

# The Ascent

## Ascension Lutheran Church

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Tulsa, OK 74105-5154

918-743-5741

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March 2011

*If you receive the Ascent by email and want to print your own copy, please change the VIEW to print layout.*

## A Note from Pastor Norm

You have probably noticed that, unlike Christmas, the date for Easter moves around from year to year.

The reason is that the First Council of Nicaea (the same folks who gave us the Nicene Creed) in A.D. 325 decided to use a solar/lunar calendar to establish the date. They decreed that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday, after the first full moon, on or after the spring (vernal) equinox in the northern hemisphere (usually March 21, although astronomically it sometimes falls on March 20 as it does this year). This means that Easter can be as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

In 2011, Easter is one day shy (April 24) of being as late as it can possibly be (stick around until 2038 for that). This also means that this year Ash Wednesday (40 days, excluding Sundays, prior to Easter) is one day shy (March 9) of being as late as it can possibly be. If you can't remember all of that, you can always consult a reliable calendar.

Regardless of the shifting dates, the significance of Easter and the thematic emphasis of the Lenten season (Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday) remain constant. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our mortality: "You are dust and to dust you shall return," (Genesis 3:19).

Although my dad's body was buried last December and not cremated, eventually it will turn to dust. As a symbolic reminder, the pastor at my dad's committal service poured a vial of dirt upon his casket. In the promise of Easter, I shaped that pile of sand into a cross.

This year, as we mark the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, from a reminder of our mortality to God's promise of resurrection and new life, I want to focus on God's faithfulness throughout history and throughout our journey on earth. To do that, I'm going to use the theme: **SIGNS AND PROMISES OF GOD'S COVENANTS.**



<u>Date</u>	<u>Covenant</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sign</u>
March 16	Noah	Genesis 9:8-17	Rainbow
March 23	Abraham	Genesis 12:1-3; 15:17-18; 17:1-22	Circumcision
March 30	Moses	Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-17; 31:12-17	Sabbath
April 6	David	2 Samuel 7:1-29; 23:5	House/Dynasty
April 13	New Covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Bread and Cup

### Our schedule will be:

Ash Wednesday	March 9	7:00 P.M.	In the sanctuary
Lenten Soup Suppers	March 16-April 13	6:30 P.M. (Meal) 7:00 P.M. (Devotions)	In Jordan Hall

Trusting in the Promises of God!

Pastor Norm

**Pastoral Care:** *If you are in need of pastoral care when dealing with health issues, life choices, or other personal challenges, please contact Pastor Norm.*

# Church Council Minutes

## February 13, 2011

Officers Present: Pastor Norman Dake, President  
Chris Gausvik, Vice President Jim Harris (Acting  
Secretary)

Council Members Present: Bonnie Peters, H.I.  
Aston, David Imwalle

Call to Order: Chris Gausvik

Lunch provided by Bonnie Peters

Motion was made by Pastor Norm to approve  
December 12, 2010 minutes.

Second: David Imwalle. All were in favor. None  
opposed. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

### Standing Committee Reports:

#### Pastor's report

Matthew 5:13-16 was read and discussed.

Dorothy Ingalls passed away on January 16<sup>th</sup> in  
Dickinson, North Dakota and her burial was held in  
Tulsa on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Ed Dreyer passed away on  
February 8<sup>th</sup> and his memorial service was held at  
Ascension on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Seeds for Growth "Rekindle the Fire" small  
group meetings are being resumed in February.  
The Gausviks will host a meeting at their house on  
February 13<sup>th</sup> and Cathy Newsome and Jim & Ellen  
Harris will host a meeting at their homes on  
February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mercyview, a house church, is looking for worship  
space with a nursery in the Midtown area of Tulsa.  
Brad Andrews, their pastor, has approached  
Ascension to explore the possibility of leasing  
space from our church. Pastor Norm will be  
meeting with him on February 22 to discuss his  
needs and to find out more about his church to see  
if there is a fit with Ascension. We will discuss the  
results of that meeting at the next council meeting.

#### Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report was presented and  
discussed. Total income for the month of January  
was \$13,062 and expenses for the month were  
\$11,134. Ascension's only debt is our mortgage  
and the new balance for that loan is \$198,199. Jim  
Harris made a motion to accept the report and

Dave Imwalle seconded the motion. All were in  
favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Report  
approved.

### Evangelism report

The Souper Bowl of Caring originally scheduled for  
February 6<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled for February  
20<sup>th</sup> following the 11:00 service. Proceeds from this  
event will go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal  
and our Helping Hands program.

### Property Report

Jim Harris provided a drawing of the church  
property and discussed the unsolicited proposal by  
a developer who lives in the area to purchase part  
of our property where our current parking lot is  
located to develop two homes. The council  
discussed the option and decided that there was  
not a sufficient financial incentive to entertain the  
possibility of selling part of our property at this time.

### New Business

The council discussed the idea of amending  
Ascension's Constitution to allow Absentee Voting  
by our members. A motion was made by H.I. Aston  
that more discernment was needed by the council  
on this subject and should be tabled until the March  
Council meeting. A second was made by Jim  
Harris and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Pastor Norm to provide  
keys to the church to Chris Gausvik in his new role  
as President of the Congregation. Bonnie Peters  
seconded the motion and the motion carried by  
unanimous vote.

The next Council meeting will be held on March  
13<sup>th</sup>. H.I. Aston has agreed to provide lunch and  
the devotion at that meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim  
Harris. Second: Dave Imwalle. All were in Favor.  
None opposed. Motion carried.

Closing benediction by Pastor Norm Dake.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Harris

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## ASCENT NEWS ITEMS;

Please submit any news items by email to [norma-dreyer@cox.net](mailto:norma-dreyer@cox.net) or call me at my home phone, 583-3759 by the 21st of each month.

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## This and That

**ED DREYER:** Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Ed Dreyer who died on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to remember Ed with a memorial gift, you may do so with a check to Ascension marked "Dreyer Memorial."

**www.livinglutheran.com:** New interactive website with stories and conversation. Check it out.

**DIRECTORIES:** Updated directories are now available on the table in the Narthex (in pink this time). If you would like to update or add to your information, please contact Mary Faulkner.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are in need of additional worship volunteers. The 8:30 service needs more Communion Assistants and Lectors. The 11:00 service needs more ushers and Communion Assistants. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Mary Faulkner.

**HELPING HANDS HONORED:** Family & Children's Services will honor Ascension's Helping Hands team with top honors as a Community Partner at their annual "Part of Our Family Recognition Breakfast."

**OPERATION HOPE:** Please remember to save your hotel soaps and shampoos from your travels. We will pass them on to Operation Hope to be donated to ex-offenders returning to the community. You may place them in the basket on the table in the Narthex marked "Operation Hope".

### TRINITY MINISTRIES:

**Friday, March 4:** "Once Upon a Mattress" presented by Tulsa Community College. We will meet at the Van Trease PACE (10300 E. 81<sup>st</sup> St.) at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP to reserve your seat. Cost \$9.

**Thursday, March 17:** Road trip to the Will Rogers Museum and lunch at Hammet House in Claremore. Please RSVP to 794-5041 by March 4. We will travel by charter bus from the Trinity Senior Center at First Lutheran. There will be a ticket price for the cost of the charter bus.

**DAYTIME 5X5:** We are using the new Book of Faith Bible survey, "The Greatest Story," including the fabulous sand art of Joe Castillo, which tells the stories of the Bible in unique fashion. On the first and third Wednesdays of each month, at 10:30 AM in the adult classroom on the second floor. Led by Pastor Norm. Please join us.

**EVENING 5X5:** Those who would like to join us, talk with Cathy Newsome (747-3120) or Keith Khoo (633-4732).

**THANK YOU!**  
Ascension Lutheran Church

2011 raised: \$809

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**  
tacklehunger.org

February 6, 2011

*Tracy Bender*  
Tracy Bender  
President and CEO  
Souper Bowl of Caring

**Thanks to our wonderful cooks who prepared soups for the Souper Bowl of Caring event. Here are the recipes. Congratulations to Eileen Imwalle who prepared the winning soup!**

### **#1 Soup of Tuscany**

(Eileen Imwalle)

- 1 ½ cup Mild Italian Sausage
- ¾ cup Diced Onion
- 3-4 strip Bacon
- 1 ¼ tsp Garlic
- 1 qt Chicken Broth  
(I use "Better than Bouillon" great stuff)
- 4 med. Red Potato cubed into small pieces
- 2 cup Chopped Spinach
- 1/3 cup Heavy Cream

Cook sausage and set aside. (if link sausage used, cut into small pieces)

Cut bacon into small pieces, cook almost done, add onions cook until onions clear.

Add garlic and cook 1-2 minutes. Stir in chicken broth and potato, simmer 15 minutes

Add sausage, spinach and cream, simmer and serve. Now I added a little more heavy cream (actually close to double) If you like a thinner soup just add a little more broth. The longer it cooks the thicker it gets.

### **#2 Easy Spaghetti Soup**

(Roberta Preston)

- Brown one pound hamburger
- Add 5 cups of water
- Add one package of Hamburger Helper Spaghetti (spices and spaghetti)
- Add any of the following canned vegetables:
  - o Diced tomatoes
  - o Kidney Beans
  - o Carrots
  - o Peas
  - o Green Beans
  - o Corn

If the soup becomes too thick, add extra water and/or tomato sauce

\*Hamburger Helper Spaghetti mix is sometimes hard to find. Food Pyramid usually carries it. I buy multiple boxes at the beginning of the winter when I can find it.

### **#3 Elegant Wild Rice Soup**

(Catherine Gausvik)

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 tbsp. butter          | 1/3 c. grated carrot |
| 1 tbsp. minced onion    | 1 cup half and half  |
| ¼ cup flour             | 2 tbsp. dry sherry   |
| 4 cups chicken broth    | minced chives        |
| 2 cups cooked wild rice | ½ tsp. salt          |

Melt butter in saucepan, sauté onion until tender. Blend in flour; gradually add chicken broth. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture thickens slightly. Stir in cooked rice, salt and carrots; simmer about 5 minutes. Blend in half-and-half and sherry. Heat to serving temperature but do not bring to a boil. Serve garnished with chives.

Yields- 6-7 cups

Please note: do not use long grain and wild rice. This recipe uses wild rice only. Wild rice is black in color. Cook the rice according to label directions utilizing water or broth based on your preference.

### **#4 Potato Soup**

(Barbara James)

- Peel, dice and boil potatoes 3 lbs potatoes
- Sautee together 6 stalks chopped celery and medium chopped onion

Drain potatoes and add onion and celery. Add milk - enough to cover potatoes. Add 1½ tsp celery seed. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Cook on medium high until milk boils. Then lower heat to medium low and cook for 20-30 minutes.

### **#5 Crawfish and Corn Chowder**

(Avis Erickson)

- 8 cups water
- 1 large red potato, peeled and diced
- 1 package frozen corn
- 1 package Country Store Corn Chowder mix (found at Reasor's)
- 1 package frozen Boudreaux crawfish tails (found at Walmart)
- 2 cups milk (I use fat-free, lactose-free milk)

Bring the water to a boil. Add potatoes and simmer for 8-10 minutes. Add corn and bring back to a boil. Whisk in the chowder mix and crawfish tails. Bring back to a boil and simmer for about 10 minutes, whisking constantly. Whisk in milk and bring back to hot.

# Souper Bowl of Caring



The TU table



The "fetching" Packer Backer



# COMING EVENTS: March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship: 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b> <b>Sunday School: 9:45</b>		1	<b>2</b> <b>Daytime 5X5 10:30 am</b> <b>Confirmation at Joy 7 pm</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Worship &amp; Music 6:30</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Trinity Min. outing to "Once Upon a Mattress"</b>	5
<b>6</b> <b>Evangelism Committee 12:15 pm</b> <i>Brad Malsam</i>	7	8	<b>9</b> <b>Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm</b> <i>Catherine Gausvik</i>	10	11	12
<b>13 Daylight Savings Time Begins –Spring Forward</b> <b>Council mtg 12:15 pm</b> <i>Pr. Norm Dake</i>	14	15	<b>16</b> <b>Daytime 5X5 10:30 am</b> <b>Lenten Soup Supper/Worship 6:30 pm</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Trinity Min. trip to Claremore</b>	18	19
20	21	<b>22</b> <b>Women's Bible Study 10:00 am</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Lenten Soup Supper/Worship 6:30 pm</b>	24	25	26
<b>27</b> <i>Brennan Frierson</i>	<b>28</b> <i>Bill Bryant</i>	29	<b>30</b> <b>Lenten Soup Supper/Worship 6:30 pm</b>	31		

*Birthday honorees are highlighted in italics on the calendar. If your birthday does not appear, please contact the church office at 743-5741 so we may update our records.*

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## MARCH READINGS:

### March 6 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 24:12-18  
 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99  
 2 Peter 1:16-21  
 Matthew 17:1-9

### March 9 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
 Psalm 51:1-17  
 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10  
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### March 13 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
 Psalm 32  
 Romans 5:12-19  
 Matthew 4:1-11

### March 20 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a  
 Psalm 121  
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
 John 3:1-17

### March 27 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7  
 Psalm 95  
 Romans 5:1-11  
 John 4:5-42

# The Blizzard of 2011



## Serving our Lord, March 2011

| 11:00 am   | Ushers                  | Lectors              | Crucifer                                                                | Communion Assistants              | Lay Assistant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Greeters                        | Counters                         |
|------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6          | Karol Wagar<br>DB Woods | Sandy Isakson        |                                                                         | Ron & Bonnie Peters               | Jerry Peterson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | DB Woods                        | Mary Faulkner                    |
| 9 Ash Wed. | Jim & Ellen Harris      | Cathy Newsome        |                                                                         | Barbara James<br>Karol Wagar      | Linda Christy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                 |                                  |
| 13         | Stan Lewis              | Chris Gausvik        |                                                                         | Lynn Jacobsen<br>Sandy Isakson    | Mattie Sue Judd                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Linda Christy<br>Barbara Shelby | Stan Lewis<br>Bonnie Peters      |
| 20         | Doug & Roberta Napier   | Mattie Sue Judd      | Nathan Napier                                                           | Matt Stevens<br>Mattie Sue Judd   | Ron Peters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Donna Glocker                   | Catherine & Tyler Gausvik        |
| 27         | Ron & Bonnie Peters     | Lillian Cantrell     |                                                                         | Lillian Cantrell<br>Linda Christy | Matt Stevens                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Sandy Isakson                   | Jerry Peterson<br>Barbara Shelby |
|            |                         |                      |                                                                         |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                 |                                  |
| 8:30 a.m.  | Lectors                 | Communion Assistants | <b>Altar Guild</b><br><br>Helen Allen<br>Bonnie Peters<br>Mary Peterson |                                   | <i>Thank you for volunteering at Ascension!</i><br><br><b>Please mark your calendars for the dates you are assigned to serve.</b><br><br><b>If you cannot volunteer on your assigned date, please find a substitute and notify the church office (743-5741).</b> |                                 |                                  |
| 6          | Linda Christy           | Linda Christy        |                                                                         |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                 |                                  |
| 13         | Ellen Harris            | Harold Wicks         |                                                                         |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                 |                                  |
| 20         | Cathy Newsome           | Cathy Newsome        |                                                                         |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                 |                                  |
| 27         | Keith Khoo              | Denise Khoo          |                                                                         |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                 |                                  |

### Altar Flowers Provided by:

|    |                                                              |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6  | Merl & Billie Lindburg in honor of their wedding anniversary |
| 13 | No flowers                                                   |
| 20 | during                                                       |
| 27 | Lent                                                         |

## You Have Treasure In Clay Jars

Plan to join us on Saturday, April 9, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM here at Ascension in Jordan Hall for the “Treasure in Clay Jars” workshop. Cost is \$30 per person for workbook, lunch and snacks.

Kelly Fryer, one of the architects of the *Renewal Church*, will share a post-missional, post-modern approach to life and work that will help you rethink and renew your ministry today... for the sake of God’s emerging future. The daylong workshop will include funny, provocative, and interactive presentations; time for each team to debrief and process what they’re learning; and opportunities for congregations to learn from each other. Each team will make a plan of action and go home with a whole bunch of practical ideas they can put to use in their work together and in their own lives right away.

Each congregation is invited to send a team with as many people as you can muster. You’ll go home feeling inspired, equipped, and energized for the work God is calling you to do.

For more info about *The Renewal Church* and our presenter, visit [www.ARenewalEnterprise.com](http://www.ARenewalEnterprise.com).

Registration deadline is March 25<sup>th</sup>. Please see Pastor Norm if you are interested in being part of Ascension’s team.

# The Arkansas Oklahoma Synod



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

6931 S 66th East Avenue Suite 310 Tulsa, OK 74133-1760  
(918) 492-4288 Fax (918) 491-6275  
January 31, 2011

**Floyd M. Schoenhals**  
Office of the Bishop

To: Rostered Leaders and Congregations in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Betty and I and our 3 adult children were greatly moved by the participation of the synod in Saturday's Service of Holy Communion in recognition of my retirement. We are profoundly grateful to those who came and to others who sent cards and notes. We are blessed. Thank you!

On this, my last day in office, I've been pondering what word I may have to share with you. Three "words" of Jesus came to mind.

**"Do not be afraid!"** A few years ago Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson said frequently, "We live at the intersection of fear and hope." In some cases, the "intersection" has turned into a *cul de sac*. There is an incredible amount of fear and anxiety in the world and in congregations. The Holy Scriptures are replete with the imperative "do not be afraid" or "fear not". We wonder, is that like saying to someone, "Don't worry! Be happy!"? It's not that easy. When we see those expressions in Scripture, we also need to ponder other words that come either before or after that imperative. Sometimes it's a *theophany* and God reveals what God is going to do in the life of those who are afraid. To Jeremiah, God said, "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you." (Jeremiah 1:8) To Mary, the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." (Luke 1:30) It seems to me that God is doing many new things in the world. Some of them may scare us. God is calling us to embrace what God is doing among us and in the world, even though it may evoke great fear. God is with us!

**"Follow me."** Following Jesus is not easy. It often means leaving behind what is precious to us, what we like, what we want. It means giving up our own dreams, visions, and agendas and asking Jesus what he is calling us to be and do. Once again it's important to ponder what other words come either before or after that imperative. "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." (Matthew 4:19) It's not just "following". It's also "fishing". "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34) Discipleship is not just "following to learn". It's participation in God's mission and the cost can be high.

**"I send you."** On the evening of the Day of Resurrection the fearful followers of Jesus were huddled behind locked doors. Jesus appeared in their midst and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21) Jesus breathed on his disciples, gave them his Spirit, and they became apostles. He sent them into all the world. But they still had more to learn about what it means to be sent. Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (John 21:18-19) Sometimes God takes or sends us to "where (we) do not wish to go". Where is the Risen Christ sending you, your congregation, this church? Where is it that you may not wish to go but need to go, because the Risen Christ is sending you?

My prayers are very much with all of you, as you and your congregations serve as "ambassadors for Christ", participating in God's mission to reconcile the world to God and to one another.

"(May) the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding... guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
(Philippians 4:7)

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Floyd M. Schoenhals, Bishop

*Boldly Sharing God's Grace with Everyone*

**Ascension Lutheran Church**

4803 South Lewis Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74105-5154  
Phone: 918-743-5741  
Fax: 918-743-4854

**Pastor Norman Dake**

**Sunday Services:**

Celebrative Praise – 8:30am  
Traditional Liturgy – 11:00am

**Sunday School – 9:45 am**

**Office Hours: 8:00am–12:00 noon Mon-Fri**

**Website: [www.ascensionlutheran.net](http://www.ascensionlutheran.net)**

**E-mail: [welcome@ascensionlutheran.net](mailto:welcome@ascensionlutheran.net)  
[pastornorm@ascensionlutheran.net](mailto:pastornorm@ascensionlutheran.net)**

***Mission Statement:***

**Responding to Gods love,  
We faithfully  
Welcome  
Worship  
Grow  
Witness  
Serve**

*Glowing and Growing  
in the Light of the Lord*



**Ascension Lutheran  
4803 S. Lewis Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74105-5154**