



Ascension In Action

Ascension Lutheran Church

September 2018

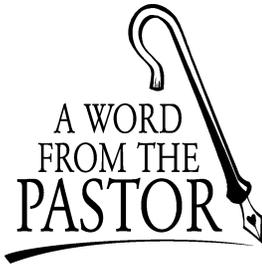
Published monthly in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Discerning our Holy Purpose

As a community of faith, we are seeking the Spirit's guidance in our vision and long-range planning. At the heart of that is knowing why we do things, what our holy purpose is. We are using a Shared Vision Team from our congregation to lead this discerning work. Some months back, when we asked members what we do, they named all kinds of activities that we did. But when we asked them why we were doing those activities, there was mostly silence. Why do we have Sunday Worship with liturgy, sermon, and Communion? Why do we have Bible Studies, Sunday School, and small groups? Why do we support our Children's Learning Center, KPC Kid's Place, IHN, and world hunger?

For us as Christians being clear on our why, our holy purpose matters:

- First, knowing why we do things directs our choices and keeps us pulling together. When our why is not clear, we can chase after most any idea, direction or program. For instance, there are thousands of good mission causes that we could financially support. Knowing our holy purpose can help us decide between supporting world hunger and a medical clinic in Haiti.
- Second, knowing our holy purpose brings energy. For instance, we have a number of people helping with Holy Communion every week. They make bread, buy supplies, clean, set it out, usher and so forth. If they do these tasks only out of a sense of that is what we always do, they will struggle to have energy to keep doing it. But if they do it because they know why (God's command and love for them), then they will find more energy to keep at it.
- Third, knowing why helps us in our outreach. People who come here want to know more than what we do. Resonating with our holy purpose will motivate them



to join and engage. People are hungry to be part of a holy purpose.

As our Shared Vision Team begins to form what our holy purpose might look like, they will be looping back to you for more input. As they work on this, we would ask for your prayers and input. A shared holy purpose will be a great blessing and inspiration for us in our life now and in the future.

Pr. Dan

Ascension at the Sky Sox

On August 12, we had 37 adults and 4 children from Ascension attend the Sky Sox baseball game. There weather was beautiful and the game went into extra innings before the Sky Sox eventually lost. We sat in the Picnic Area down the right field line where we chowed down on unlimited hamburgers, hot dogs, and pulled pork sandwiches. Our choir (pictured below) sang the National Anthem at home plate before the game began.



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

- **Teresa Kissling at the death of her Grandmother.
- **Robbi Dollar at the death of her Uncle Victor.
- **Kelly Stroup at the death of her Mother.

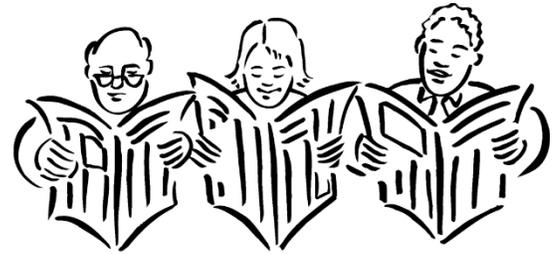
CHURCH COUNCIL



The August 14th CPC meeting included the following actions and discussions:

- Pastor Dan Holt led a devotion with a reading from Ephesians 4 which highlights the value Ascension put on equipping the saints. He emphasized our love for one another and asked us to consider how we can help others succeed.
- Phil Trent, Chair of the Endowment Committee, explained the process of requesting funds from the Endowment Committee. Funds are available for non-budgeted expenses that promote Christian faith, encourage Christian charity, and support education for Christian life and service.
- Ann Marie Hindley reported on our monthly financial activity. August giving was at 101% of the budgeted amount bringing up our year-to-date offerings to 96.3%. The CLC tuition continues to exceed budgeted amounts. She has a high degree of confidence in our financial stability.
- Brad Chewakin and the Property and Grounds Board is currently reviewing the cleaning services contract in an effort to address some issues expressed by several members of the congregation.
- With no concerns expressed from the rest of the council, Kirsten Johnson announced the youth will be utilizing the office across from CLC bathrooms (Mary's old office) for youth functions.
- Jerry Dollar outlined the plan for "God's Grace in Action," his board's annual stewardship drive. You will hear more about this throughout September.
- John Hayes, Chair of the Way Point Visioning Team, provided a Purpose Mapping update. The team consisting of Tom Johnson, Stephanie, Kaufmann, Sadie Hjelmstad, Carol Bramschreiber, and the Pastors recently met with Kristen Wiersma. They are off to a good start utilizing the strengths and weaknesses identified earlier in the process.
- Donna Crump is seeking input for staff reviews during the month of August. The reviews will be positive in nature, setting goals and seeking ways for us to support the staff in the fulfillment of our mission.
- Board Directors began the process of preparing a budget for 2019. Directors were asked to identify budget issues and considerations with their respective boards.
- The council voted by consensus to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation to appoint Marshall Nielsen as the Director of the Board of Parrish Education. The congregation will vote on this motion at the December meeting of the Congregation.

- Pastor Daniel led the meeting's closing with prayer concerns 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.



What's Happening

September 7-8: Pastor Daniel is running in the Faster Pastors' Race. Money raised will support Syrian refugees. You can donate to this cause with a check made out to Ascension with "Faster Pastors" in the memo line.

September 9: God's Work Our Hands - Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

September 9: Rally Day – the kickoff for the Sunday School year is always a blast. Sunday School classes are offered for all ages.

September 9-23: New Members' Classes – The Evangelism Board will conduct weekly meetings with perspective members.

September 16th: Family Promise Walk - join other local churches to raise awareness and visibility around homelessness. 100 % of the money raised will support Family Promise and families in the Colorado Springs area.

September 16th: Ascension Summer Picnic. The Board of Lay Ministry is hosting the annual picnic following the second service. Consider joining us for food and fellowship before participating in the Family Promise Walk downtown.

September 30: New member Sunday- Join us between services as we welcome our newest members.

THANK YOU...

**The "extended" family of Grace Buhler would like to thank the Ascension staff and congregation for the support, care and compassion you extended to us during our brief stay in Colorado Springs. We were all so blessed to have been touched by "Grace."



Ladies' SATURDAY Retreat

Women's Retreat Planned

Dear women of Ascension,
Keep Saturday, November 3 open for a women's retreat to be held at Ascension. We will explore different forms of prayer, do a service project, have fun, worship and enjoy lunch together. Stay tuned and hold the date!

Faster Pastors assist Syrian Refugee crisis

The Faster Pastors are at it again! Pastor Daniel will be joining a team of 10 pastors and church leaders to run the Flaming Foliage Relay, which is a 165 mile relay race from Idaho Springs to Buena Vista. The team will run over Guanella, Georgia, and Fremont Passes, reaching almost 12,000 feet in elevation. They'll start before dawn on September 7 and finish midday on September 8.

Why would they do such a thing? Not for fun! Pastor Daniel is joining this team again for an important cause. The Faster Pastors choose to run because there are many people who are forced to run for their lives, from their homes and families and everything they know. They are refugees. Specifically, the Faster Pastors have chosen to target their efforts toward the Syrian Refugee crisis.

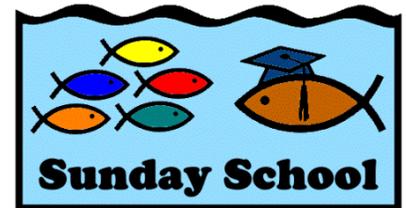
Syria has been locked in civil war since 2011. The resulting numbers of Syrians refugees are astounding, almost unimaginable. There are more than 5 million Syrians who have been forced to leave their country, and more than 6 million who are internally displaced within Syria. Four years ago, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said, "The Syria crisis has become the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era, yet the world is failing to meet the needs of refugees and the countries hosting them" (Antonio Guterres, "Middle East Star." 28 August 2014). To this day, the world seems to lack either the will or the knowledge to do something about it.

Lutheran Disaster Response of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has been providing, and will continue to provide, basic humanitarian aid for those

fleeing war and oppression. They do this in partnership with agencies and companion churches in or near Syria to ensure food security, establish shelter, and provide better access to water and sanitation facilities, among other activities. They also bolster livelihoods by providing microloans and skills training to provide jobs and knowledge for health and wellness. Finally, they provide critical psychosocial support needed for the atrocities that many have experienced personally or witnessed.

The Faster Pastors run for our neighbors who need who run for their lives. If you care to support the team, their run, and this great cause, please send any contributions to Ascension with "Faster Pastors" in the memo line. Because we are able to work through Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of the ELCA, 100% of what you give will assist those directly impacted by this crisis and have fled for safety.

All are
invited
to:



HOPE... an inter-generational event to celebrate the first day of a new Sunday school year on

September 9 @9:15
in the lower level

As with the previous CARE. and GRACE! events, our Ascension community will gather together around God's message of HOPE.

**LADIES' LUNCH
BUNCH
WHAT!?! No
more Red Hats??**



Yes, the Red Hat Flashes are tossing their red hats but still meeting once a month to enjoy each other's company over lunch at Mackenzie Place, still on the 3rd Tuesday, but at 11am. The Ladies' Lunch Bunch would like to invite all ladies of Ascension to join us, no age requirement, but let Judy Conroy know by the Sunday before, jnconroy@comcast.net or 481-9605.

SUP

On Thursday September 20, 12 pm – 1:30 pm, we will welcome a nutritionist who will share about the 'bite-sized' benefits of eating well at any age. Please bring a side dish, main dish provided. For planning purposes, please let Karen Rubinow know whether you'll be attending. Email Karen at: nodak@sidkar.com We hope you can join us and bring a friend!

Spaghetti Supper

The youth sponsored Spaghetti Supper will be held on

Sunday, November 11th. Mark your calendars for this great evening of food, entertainment and raffles! All proceeds go towards our youth programs here at Ascension. We will start accepting items for the raffle in early October and tickets will go on sale the end of October!



Calling all crafters and home business consultants - and shoppers! Ascension Lutheran will be having their 15th annual Holiday Bazaar on October 20th. Please contact Kirsten Johnson at (719)440-5896 or kirstenej94@gmail.com for application or for more information! Mark your calendars for this great event!

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 11 from the book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, by Joanna Weaver. Hostess for the September 13, 2018 gathering will be Joan Magee and Bev Broin. If you are new to Ascension or just looking for a casual Bible Study group, we hope you will come and join us! Please contact Nancy Shatto for any questions at 719-426-9444 or njshatto@yahoo.com.



God's Grace in Action – Estimate of Giving Program for 2019

Autumn is quickly creeping in and soon it will be time to put on sweatshirts, rake leaves, and cheer for your favorite football team. This time of year, also marks the launch of our annual estimate of giving program; entitled "God's Grace in Action."

Each November, your Congregation Planning Council (CPC) pulls together the church budget for the following year. The results of this effort are then presented to the Congregation for your approval. As thoughtful stewards for Ascension Lutheran Church; we must create a realistic and effective budget for the coming year.

Our financial work is based upon what we believe to be realistic forecasted revenue for the next year. In order to derive that number; the estimate of giving is crucial. Your participation in God's Grace in Action is not only welcome; it is critical to our future success.

Shortly after Labor Day, our annual campaign will be launched; ending in mid-October. During that time, we would ask that you prayerfully consider your giving to Ascension in the coming year. We look forward to your assistance in supporting the mission of our church and the many programs we are blessed to support.

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.*

Thank you in advance for your support,
Your Board of Stewardship—The Stew Crew

Financial Peace University

Join members of Ascension and the surrounding community on a journey to learn God's and Grandma's way of handling money through Financial Peace University. We will meet Mondays at 7 PM, starting on September 10, in the Ascension Lutheran Library. For more information, contact the class leader, David Urlaub, via email david.urlaub@hotmail.com or call/text 319.560.9597.



Notes from the Music Room

Choir begins again on Thursday, September 6th this year! Yes, you heard that right. There has been a change in the schedule. Choir rehearsals will be at 7:15pm on Thursdays this fall. So, take a look at your calendars and see if you have room for us!

Here are the top ten reasons to give choir a try:

10. You have excellent seats and a reserved seat on all major holidays.
9. You don't need to buy any equipment. Just bring yourself.
8. Build a skill that you can enjoy for a lifetime.
7. Be part of a team. Remember, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts." You don't have to win American Idol or have a degree in music to be a valued singer in the choir. The choir is a family that loves to work and laugh together.
6. Build confidence in yourself. It takes guts to get in front of people and sing.
5. Get a workout. Work those lungs, get more air into your blood stream, improve your posture, tone your stomach muscles, and release endorphins.
4. Sing amazing music in different styles by inspired composers across the centuries.
3. Singing relieves stress and improves mental health. Let the day's worries fall away as you sing. Some psychologists believe that singing should be prescribed instead of prozac.
2. Exercise your brain. Performing music improves memory and focus. And singing is particularly good at connecting the two hemispheres of the brain, since language and music are usually processed on opposite sides. The strong emotions we feel can even strengthen those pathways.
1. Be uplifted. Music has a power like nothing else to raise us out of ourselves and feel that presence of God.

And now a word from each of the voice parts:

SOPRANOS are never alone, and get to wail away on that melody.

ALTOS get to sing all the juicy harmonies, the meat in the sandwich that makes the rest work. And they don't have to hurt themselves getting up to those silly high notes.

TENORS get high without drugs.

BASSES never have to worry about women stealing their job, and if you burp while you're singing, the Congregation just thinks it's part of the score.

Soli Deo Gloria, Megan Miller



QUILT TYING – September 29, 2018

All of you who like to help tie quilts can meet at Ascension on Saturday, September 29. Our fingers will be busy from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. We will host a sandwich lunch with

beverages and dessert at 12. Please sign up at the kiosk if you plan to attend. We invite you to bring your children and grandchildren, even your husbands, to experience this wonderful fellowship gathering. When these quilts are completed, we will have reached our 2018 goal of 120 quilts for world relief. Questions, call Sally Walker at (719) 570-0103 or email at slwalker@q.com. We hope to see a lot of you at our gathering!

Church Directory Update

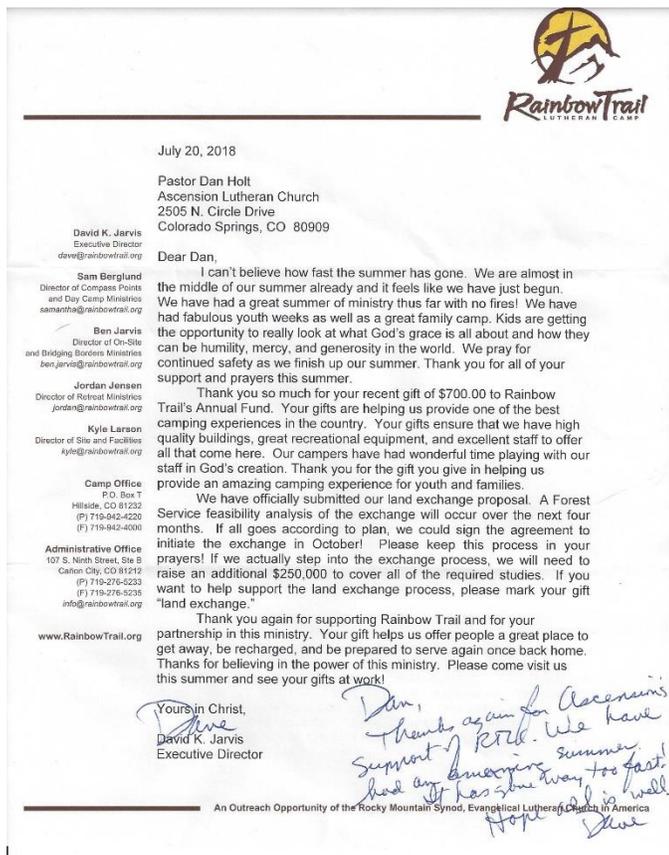
We are updating our Ascension Church Directory. The Boards of Evangelism and Lay Ministry are working together to produce an updated church directory by the end of this summer. We will create, store, and access the church directory through a password-protected web site that our members can access from their home computer or smart phone. Several of our members will be available before, between, and after our Sunday services to take pictures of our members. If you have your own soft copy pictures that you'd rather use, please send them to Dennis Bagenstos at dennisbagenstos@gmail.com, or to Scott Allen at patrickstar1352003@yahoo.com, or to John Hayes at blazehayes@aol.com, or to the church office at office@ascensioncos.org. There will be no cost (and no pressure to buy photo packages) for accessing our church directory on-line and for those who have not joined the Internet Age, we will be able to print free copies of the directory for them.



US & THEM WE:

I'm not entirely sure if Sharla started using the headline, **US & THEM WE**, but I think it represents the Board of Social Outreach very well. After all, our focus is on **THEM**. It is through all of **US** that we reach out to support **THEM**. **WE** on the Board help organize events in an effort to support others that need our assistance. It's very appropriate! So, we'll keep going with the headline with that in mind. **WE** are Kathy Mannerberg, Aimee Calderon, Debbie and Ron Mohler, Eugene Newbold, and Sharla Saunders.

You may be interested in seeing a few of the many thank you letters that we received from those that are so grateful for your support. I will scan and include one from time to time so you can read them. This month, please see the thank you letter below for your generous donations to Rainbow Trails over the summer.



Family Promise Walk

The Family Promise Walk will be on Sun., September 16th this year. The walk will take place from 1-4pm and walkers can meet at Grace & St. Stephens at 601 N. Tejon and then walk downtown. This helps families with children with transitional shelter needs that are in the midst of homelessness and those at immediate risk of experiencing homelessness. The Family Promise Walk gives 100% of proceeds raised through the walk to help

these families. Please let anyone on the Board of Social Outreach know if you want to participate. We can give you more information. You can also visit www.familypromisecos.org for more information.

You may go for a short walk or longer walk that afternoon after the church picnic.

Blessings,
Karen Askinas



*Ascension Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund*

Thank you and God's blessings for the following gift-away to the Endowment Fund:

Birthday:
Terry Snow
Judy Snow

Connecting Ascension Riders and Drivers (CARD) Program

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 Scott Allen at (719) 469-2910 or at patrickstar1352003@yahoo.com. Drivers will need to have current insurance.



It has been a few years since we held a picnic together. Our 500th Reformation and the Church anniversary took the spot the last two years. Following the 10:30 am service on Sunday September 16th we will bring back this favorite event. The Board of Lay ministry will provide the main meat dish and congregants are asked to bring a side dish and/or dessert. Bring family dishes to showcase and exchange recipes!

BECOME INVOLVED...

****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.

****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.

****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 9-11 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 scarves 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. We are also working on some great gifts to be sold at the annual Church Bazaar in October. Contact Bonnie Vawter, 579-6707, with any questions.

****Terrace Gardens Bingo - Prizes and Volunteers are needed.** Our church has been supporting bingo at the Terrace Garden Healthcare Center for about 35 years. 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: gently used men's clothing (sizes Large and higher), women's clothing (large and Plus sizes), sweat pants and tops (large 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. *Thank you for your continued support of this 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 on September 22nd at 5:30PM 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.

Youth Happenings @ ALC

Confirmation: Wednesday
September 12, 19, 26

HS Youth Group: Sunday September 2 & 16, 5:30 pm - 7 pm - September 23, 5:30 pm – 9 pm:
BALLOON GLOW, (*meet at ALC first*)

MS/HS Sunday School: September 16, 23, 30,
9:15 am - 10:15 am (*MS youth meet in the basement youth room, next to the nursery and HS youth in the upstairs room across from CLC bathrooms*)

HS Youth-led Worship Services: Sunday
September 30, 8 am & 10:30 am

DUE DATES: RT Confirmation Camp will be held Oct. 19-21. Payment & forms due to Deacon Mary by Sunday September 23 **Youth Cost:** \$100. For more information: <http://www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats/confirmation-retreat/>

Please let Deacon Mary know if you have any questions! (303)475-4886 or by email, m.stoneback@ascensioncos.org



AIA September 2018 Issue #9
Ascension Lutheran Church, ELCA
2505 N. Circle Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH STAFF

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Pastor Daniel Smith
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Our Website: www.ascensioncos.org
October newsletter deadline: Sept. 16



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