

The *Ascent*

MAY 2006

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

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAKE:

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth,” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

St. Paul was the chief missionary in the early church. His mode of operation when he arrived in a new city was to start preaching, often in the synagogue or sometimes in the public square. As people responded to his proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ and were brought to faith, Paul would turn over pastoral leadership of the fledgling congregation to one of the local converts, and Paul would then move on to another city and begin preaching there.

In the city of Corinth in Greece, Apollos was the pastoral successor to Paul. But a problem arose. Some in the congregation liked the former pastor, Pastor Paul, better. Others liked the new pastor, Pastor Apollos, better. The result was a division in the congregation, characterized by jealousy and quarreling.

When Paul heard about this dissension (and other issues), Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth. We know this letter as 1 Corinthians. In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul scolds the Corinthians for their factionalism and accuses them of acting like worldly people instead of Godly people. Instead of identifying themselves with Paul or with Apollos, Paul encourages the Corinthians to identify themselves with Christ.

“What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants or the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth,” (1 Corinthians 3:5-7).

As we begin our life together, there may be some who like the ways of a former pastor better, and there may be some who like the ways of the new pastor better. But let none distract us from the true focus of our faith and life together. “Let no one boast about human leaders. . . . You belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God,” (1 Corinthians 3:21,23).

Let it always be so among us.

Pastor Norm Dake

*This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

Psalm 118:24

We request the honor of your presence
at the Installation of our newly called Pastor
The Reverend Norman P. Dake
on
Sunday, May 7, 2006
Seven o'clock in the evening
Bishop Flyod M. Schoenhals presiding

Reception following

Ascension Lutheran Church
4803 South Lewis Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma

COUNCIL MINUTES:

April 9, 2006

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

Devotion offered by Sandy Isakson with Minutes from past Council meeting on 3/12 approved as submitted by Secretary.

Committee Reports:

Pastor Dake provided a brief report on success of move to Tulsa and the need for scheduling Installation Ceremony at Ascension. An appropriate time and date will be selected, likely a Sunday afternoon, to allow for attendance by other pastors within the area.

Treasurer's Report:

March, 2006 finances reviewed and approved by council as presented:

Expenses Actual = \$12,970 Budget = \$14,000
Income Actual = \$10,883 Budget = \$12,448

- Council notes that while we have been very diligent in reducing costs, our donations and collections still lag to budgeted requirements. We welcome the guidance that Pastor Dake will provide our congregation and hope that those currently attending, and others that may join us, will remember our continuing needs at Ascension.

Worship and Music: Committee noted that Easter Lily orders will be delivered as scheduled.

Christian Education: Easter Egg hunt scheduled for 10:30 am between services of all children attending.

Helping Hands: Our pantry is packed – thank you for your continuing support of this 30+ year effort by Ascension. Barbara noted that, strangely, requests in past two weeks had dropped but would likely pick up. Our need for food items continues.

No additional Committee Reports offered at this time.

Continuing Business:

As identified above, Pastor Dake's installation remains to be scheduled. Call Committee and any Ascension members are encouraged to assist in this effort as needed when planning begins. Welcome Pastor Dake!

Habitat for Humanity – Lutheran House: Work is ahead of schedule but if you can still assist, it is welcomed. See Narthex for bulletin and more details.

“New” Sign on Lewis: Not new, just given some attention (including paint, accents and better lighting). Anyone that wants to landscape about the base to further improve our first impression with Tulsa can contact Chris Falkensten.

New Business:

Sign inviting anyone to attend Easter Sunday worship was placed near Lewis – additionally, we purchased advertisement in Tulsa World. Thanks to Barbara James for coordination of the ad and Jim Harris / Keith Khoo for the Easter sign and placement.

Chris Falkensten to look at need of improving wheelchair access to Ascension areas - need to repair current ramp, damaged during winter weather two years ago.

Jim Harris supported by council to look for Synod delegates to attend event in Tulsa. Results of attendees not know at time for recording here.

May council meeting to be 3rd Sunday (not current 2nd Sunday) – Mother’s Day conflict.

Closing prayer provided by Pastor Dake - for thanksgiving, healing and comfort for Ascension Members, families in need and the future of our Church.

Respectfully submitted - Chris Falkensten, Council Secretary.

THANK YOU!!

Thanks for the basket of Oklahoma goodies and the warm welcome extended to us by all of the Ascenders. We like it here. ---Pastor Norm and Pam

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY:

We will meet on Tuesday, May 23, 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!

VIA DE CRISTO: June 8-11, 2006

Mt. Sequoyah Retreat Center, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Reservations are limited.

Registration deadline is May 26th or as soon as reservation limit is reached.

Contact Karen Dahlgren, Registrar, (918) 335-4120 or email kkdahlgren@cablecone.net.

Via de Cristo Weekend #14 is fast approaching and registrations are being accepted. The weekend will be held at Mt. Sequoyah Retreat Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas on June 8-11, 2006. Participants arrive around 6:00 pm on Thursday and leave about 6:00 pm on Sunday. All meals, lodging and supplies are included for the \$175 registration fee.

Via de Cristo offers an opportunity for you to reflect on your personal values and goals, evaluate your relationship with Christ, and respond to the call of Christ to serve Him in today’s world. It is a span of three days where without distractions from the outside world, you laugh, sing, worship and listen to talks from fellow lay persons and clergy. You will have the opportunity to discuss the talks with a small group of new friends and contemplate the message Christ has for you from what is shared.

Most participants have put off attending for some time because of busy schedules. And once they attend a weekend, regret they did not do so earlier. Via de Cristo is one of many opportunities within the church for enrichment, renewal, and spiritual growth. The Weekend is for lay persons and clergy alike. It is intended for those who live strong and active lives in Christ, and for those who seek to be renewed and strengthened in their relationship with Christ and their local congregation. Registration forms may be obtained from your church office. Deadline for registration is May 26th. Scholarship funds are available if needed.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

The growing Ascension music team is looking for singers, instrumental musicians, and clerical and technical support. The only requirement is that you believe music is a vital part of the worship experience. Prior experience is not required. Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. and help us to make a joyful noise!

TRINITY MINISTRIES EVENTS:

Wednesday, May 10, REUNION QUARTET: Gospel Music, Meeting & Luncheon

Join Trinity Ministries for an afternoon of good food, enjoyable fellowship and inspirational music, performed by the gospel singing group *Reunion Quartet!* Those who attended our Senior Center's Valentine's Day party know that the *Reunion Quartet's* music is beautiful, uplifting and not to be missed. If you were unable to attend in February, this is your chance to hear what all of the praise has been about.

The program will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, starting at 10:00 am.

The cost for lunch is \$6.00 and reservations are required by May 2. You can make reservations by calling the Trinity Ministries Center (794-5041) or through your church's Trinity Ministries Representatives.

June 11, 12, and 13, 2006, "Let's Go Fishing" With Trinity Ministries

Looking for a good Mother's or Father's day gift? Maybe you are looking for an opportunity to do something new and different? Or you could be thinking, "A person my age needs to go on one more fishing trip." Whatever your motivation, you need to consider Trinity Ministries' "Let's Go Fishing" trip on June 11th, 12th and 13th at Lake Texoma.

The trip's cost is \$290 per person, which includes:

- Lodging;
- Professional guides with large boats that seat 5 people; and
- Fishing gear, bait, etc.

Not only will the fishing be fun on this trip, it'll also be easy! The guide will bait your hook and take the fish off the hook; all you need to do is pull them in. The guide even cleans the fish and puts them in baggies for the trip home!

Besides the \$290, there will also be additional costs for meals and shared transportation costs. For those of you who like to golf, there will be opportunities to play at beautiful Chickasaw Pointe Golf Resort, as well. The cost for a round of golf there is under \$50.

We currently have room for 8 people, so if you'd like to join us, please contact the Trinity Ministries Center (794-5041) by **April 25** to make reservations. We will also require a \$50 deposit (checks made out to "Trinity Ministries") by **April 31**.

HABITAT – LUTHER HOUSE:

A question has been asked about giving Nicole Vann (soon to be owner of Luther House) gifts. According to the Thrivent/Habitat Builds Homes hand book, it states not to give expensive items such as furniture, fences, etc. but appropriate gifts, such as, a mailbox, door mat or a nice plant.

Nicole will always be of special interest and concern to all of us, this is our first "Luther House" in Tulsa. We can continue to be associated with Nicole, be a friend; if we see she needs a rake or a shovel to keep her home in good shape, be a good neighbor. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bill or Shirley Bryant, 366-2963.

Celebrate and Bring the Family to See the Completed Home – God's Gift

We have completed Luther House, a beautiful home for Nicole Vann and her family! With wonderful financial support from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, many Tulsa Lutheran churches, Trinity Ministries, and Habitat for Humanity, we were able to put together this wonderful project. It has involved over 500 people and over 15 Lutheran churches – **both of which are big accomplishments**. People came out and worked on site, churches provided meals, and many people supported these efforts with valuable prayers.

Now we want you to join us on Sunday, May 7 for the Dedication of Luther House.

Activities will commence at 2:00 pm, as we have a *Join Hands Day* event sponsored by Tulsa's Thrivent Chapter. This neighborhood clean-up project will occur in the areas surrounding Luther House, and we encourage all ages to come out and participate. Many of our youth were unable to help with the Luther House project, so this linked activity will permit all ages to *Join Hands* and reach out to others. Thrivent will provide trash bags and leaders.

Now we just need some volunteers. All churches that can involve their youth group would be strongly encouraged to do so. This would be another opportunity for Lutheran youth to meet and work together, alongside adult church members.

The actual Luther House Dedication ceremony will commence at 4:00 pm, and will include a chance to meet and hear comments from the very grateful homeowner, Nicole Vann. We will also enjoy the inaugural performance of the newly formed Lutheran Community Choir, a group that represents over 10 churches. After the dedication, a light meal will be provided with various sandwiches, salads, chips, drinks, and cookies. Come join this event that culminates weeks of working together in the spirit of God and fellowship. You may also hear about the second home we plan to build jointly with Habitat for Humanity, Thrivent, and the many wonderful Lutheran congregations in this area.

Directions: North on US 75, exit at Apache and then go east. Turn left on N. Columbia and then left on 26th PL. North (Luther House is #26 2926th PL. North)

If you can help us celebrate, please contact your Congregational Champion on the Luther House Project (listed below) or, if necessary, Howard Seigfreid at 252-1406 or hseigfreid@cox.net. Hope to see you there!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MAY:

May 7 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

Gospel: John 10:11-18

May 14 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:24-30

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Gospel: John 15:1-8

May 21 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 15:9-17

May 28 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

Second Reading: 1 John 5:9-13

Gospel: John 17:6-19



Happy Birthday!

- 5/2 Elois Woods
- 5/3 Rebecca Imwalle
- 5/4 Lillian Cantrell
Duane Johnson
Tami Funk
- 5/6 Keaton Hubbard
- 5/7 Stephanie Faulkner
Dorothy Ingalls
- 5/8 Shauna Gayler
- 5/10 Lisa McArdle
- 5/11 Kadin Falkensten
- 5/14 Alex James
Sherri Jordan-Cramberg
- 5/16 Jason Jordan
- 5/22 Logan Falkensten
- 5/24 Ardith Andrist
- 5/25 Pam Kroblin
- 5/27 Donna Glocker
- 5/28 Doyle Hill
- 5/29 Ethan Falkensten
- 5/31 Lauren Doty
Bob Rowland



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

COMING EVENTS:

- | | | | |
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| May | 7 | 2:00 pm | Dedication of Luther House |
| | 7 | 7:00 pm | Pastor Dake's Installation Service in the Sanctuary followed by a reception in Jordan Hall |
| | 10 | 10:00 am | Trinity Ministries program with the Reunion Quartet, Gospel music and luncheon at Bethany Lutheran. Cost \$6 for lunch/ |
| | 17 | 6:30 pm | Worship & Music Committee meeting |
| | 21 | 12:15 | Council Meeting |
| | 23 | 10:00 am | Women's Bible Study in the Adult classroom |
| June | 8 | 10:00 am | Trinity Ministries program on "Personal Safety" at Joy Lutheran. Program presented by TV Newscaster Lori Fulbright Cost \$6 for lunch. |
| | 11-13 | | "Let's Go Fishing" with Trinity Ministries. See announcement section for more information. |

Serving Our Lord

May 2006:

7:30 SERVICE

All are invited to join us for this brief Prayer service.

8:30 SERVICE:

Communion Assistants:

7 Denise Khoo
14 Carol Anwar
21 Cathy Newsome
28 Linda Christy

Lectors:

7 Ellen Harris
14 Carol Anwar
21 Cathy Newsome
28 Linda Christy

*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.*

11:00 SERVICE:

Acolytes:

7 Katie Bruce
14 Avery Baker
21 Ted Jordan
28 Hailey Peterson

Altar Guild:

Helen Allen, Bonnie Peters, Mary Peterson

Communion Assistants:

7 Donna Glocker, Doyle Hill
14 Bill & Shirley Bryant
21 Barbara James, Mary Peterson
28 Lillian Cantrell, Pam Funk

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:

7 Betty & Lynn Jacobsen
14 Bill & Dorothy Burgess
21 Sandy Isakson, Katherine Tooley
28 Merl & Billie Lindburg

Lay Assistants:

7 Sandy Isakson
14 Linda Christy
21 Pam Funk
28 Ron Peters

Lectors:

7 Lillian Cantrell
14 Ronda Falkensten
21 Mary Peterson
28 Barbara James

Ushers:

7 Ron & Bonnie Peters
14 Stan Lewis, Gary Collins
21 Merl & Billie Lindburg
28 Gerry Oltrogge, Don Robertson