100% into everything.

A time I felt close to God...I felt close to God when we had to go to California for my grandpa's funeral. He felt right there with me.

I'm excited for Houston because...I get to meet other kids from all over the country when I go to Houston.

BECOME INVOLVED...

****Ascension's Free Pantry:** Remember to pick up groceries for the pantry when you do your own grocery shopping. They can be placed directly in the pantry outside the CLC or in the cupboard in the Fellowship Hall. It's making a difference.

****Coffee 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.

****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 hats and now baby burial bunting 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.

****Terrace Gardens Bingo - Prizes and Volunteers are needed.** 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 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.

First Quarter Finances: Total revenue through the end of March was \$17,406 below our budget, but slightly ahead of the same quarter last year. After surging at the end of last year, general fund giving dropped to \$2,000 less than last year and 92% of our budget. CLC tuition was also lower than expected at 89% of budget. Expenses were 93% of budget, leaving us with a small deficit for the quarter, which can be attributed mainly to large expenses for the National Youth Gathering coming up in June. Capital Campaign offerings reached 93% of total pledges and giving us the cash to pay for improvements to the sanctuary.

Financial Statement of 2018 Operating Activity

Operating Activity	Through Mar-18	Compared with Budget & Previous Year			
		2018 Budget	%	Mar-17	%
Revenues	\$188,725	\$206,131	92	\$185,509	102
Less Expenses	-\$192,443	-\$206,131	93	-\$185,273	104
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$3,718)	\$0		\$237	
Operating Funds	\$87,042			\$117,249	74
Capital Campaign	\$132,082			\$45,676	289

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Is organization and coordination one of your gifts? The Worship Board is seeking scheduling volunteers to coordinate some of the tasks involved in making our worship services run smoothly. Typically, these duties are schedule 3 to 6 months at a time. The coordinator contacts the list of volunteers via email, asking what dates they are (or aren't) available. The assignment list is then sent to those volunteers and the church office.

Scheduling volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Lectors
- Communion Assistants
- Greeters
- Communion Bread Bakers

Contact Sue Trinko at ts.trinko@gmail.com, 719-648-8336 if you would like more information or to volunteer. Thank you!

BECCA KNOCHE, Age 16—Sand Creek High School

Favorite Artist? Shawn Mendes – I bought his CD and have loved all his music since.

Greatest Strength? Being a leader – I am in many clubs that push me to step-up and lead people in a positive and compelling way.

When I'm bored I...I like to read.

I wish I knew how to...snowboard.

Life Motto? Sometimes you gotta live life on the wild side.

A time I felt close to God....When I transitioned into being a 'single child' after my sister went to college. God helped me feel less lonely.

I'm excited for Houston because...I can't wait to do the service project and experience Houston culture.

ANIKI HAGEN, 17 years old, Junior at Coronado High School

Favorite Artists? Watsky, Jon Bellion, and Ed Sheeran. The first two I heard about from my friend Tyler and Ed Sheeran I had heard on the radio and fell in love.

Greatest Strength? Being able to be flexible with plans and with different people.

When I'm bored I...usually either listen to music or play music on my guitar or ukulele.

I wish I knew how to...play as many instruments as possible. I especially want to be able to play the piano with ease. I'd also really like to be able to skateboard.

Life Motto? Enjoy the present moment and just live for now. I think it's important not to focus on the past but instead just have fun right now.

A time I felt close to God...I always feel close to God whenever I visit Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. Especially when we gather around and sing songs of worship together. The world seems to stand still and it's just us and God.

I'm excited for Houston... because I get to be a place surrounded by a bunch of fellow high school Lutherans and to just have fun with them.

Youth and Sunday School News



“This Changes Everything” is the theme for this year’s ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. “We want youth to understand the love that God has for them, just as they are, and that by grace, through faith, they have been saved. When young people claim this reality, it indeed changes everything!”

In just over 2 months, 17 youth and adults will leave Ascension for a week to see how we can make this happen. We thank you for your help in getting us there financially. We are getting closer to our goal. Each of the youth have decorated a jar to collect change - in hopes that each coin will help them to see the changes in their lives - and help them closer to their financial goal. If you have some change to spare, please place in the jars! We are looking for “Faith Share” partners, those willing to give a little more, as well as “Prayer” Partners, those willing to pray for the youth and adults as they go on their journey. See Kirsten Johnson, Kim Knoche or Mary Stoneback if you are interested in any of these opportunities! Thank you!

Sunday School Finishes May 20

Can't believe the school year is coming to a close! Our last day for Sunday School is May 20th. We have truly enjoyed working with your children. A special thank you to all that have helped especially our teachers: Sarah, Emily, Elizabeth, Lisa, and Jake. Music is a crucial part of Sunday School so a big thank you to Jeff and Ashley. A big thank you to Parish Board of Education for their help throughout the year.

Blessings, Tina Krieg, Superintendent



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June newsletter deadline: May 20



Beth Ayen (Daughter-in-law of Darcy & Bill Ayen), Dorothy Brown, Sharon Budd (Sister of Darcy Ayen), Brad Buhler, Grace Buhler, Jerri Butschky, Dennis Caldwell, Michelle Courtright (Daughter of Jeff & Renee Courtright), Jacquelyn Ellison (Granddaughter of Marilyn & Troy Goodenough), Tom & Sandy George, Steve Hahn (Grandson of Joan Magee), Jeff Sebben, Jerry Smith, Virginia Stanley, Bruce Yocum, and all of our men and women serving overseas.