

The Ascent

APRIL 2006

Ascension Lutheran Church
4803 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa, OK 74105
Pastor Norman Dake

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAKE:

“For it is not ourselves that we preach; we preach Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake,” (2 Corinthians 4:5). Jesus ought always to be the focus of our life and ministry together.

However, you might wish to know a little something about the person whom you have called to preach Jesus Christ among you. So here is a brief introduction.

While I was born in Iowa, I call Wisconsin home. My family moved there about the same time Vince Lombardi became coach of the Green Bay Packers. To this day I remain a Packer fan. After high school I attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison. To this day I remain a Badger fan. My loyalties run deep. But that doesn’t mean I can’t be persuaded to take an interest in the OU Sooners or the OSU Cowboys.

Seminary took me to St. Louis during the Missouri Synod Civil War. I was among those who left the campus of Concordia Seminary to form Seminex (seminary in exile). After graduation, I spent two years in St. Paul, Minnesota. The first year was devoted to earning a graduate degree in Pastoral Care from Luther Seminary. My second year there was spent working in a soap factory while I waited for the Holy Spirit to surprise me with a call.

That call to ministry came from Lutheran Ministries Association in St. Louis. For 28 years I have served as a chaplain among the “least of these” (Matthew 25:31-46) in the hospitals and jails of St. Louis.

My wife Pam is an R.N. with a Master’s degree in management. We first met during my years of service at one of those hospitals. Pam has two daughters—Kim, who is our real estate agent and sold our St. Louis home in one week, and Kellie, who on January 12 of this year gave birth to granddaughter, Lorelei. I have two sons. Josh is married to Mary-Susan and the two of them call Tulsa home. Joel is a senior at Oral Roberts and will, God willing, graduate in May and begin to pay back some of his student loans.

Pam and I love to travel, and we are both avid photographers. Two of my passions are reading and riding my bicycle (but not at the same time). Last year I put more than 2500 miles on my bike. While I will miss listening to Cardinals baseball while riding my bike through Forest Park, I look forward to exploring the bike paths of Tulsa.

I also look forward to proclaiming Christ’s resurrection from the Ascension pulpit on Easter Sunday.

Peace!

Pastor Norm Dake

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to Pastors Dan Breunsbach, Win Belcher, Clyde Glandon, Dean Maas, and Don Marshall, the area pastors who have served as supply pastors for Ascension during the past months. We appreciate your support and assistance during this time of transition.

COUNCIL MINUTES:

Church Council Minutes From March 12th, 2006

Meeting called to order with Jim Harris presiding. Also in attendance: Chris Falkensten, Eileen Imwalle, Barbara James, Sandy Isakson, Lillian Cantrell.

Devotion offered by Jim Harris with Minutes from past Council meeting on 2/12 and Congregational Meeting on 3/5 approved as corrected by Secretary. Additionally, offer packet submitted to Synod was reviewed and accepted as representative of previous Council meeting discussions.

Presentation offered by Kathleen Page of Consensus regarding lighting in worship area. It was noted that Congregational interviews from 2005 highlighted this item as most significant to all members and needs attention. With a limited budget, possible solutions were offered by Mrs. Page and Council thanked her again for the effort and concern provided to Ascension. No definitive action was taken by Council but options are being reviewed with the intent to make improvements on or about Pastor Dake's start in April.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

February, 2006 finances presented:

Expenses	Actual = \$8,712	Budget = \$12,447
Income	Actual = \$9,712	Budget = \$10,704

- ? Council approved expenditure of monies to purchase high speed copier currently used in reproduction of Ascent and office materials. 5 year lease set to expire and machine is in good working order and service contract has been kept current – do have projected savings after 12 months to operating costs.

Worship and Music (from Committee Meeting 3/8):

- ? Preparations are in order for Holy Week and Easter Sunday; the Easter lilies and palm trees have been ordered. Altar flower orders have been cancelled during Lent.
- ? Easter Sunday: we will have all three services at their regular times, with the Confirmation class offering breakfast during the Sunday School hour.
- ? We are putting together a cleaning crew to thoroughly clean the pastor's office and polish the woodwork before Pastor Dake arrives. If you would like to help with this, please contact Mary Faulkner or Bonnie Peters.
- ? Our committee is also putting together a welcome basket for Pastor Dake filled with Oklahoma made items and gift certificates. Bonnie Peters will oversee this project.
- ? Rosemary Ohde has expressed that she would like to use Royce's abiding gift monies for something for the church. Barbara James suggested purchasing new Altar linens.

Property Report:

- ? New projector for contemporary worship service is being installed as it can be scheduled. Volunteer effort will be used and an appropriate time will be determined. Lighting options and updates will also be looked at to utilize the lift expected to be used during projector installation.

No additional Committee Reports offered at this time.

Continuing Business:

Call Committee activities are nearly completed. It was noted that following installment of Pastor Dake at Ascension, the Committee function will officially be completed.

Moving expenses for Pastor Dake's relocation will also be at Ascension's cost. This was previously known and accounted for by Council but clarified further in discussion. No action needed at this time.

Supply Pastor Schedule through Good Friday is completed – it is anticipated that Pastor Dake will perform Ascension's Easter celebration.

New Business:

A Congregation Comment, Compliment and Complaint box will be installed to allow any member to submit their comments in absence of being able to meet or discuss with Pastor or Council representative. It is desired that individuals will complete form with name rather than submit anonymously.

Council will work with Mutual Ministries to assure that all paid employees receive required reviews so that all parties realize the importance of their function and the gratitude that Ascension members maintain for their efforts.

Easter newspaper announcement regarding services and our new Pastor are to be prepared and submitted to Tulsa World – Barbara James to head effort.

In conjunction with discussion of lighting, review of exterior signage was also taken up and Council agreed to allow Chris Falkensten to update 51st Street sign with Pastor Dake's name – it is not expected that any significant changes in color or format will be made at this time.

Closing prayer of thanksgiving, healing and comfort for Ascension Members, families in need and the future of our Church offered by Jim Harris – meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted - Chris Falkensten, Council Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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.

HABITAT – LUTHER HOUSE:

We received the following article from Howard Seigfreid, Habitat Coordinator: "Hard to believe -- 16 days, 1,324 hours, 244 people at the Luther Home building site; yes, the figures are correct. In 16 days you have volunteered a total of 1,324 hours and there have been 244 volunteers. Of the 244 volunteers, 221 were Lutherans and of the 221 Lutherans, 133 were Thrivent members. This means that 90.6% of the volunteers were Lutheran and 60.2% of the Lutherans were Thrivent members. You all need to pat yourselves on the back. Well done!

We meet each Wednesday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the building site (2629 E. 26th Pl. No. - 2 blocks N.E. of Hwy 75 and Apache). We average 27 volunteers each work day. If we keep this fast schedule, we will be done in 10 weeks, instead of the 12-week schedule as planned."

Interior painting started on 3-29-06 and for those who want to paint, please contact Bill or Shirley Bryant - 366-2963. A checking account has been established, please make your check to: Thrivent Builds, on the memo line, put Luther House. Thanks to everyone who has participated.
Bill & Shirley Bryant

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

We will meet on Tuesday, April 25, 2006, in the Adult Sunday School room at 10:00 a.m. The lesson will be from the Lutheran Woman magazine. All Ascension women are invited to attend!

TRINITY MINISTRIES EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 6: Bus tour to Oklahoma City Western Heritage Museum, Capitol Building, Bombing Memorial and drive through of Bricktown and downtown from 7:30 a.m. until approximately 5:00 p.m. Bus leaves from and returns to Ascension. Total cost is \$42.00, which includes transportation, lunch, admission fees, driver and tour escort.

MONDAY, APRIL 24: Musical presentation by Wartburg Wind Ensemble (approximately 60 students). Program starts at 7:30 p.m. at Fellowship Lutheran. Free-will offering will be taken to offset meal and general travel expenses.

**A Eulogy for James Morrison:
HOME: The Story of an Oaks' Kid**

James Morrison was headed for no good, that's sure. The only stable thing in his young life, his mother, had just been taken from him, an untimely death.

James was placed into Grandma's care, he and four siblings, two brothers, two sisters. But, for all practical purposes, James' home became the streets of Salina, Oklahoma, a town in the heart of the Cherokee Nation.

James soon began to run with a rough crowd, come and go as he pleased. Because, at the tender age of eleven, there was no one to really supervise him. Nobody keeping track of James Morrison's fragile life, which had begun to spin out of control.

That's when Grandma heard about this place for Indian kids called the Oaks. And, though the family would eventually be split asunder, the Oaks stood ready to accommodate all five children at the time, as it has so often done in the past, keeping siblings together.

It was decided that two of the kids – a sister and a brother – would remain with Grandma, James often looking back on that moment. The difference it made for the rest of his life. The doors, for young James Morrison, swinging open, immediately, upon his arrival at the Oaks.

James had come home.

It wasn't long after coming to Oaks that James Morrison found a place on the basketball court, a rather prominent place, in fact, his place. Which would lead him on a path toward stardom. He would break records. Stories would be told about him.

It was just enough to keep him, barely, out of the grasp of that troubled spirit, which seemed to want to overwhelm him at times, even at Oaks, as a sports hero. His rebellion became legendary, as well, which ran ever so close to the surface of his basketball exploits.

So that, when graduation came around, there was still no clear direction to James' life. Challenged one day by Lloyd Osburn, Executive Director of the Oaks, who told him in no uncertain terms that he was headed nowhere fast, James turned, looked Mr. Osburn square in the eyes and let it be known that one day he would be on that side of the desk, holding down that job.

Twelve years later, after graduation from Northeastern Oklahoma State University with his Bachelor of Science in Education in 1974, his Master of Education in 1978, after a short but successful career of teaching and coaching – basketball, of course – James Morrison took a job offer at the Oaks Indian Mission. In fact, he leaped at the offer, as he described it later.

One of the things James enjoyed most about becoming Executive Director at the Oaks Indian Mission, he said, smiling, was having access, finally, to all the files, including his own. And the word which sort of kept coming up in that file on his time as a resident was “incorrigible”. It had him running for the dictionary, he said.

James took a special delight, it seemed, in proving that word wrong – not only as it had applied to his young life, but to every child, no matter what age or background, who stepped onto that campus. In fact, it was as if he had made it a personal mission, proving that change was always possible in any kid's life. It had been the case in his own, certainly. And if it had happened to James Morrison, well, it could happen to anyone, regardless.

This clearly shaped James' work with kids throughout his long tenure – these past twenty years – as Director of the Mission. He had been there, as he put it, done that. It wasn't that big a step for him to get inside a kid's skin, to feel what they were feeling. He clearly saw himself there.

You could say it was all part of James Morrison's calling – to never give up on the possibility of a child being led home, as he once had.

One of the requirements of growing up at the Oaks Indian Mission that James rebelled most strenuously against was attendance at church every Sunday morning. Not to mention the fact it was a church which seemed ever so foreign to him – Eben Ezer Lutheran Church. Who – and what! - was that?

But over time, despite trying to maintain his trademark tough guy exterior, the Lord had got hold of this rebellious child. So that, in the Spring of 1987, James Morrison became a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Indeed, that was a day of celebration, as well as a sign of how James would guide the Mission in the years to follow. The spiritual life of the child being a priority in the care given. James was adamant about the children, not just being present in the pew, but active in the life of the congregation. He rallied behind those who showed an interest in being involved at Eben Ezer. He celebrated the fact that he had become a member of that same fellowship he had once thought so strange – Lutheran. James even came to enjoy hanging out with Lutherans, in rural areas, in small towns, in cities, throughout Nebraska.

But as much as he liked the going, James liked coming home better, returning to that place where the door always swung open, where he was welcome, no matter what. And, so on February 13, 2006, James Morrison, child of God, went home again. The Lord, open-armed and waiting, running forward to receive him.

Submitted by Michael D. Welch
Assistant Director, Oaks Indian Mission

Note: The Board of Directors of Oaks Indian Mission has appointed The Rev. Ernie Lantz as Interim Executive Director. Pr. Lantz is a retired pastor in the Southwestern Texas Synod. He resigned as a member of the Board of Directors of Oaks Indian Mission to accept this interim appointment. For the past few years Pr. Lantz has also served as the Director for the synod's summer camping ministry at Oaks. Pr. Lantz has served as Executive Director for ELCA camping ministries in Texas, Iowa, and New York, as well as other ministries. He will begin serving in this capacity on April 1, 2006. Please keep Pr. Lantz and the ministry at Oaks Indian Mission in your prayers, especially during this time of transition.

COMING EVENTS:

Sundays 6:30 p.m. Youth Group meetings

April

5	6:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee meeting
5	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper/Worship service
6	7:30 a.m.	Trinity Ministries bus trip
12	12:15 p.m.	Council meeting
13	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
14	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
16		EASTER SUNDAY – services at regular times
	9:45 am	Easter breakfast hosted by the Confirmation class during Sunday School
		WELCOME PASTOR DAKE!
24	7:30 p.m.	Wartburg Wind Ensemble, @ Fellowship
25	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible study
30	11:00 a.m.	Fifth Sunday Celebration: 1 service @ 11 followed by potluck

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Bill Rasbold	4/3
Patrick Carr	4/3
Phyllis Moore	4/5
Warren Werling	4/7
David Bruce	4/7
Andy Christy	4/8
Donald S. Robertson	4/9
Stan Lewis	4/10
Doug Napier	4/11
Gerald Peterson	4/12
Devin Blust	4/16
Shelby Helm	4/16
Luke Riether	4/17
Kaleigh Bush	4/23
Cami Bush	4/26
Lucille Langley	4/27
Merl Lindburg	4/28
Rod Doty	4/28

If your birthday does not appear, please contact the church office at 743-5741 so we can update our records.

Serving Our Lord

April 2006:

8:30 SERVICE:

Communion Assistants:

2 Linda Christy
9 Cathy Newsome
16 Eileen Imwalle
23 Dave Imwalle
30 FIFTH SUNDAY @ 11

Lectors:

2 Preston Napier
9 Cathy Newsome
16 Ellen Harris
23 Jim Harris
30 FIFTH SUNDAY @ 11

11:00 SERVICE:

Acolytes:

2 Ted Jordan
9 Alex James
16 Hailey Peterson
23 Frankie & Becca Imwalle
30 Preston Napier

Altar Guild:

Ardy Andrist, Lillian Cantrell, Randi Clark, Donna Glocker

Communion Assistants:

2 Ron & Bonnie Peters
9 Mary Peterson, Barbara James
16 Lynn & Betty Jacobsen
23 Pam Funk, Lillian Cantrell
30 Linda Christy, Sandy Isakson

Counter Schedule :

Week One Bonnie Peters, Mary Faulkner
Week Two Stan Lewis
Week Three Doyle Hill, Linda Christy
Week Four Gerry Oltrogge, Jerry Peterson
Week Five Mary Faulkner

Greeters:

2 Ron & Bonnie Peters
9 Jerry & Mary Peterson
16 Ardy Andrist, Lillian Cantrell
23 Linda Christy, Barbara James
30 Helen Allen, Donna Glocker

Lay Assistants:

2 Pam Funk
9 Ron Peters
16 Jerry Peterson
23 Chris Falkensten
30 Carol Anwar

Lectors:

2 Sandy Isakson
9 Katherine Tooley
16 Linda Christy
23 Rosemary Ohde
30 Lisa McArdle

Ushers:

2 Gary Collins, Merl & Billie Lindburg
9 Stan Lewis, Don Robertson
16 Doyle Hill, DB Woods, Ron & Bonnie Peters
23 Eileen Imwalle, Gerry Oltrogge
30 Doug & Roberta Napier

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 contact the Church Office (743-5741) with the change.

Please note: April 30 is the FIFTH SUNDAY; one combined service @ 11:00 followed by a POTLUCK lunch in Jordan Hall @ Noon. Please join us!!