

The Ascent

FEBRUARY 2006

Ascension Lutheran Church
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New Church Council from the desk of Jim Harris

Ascension celebrated its first 5th Sunday Celebration of the year on January 29th by having a combined service and pot-luck luncheon. The Imwalle family deserves our thanks for preparing the fried and baked turkey and I want to thank all those who brought food for the event. The fellowship we share as a congregation is always so wonderful during special events like this. We also held our annual Congregational meeting where the Church Council for 2006 was elected. For those of you who were out of town and unable to be present, the new Council consists of:

Jim Harris	President	2nd one-year term
Keith Khoo	Vice President	2nd one-year term
Chris Falkensten	Secretary	1st one-year term
Eileen Imwalle	Treasurer	1st one-year term
Lillian Cantrell	Member	2nd one-year term
Barbara James	Member	2nd one-year term
Sandy Isakson	Member	1st one-year term

As council members, we represent you in all matters of the church, so please feel free to contact any one of us if you have any concerns or wish to see new things implemented. I also want to thank Pam Funk, Denise Khoo, Bonnie Peters and Nancy Pearson for all of their hard work as members of the Church Council last year.

As we start the new year at our church, there will be plenty of opportunity for anyone wishing to devote some of their time and energy to the many committees that work together to carry out the Church's activities. If you feel called to play a bigger role in the Church than you have in the past, please get in touch with a council member. Let us know where you think you can help or what gifts you think you can add to our effort. 2006 is going to be a very busy year for our Church and everyone's help is appreciated.

The congregation also approved the proposed budget for 2006. The details of that budget are covered in the annual report that is available on the table near the entry doors of the Sanctuary. Please feel free to pick one up and take it home.

The Call Committee is actively looking at two potential candidates for the vacant pastor's position. Their job is to recommend to the Council and Congregation the best person for the job. The committee has done a wonderful job in preparing for this important task and I encourage you to continue to pray for God's wisdom and timing in their choice.

We will be back to our three unique worship services starting February 5th. Remember our next big event is the Winter Wonderland Dinner on Saturday night, February 11th. This dinner is put on by the senior high youth group with proceeds going to fund their trip to the National Youth Gathering, the week of July 4th. This annual event has always been so much fun and so well attended, I hope everyone is making plans to be there. Remember it is only 3 days from Valentine's Day! Contact Pam Funk or Lisa McArdle for tickets!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MINUTES:

JANUARY 29, 2006

29 in attendance

Jim Harris called the meeting to order and Tom Williams gave the opening prayer.

Voting was held for the new Council members.

They are:

Jim Harris, Keith Khoo, Chris Falkensten, Eileen Imwalle, Lillian Cantrell, Barbara James and Sandy Isakson.

Congregation asked for additional names; there were none nominated.

Sandy Isakson made motion to accept ballot by acclamation. Katherine Tooley 2nd; Passed.

Jim thanked Denise for taking over as treasurer last year.

Budget reviewed. Jim stated at this point Church is financially ok. Next year could be a problem once we call a pastor and full salary must be paid.

Discussion over budget. Katherine Tooley moved we accept the budget. Tom Williams 2nd; budget approved.

New business: Cathy Newsome needs help with Evangelism; a calling plan project.

Jim spoke about trying to keep Church going same direction as in the past along with Wednesday Lenten services.

Carroll Werling thanked Council for their work.

Meeting adjourned and potluck commenced.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Peters.

Sunday Bulletin deadline

If you have information that you would like included in the bulletin, please make every effort to submit it to the office by Wednesday. We cannot guaranty that information received after Thursday will be included in that week's bulletin. If you have questions, contact Mary Faulkner, 743-5741.

Volunteers Needed:

Ascension is in need of Lay Assistants for the 11:00 service. We are now down to four! We need four more volunteers to ensure that each individual only has to serve once every 2 months. Please give this prayerful consideration as a way to serve God and your church. Training is provided.

Also, the 8:30 service is in need of Lectors and Communion Assistants. Please consider volunteering. Please contact the Church Office at 743-5741 if you can help.

HABITAT REMINDER:

What commitment have you made for the "Luther House" Habitat for Humanity project? Have you prayed about it? Did you rely on His answer and willing to respond? Please take a moment to fill out your volunteer sheet and return it to Bill or Shirley Bryant or Mary in the office as soon as possible. If you need more information or have any questions, please call us at 366-2963.

TRINITY MINISTRIES

Thursday, February 16:

"Celebration of Black History Month," by author-lecturer Hamilton Johnson. Program begins at 10:00 a.m. at Fellowship Lutheran. Includes book-signing opportunity. Luncheon follows. The cost is \$6.00 and reservations are required by Feb. 7th. Contact Trinity Ministries at 582-0917 or make reservations with Billie Lindburg or Warren Werling for all TM events.

A DINNER IN A WINTER WONDERLAND!

Put on your lodge clothes and join us Saturday, February 11th, @ 6:30 p.m. in Jordan Hall. \$12.50 per person. Ticket sales: Sunday mornings during fellowship. See Lisa or Pam. Proceeds for National Youth Gathering.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will meet on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, in the Adult Sunday School room at 10:00 a.m. The lesson will be from the Lutheran Woman magazine and Sandy Isakson will be hostess. All Ascension women are invited to attend!

ATTENTION LUTHERAN SINGERS

On Saturday, March 11th, all Lutheran singers are invited to a very special music workshop to be held at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. We will be previewing music that will be used at the Fall Concert. Come join the fellowship, the music, and the fun as we learn new music, renew acquaintances, and make new friends. Registration and fellowship time starts at 9:30. We start singing at 10:00. The workshop will end at 12:00. See your representative or your music director for more details, or call Jim Boatwright at 269-0853.

ADOPT A FAMILY PROJECT:

submitted by Carol Anwar

I wanted to share with the members of Ascension a little more about the families that we helped this past Christmas season. I also wanted to share with you the sorts of things that were purchased to help these families and their children.....The profiles were written by the counselors that nominated them for the program.

#1--

This family is made up of mom, dad, and two young boys. This is a very young family, but a very committed family. Dad works hard to support the family as a janitor, while mom goes to school full-time to become a chemical laboratory technician. Dad does maintain a full time job, but does not make much money as a janitor, so it is hard to pay the bills month to month. Mom understands the importance of education and is learning a trade that will make a difference financially for the family in the future, but for now they live paycheck to paycheck. They decide what bills to pay with each paycheck and make it by, but it is very stressful. Mom is excited to be a part of her children's development. She takes every opportunity to educate herself about parenting practices by enrolling and attending the parenting programs we offer. Mom is also the chairperson of her child's school parent committee. This mom will rearrange her whole schedule at the last minute if something needs to be done at the school. Together mom and dad are doing the best they can to raise their family, but the holidays often require extra in order to take part in special holiday traditions. There is just no extra money left over at the end of the

month to ensure their children receive a Christmas this year. This young family would be a wonderful candidate to share the season of giving with, as they are working very hard to get on their feet. This family is very vulnerable as resources are very limited but they are dedicated to their dreams and to their parenting.

For this family we provided toys, books, learning games, baby toys for the kids. The family asked for a crock pot, towels, groceries, blankets, pillows, diapers. We provided the father with gloves, hat, socks, hooded sweatshirt, and a basic tool set.

#2--

Tamarra has been with F&CS since Sept of 2005. Upon arriving she presented a deep sadness, depressions, and guilt. Tamarra has 6 children and is trying her best to be the best mother she can be for them. She is involved in substance abuse treatment and she is consistent in coming to groups. Last year was a very hard year for Tamarra, she was unable to provide Christmas for her children, so they were unable to receive anything.

Tamarra cannot work at this time due to severe depression and mental disability, but she has self determination and is striving to do better for herself and for her children. Tamarra is a very honest person who is willing to admit her mistakes. She has verbalized a commitment to remain clean and sober. She is learning self-monitoring skills and is receiving med management through our program. I believe that Tamarra just needs someone to believe in her and give her that extra push to help her succeed! She has improved greatly and this would be a great reward for her. With the children so close together in age, family games would also be a wonderful family activity.

We provided shirts, jeans and shoes for each of the six children, along with games, learning toys, and dolls, etc. Household items and gifts for the mother were also given.

#3--

This family is currently living in a housing complex with HUD housing. The kids are exposed to gangs and drugs. The mother is very young with no high school diploma. Mom has 4 children. After having her last child, mom was arrested and sentenced to two years in jail. During this time mom gave custody to the children's uncle and his wife. During

the stay with relatives the children experienced ongoing abuse. When the children's mother got out of jail she got her children back and filed a suit against the uncle and wife for child abuse, which now the uncle is doing time for that crime. Mom is working on getting her GED. She now realizes the importance of education and she is sorry that she did not make that more of a priority. She understands that she must complete this goal in order to better provide for her children as there are limited employment possibilities without a GED or high school diploma. She is trying to make up for the time missed with her children and what they had to go through. After getting back on her feet, she experienced another tragedy. Her youngest child's father was killed. Trying to continue to be a good mother, she is continuing to move forward. The children attend group twice a week and individual once a week. Mom attends group with children once a week. The children seem to be making good progress. All of the children are doing very well in school. Christmas will be hard for the mom to accomplish due to not having a job. She plans to take the GED in January, so that she can work to provide for the kids. She would like to work only when the children are in school because right now the children are having a hard time trusting people due to the uncle's abuse. The children will continue to seek counseling. If any family needs help, it would be this family. They have survived so much trauma in their young lives and could use a little Christmas cheer and shown that there are good, caring people in this world. Any help the family can receive will be appreciated.

This one was a real heart breaker for me. All I could think of was the innocent children and all they had gone through.....We provided coats, shoes, clothes, socks, toys, games, etc. for the 4 children. We also provided a set of pots and pans, blankets, towels, toaster, and a small vacuum cleaner to the family. The mother only asked for bath wash and some perfume for herself.

#4--

This family was affected by hurricane Katrina and relocated to Tulsa with their church family. The mother and children were living with Mom's husband until mom decided that her marriage wasn't working and moved out with the children on her own. The family has very little possessions, having lost everything in the hurricane, and mom stresses

daily that her children won't have a good holiday as a result of all that has happened in their lives recently. The mother's goal is to get her GED and has been diligent about attending the classes offered by the Head Start Program. She prioritizes her children's education and spends quality time with them every night. She emphasizes the importance of going to school because she doesn't want them to be adults and not have their diplomas. After moving out on her own, mom found a place and continues to bring her son to his early childhood program so that he can continue his education. This family has endured a great deal lately and it would be nice to bring them some holiday help.

This family was adopted privately by one of Ascension's families. The family was provided clothing and shoes for the children, plus toys and Christmas candies. The family needs were met with bath towels, kitchen towels, blankets, pots and pans, and family games. The mother asked for a purse.

#5--

Rosalia and Pedro came to Tulsa to give their children a better life. Both parents are hard workers and work general labor jobs. Pedro is a good husband and father and provides basic necessities for his family. Rosalia had to stop working after the birth of their infant daughter due to the child having been born with a congenital digestive disorder. Their infant daughter was hospitalized since birth until mid Nov. after having had a g-tube placed in her stomach for eating. Rosalia not only stayed at the hospital with the baby for over 2 months, but has also not been able to return to work due to having to feed the baby special formula with a feeding pump every 3 hours. Pedro does odd jobs and tries to work as much over time as possible to make ends meet and make up for Rosalia's lost income. Rosalia and Pedro hope and pray that they all get to spend time together at home for the holiday and not have the baby back in the hospital. As you can see, any assistance provided to this family would be a great blessing and would make a world of difference and bring holiday cheer to this family.

We provided jackets, clothes, backpack, toys, art kit, baby swing, baby toys, and sleepers for the 4 children. We provided a microwave, bath towels, blender, pots and pans, and coffee mugs for the family. The father asked for (and was provided)

jeans, heavy work jacket, work gloves, and a knit cap w/ face mask so he could work more comfortably outside in cold weather. The mother asked for a couple of basic clothing items.

#6--

This is a family of 3. The father recently moved out of the state leaving mom and two children alone. They had bought a house together and mom could no longer make mortgage payments. Mom and children were forced to move in with her mother. The children are ages 3 and 13 months. Mother is in school full time and works part-time at the bookstore at her school. Her goals were to figure out what to do with the house and to pick a major. She has already decided to put the house up for sale and is still exploring majors. She wants to make

sure that good decisions are made so that she can take good care of her children over the years. I picked this family because the mom is such a devoted mother and student. She is really trying hard to make some positive changes after a very difficult year. I also know that she would appreciate the extra help during this difficult time in her life since finances will not allow for Christmas gifts at this time.

This family was adopted privately by one of Ascension's families. The wish list included clothes, shoes and socks, toys, educational videos. The family wish list included towels, blankets, and pots and pans. The mother's wish list included clothing, shoes, socks, Christian CDs, books, and bath items.

COMING EVENTS

Sundays	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group meetings
February		
11	6:30 p.m.	“Dinner in a Winter Wonderland” to benefit National Youth Gathering
14	6:30 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee meeting
14	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting
16	10:00 a.m.	Trinity Ministries lecture and luncheon @ Fellowship Lutheran
28	10:00 a.m.	Women’s Bible Study, Sandy Isakson, hostess.
March `1	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday service
March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5:	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper/Worship services

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2/1	Ruth Rasbold	2/18	Doris Elliott
	Sean Faulkner	2/21	Alyssa Anwar
2/3	Sheryl Miller	2/28	Roberta Preston-Napier
	Dan Moore		
	Herb Pearson		
2/8	Ashley Engelke		
2/9	Jason James		
2/10	Christine Coleman		
2/13	Sandra Born		
2/16	Carroll Werling		
2/17	Lorraine Doty		

If your birthday does not appear, please contact the church office and we will update our records.

Serving Our Lord

February 2006

8:30 SERVICE:

Communion Assistants:

5 Carol Anwar
12 Cathy Newsome
19 Eileen Imwalle
26 Linda Christy

Greeters:

5 Cathy Newsome
12 Denise Khoo
19 L.T. Williams
26 Tom D. Williams

Lectors:

5 Jim Harris
12 Carol Anwar
19 Ellen Harris
26 Preston Napier

Greeters:

5 Lillian Cantrell & Katherine Tooley
12 Barbara James & Linda Christy
19 Helen Allen & Donna Glocker
26 Betty & Lynn Jacobsen

Lay Assistants:

5 Pam Funk
12 Warren Werling
19 Jerry Peterson
26 Sandy Isakson

Lectors:

5 Katherine Tooley
12 Katherine Tooley
19 Linda Christy
26 Mary Peterson

Ushers:

5 Ron & Bonnie Peters
12 Stan Lewis, Gary Collins
19 DB Woods, Doyle Hill
26 Merl & Billie Lindburg

11:00 Service

Acolyte Teams:Crucifer/Torch Bearer:

5 Katie Bruce
12 Avery Baker
19 Hailey Peterson
26 Ted Jordan

Altar Guild:

Shirley Bryant, Sandy Isakson,
Eileen Imwalle

Communion Assistants:

5 Bill & Shirley Bryant
12 Mary Peterson & Barbara James
19 Pam Funk & Lillian Cantrell
26 Betty & Lynn Jacobsen

Counters:

5 Mary Faulkner & Bonnie Peters
12 Stan Lewis
19 Doyle Hill & Linda Christy
26 Gerry Oltrogge & Jerry Peterson

***Thank you for volunteering at Ascension!
Please mark your calendars for the dates
you are assigned to serve.***

***If you cannot volunteer on your assigned date,
please find a substitute and notify the
Church Office (743-5741) of the change.***