

The Ascent

August 2006

Pastor Norman Dake

Ascension Lutheran Church

4803 South Lewis Avenue

Tulsa, OK 74105-5154

918-743-5741 / FAX: 918-743-4854

E-mail:

welcome@ascensionlutheran.net

pastornorm@ascensionlutheran.net

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Once upon a time there was a man who had nothing and God give him 10 apples.

God gave him the first apple so that he would have a way to show his gratitude for the other nine.

God gave him three apples to eat.

God gave him three more apples to trade for a shelter from the sun and rain.

God gave him three other apples to trade for clothing.

Then the man looked at the first apple he had received. He knew God had given him the first apple so that he could return it to God out of gratitude for the other nine. But that first apple looked bigger and juicier than all the rest. And he reasoned that God had all the other apples in the world. So he ate the first apple and gave God the core.

God has given us enough to supply our needs, and enough to show our gratitude for God's beautiful creation, for God's redeeming love in Jesus, and for God's ongoing work in the world through the Holy Spirit. Will we return to God our best—or only the leftovers?

In the coming weeks we will have an opportunity to consider prayerfully how we can express our thanks for all of God's good gifts to us. Most of you are probably familiar with the Pony Express package that will be delivered to your home by our Stewardship folks. This year it will contain two pieces for you to fill out. One

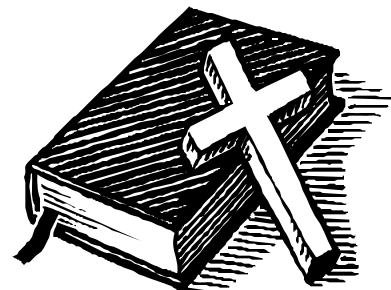
is a statement of intent for your financial gifts. The other is a time and talent survey to indicate the areas for your personal involvement. Please fill out both, as you have been blessed and as you are able. Both are ways for giving our best.

Let me close with two observations. First, I believe that we can grow in our giving. While the above story reflects the Biblical goal of tithing (giving 10%), some are still growing toward that goal. Others can grow beyond it. Let me challenge you to consider how God is calling you to grow.

Secondly, I pray that each of us will be motivated not simply because we have utility bills and a pastor's salary to pay (although we do) or simply because we need Sunday School teachers for this fall (although we do), but truly out of gratitude for the blessings which God has first given to us.

Peace & Blessings!

Pastor Norm



Church Council Minutes - From July 16, 2006

Meeting called to order at 12:20PM with Jim Harris presiding. Also in attendance: Pastor Dake, Keith Khoo, Chris Falkensten, Eileen Imwalle, Sandy Isakson, and Lillian Cantrell.

Devotion offered by Keith Khoo with Minutes from past Council meeting on June 24th approved as submitted with correction to previous council meeting date.

Committee Reports:

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor has been reviewing attendance and giving within the congregation since Easter Sunday – Pastor's first official duty at Ascension - favorable news to report, an average increase of 23 members attending services each Sunday (35% increase). Stewardship drive set to begin in early fall with improvement in giving also hoped for.
- Following discussion, Pastor made a motion that council approved to initiate a new program at Ascension. Similar to Helping Hands, a list of needed toiletry and other items will be available and congregational members are asked to assist in their collection; the items will then be forwarded to Operation Hope in support of recently paroled inmates. During its January Board Meeting, Trinity Ministries will review Operation Hope and determine if national support of the program is warranted and Ascension will be able to provide valuable information about its efforts.
- Prior to Stewardship Drive, our Ascension talent survey will be updated. It is expected that a copy will be provided to all members for consideration and completion; all 231 current active members are encouraged to review and consider how they may

help serve our Lord – financial support and service in all its forms is encouraged by the Council.

- Copy of A-OK Synod Questionnaire provided to Council members to be completed and returned to Mary Faulkner by August 1st. If interested, a copy is available for review in Ascension office.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Expenses: Actual = \$23,969
YTD Actual = \$84,055
Income: Actual = \$10,458
YTD Actual = \$71,029

Budgeted Income/Expenses:
\$12,448 / month

Account Balances at end of June:

Church Checking: \$19,504
Building Fund: \$9,807
Savings Account: \$28,740

Copy of current Treasurer's Report is available for review – a copy is posted on church bulletin board outside office.

Christian Education:

Discussion of current program activities was offered by Keith Khoo. There is consideration in how our bible study program may be enhanced in the future to motivate more of our congregation to attend and inspire visitors to connect with Ascension. Committee shall review and make recommendation to council if changes are sought.

Worship and Music:

New worship book being published by Lutheran Church; Ascension is planning to order 20 copies prior to publication at a reduced rate and will review songs included in new version as well as the multiple settings available for worship services.

Stewardship:

Upcoming drive in final planning stages; greater detail and promotion to occur through separate notices from Committee.

Continuing Business:

Handicap ramps and accessibility actions completed; repair of east ramp to office and north and south ramps to Narthex and Jordan Hall respectively were in good condition. As a reminder, handicapped parking is reserved for those with permits on display – please assist in keeping these areas open if you do not have a need to park there.

Interior lighting will receive a much needed (and desired by our congregation) upgrade. Jim Harris and Keith Khoo shall coordinate; approximately \$600 from abiding gifts shall be used during this first phase to address general lighting for Church area. Additional accent lighting in Church and Narthex shall be attempted after this initial round of activity.

Look for new signage, used for each 5th Sunday worship service to go on display. These are temporary and reusable of our activities in the future.

New Business:

Request from congregation member(s) to publish Year to Date financial information has been accepted – see results above and full financial statement available on Church Bulletin Board.

Results of first 6F night were a success – another soon to come so please join us as you can.

Thrivent Builds has sent a thank you letter to our congregation; available on Church Bulletin Board – Thrivent is planning another Luther House in Tulsa and committing significant dollars across the US in this effort.

August Council meeting to be held second Sunday, 8/13, following Traditional Worship service; Eileen Imwalle is providing devotion and lunch.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Chris Falkensten, Council Secretary.

.....
Pastoral Care: *If you have a pastoral care need, such as hospitalization or personal issues, please inform the pastor of your needs.*
.....

RALLY DAY!

September 10th
Join us as we kick off the Sunday School year!
Classes for all ages

Teachers and helpers for Sunday School still needed. Can you help to fill out our teaching teams? Please contact Pastor Norm if you can assist.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR, NORMA DREYER

Since I am new to this editorial work, I would appreciate input from our readers. If you have any suggestions to improve the format, expand the content, include more personal information regarding our Ascension family (anniversaries, weddings, births, etc.), please email me at norma-dreyer@utulsa.edu or call me at my home phone, 583-3759.

NOT AFRAID TO ASK: Pastor Norm is offering a class in Lutheran faith and practice. While building on basic tenets of the Christian faith, this discussion group also tries to respond to questions raised by class participants who are “not afraid to ask” how Biblical theology in a Lutheran key can be a resource in their spiritual walk. For newcomers, who would like to know more about the Lutheran Church or possible membership at Ascension, and for any who would like to renew their understanding of Lutheran faith and life, please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the adult classroom.

6F: Come join us in Jordan hall on Friday August 4, from 6-9 pm, for the:

First
Friday
Family
Fun
Food &
Fellowship Night

August’s activity will be a potluck dinner and a white elephant bingo game. Please bring a potluck dish to share and a wrapped white elephant gift for each player.

TRINITY MINISTRIES EVENT:

Tuesday, August 15, “Domestic Violence Intervention”: Join us at 7:00 PM at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Sand Springs for this program on domestic violence. Refreshments will be served. No charge.

Tuesday, September 5, Ascension Lutheran Church: Disneyland? DollyLand? Nooo! It’s LutherLand! Join us at 10:00 a.m. in Jordan Hall for a colorful slide tour with Pastor Norm of the land of Martin Luther’s life and work. Lunch will be served after the program for \$6.00 a person. Reservations please, by **August 31**, at 794-5041. For questions, see Warren Werling or Billie Lindburg.



Ascension Lutheran has been asked to collect and donate toiletries, backpacks and new men’s and women’s underwear to Operation Hope, a local organization which assists ex-offenders returning to the Tulsa area after release from prison. Now is a great time to pick these items up at stores having back-to-school sales, and we all have a supply of the travel-size hotel shampoos and soap bars in our bathroom cabinets. These are perfect for the collection.

Upon reading the newspaper article about Pastor Norm’s arrival in Tulsa and his extensive background in jail ministry, the Executive Director of Operation Hope, Katherine Blockenheuser, promptly contacted him and asked for help. Operation Hope provides basic essentials, mentoring, housing, bus tokens, furniture, cars, job bank lists and resource lists to ex-offenders when they are released.

This ministry is vital to ex-offenders who are released back into the community. As their brochure states, “Imagine getting off the bus with \$50.00 [what Pastor Norm calls the ‘State Tip’] that must be used to pay for housing, food, transportation, medical care, and oftentimes prescriptions.” Many ex-offenders are being treated for psychiatric disorders, which, left untreated, may lead to criminal behavior. Most crimes are against people, and many of them are violent in nature.

An ex-offender’s successful transition back into the community is key to the safety of citizens in that community, because, without support, people often turn back to crime in a desperate attempt to survive a very stressful event in the only way they know how.

Successfully navigating the change from the structured, restrictive life of prison to a life of freedom takes the help of many people along the way to encourage and facilitate—people willing “**to BE the bridge to the other side.**”

We will be collecting the requested items in the Narthex, along with the Helping Hands Food Pantry items. Why not ask people at your workplace to help, too? Together, we and our friends, neighbors and family can all help Operation Hope to make a difference in someone's life.

Operation Hope also has many volunteer opportunities for those willing to help, from financial support, to actual participation as mentors and office helpers and in other capacities. Pastor Norm has introduced their director to Trinity Ministries, and we may see the involvement of this organization with Operation Hope in the coming months. The complete packet of information is in our church office, if the Holy Spirit is urging you to become more involved!

Some additional statistics:

Oklahoma has the second highest incarceration rate per capita in the United States.

Although arrest rates per capita in Oklahoma equal arrest rates in other states, Oklahoma chooses to incarcerate a larger percentage of those arrested.

31.5% of those incarcerated in Oklahoma are in prison for possession, obtaining and/or distributing controlled substances.

According to the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, more than 8,000 inmates were released in 2004.

Of those 8,000, only 1,773 were paroled with a home and job to go to.

Over 6,000 were released to the streets.

Most of the 6,000 are released with no supervision and only \$50.00 in their pockets and a bus ticket home.

LORD OF LIFE GOLF SCRAMBLE: Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Edmond is sponsoring a golf scramble to benefit Oaks Indian Mission on Saturday, September 16th. The event will take place at Silverhorn Golf Club in Oklahoma City. Information flyers can be found in the Narthex or contact the church office for further information.

DECODING THE LITURGY 101

by Pam Dake

Have you ever wondered why the red candle hangs in the chancel? Or why the colors used to decorate the altar change? Or, for that matter, who or what determines the changes? (Does Pastor Norm get up on Sunday morning and think to himself, "It feels like a green day today!") Perhaps these mysteries were decoded in your Confirmation classes long ago, and you have forgotten the answers. Or, maybe, like me, you weren't raised in a denomination that stressed these things. (Or, then again, maybe I just wasn't paying attention!)

This article is the first of a monthly series intended to explain why Christians do and say some of the things we do and say in our worship services. Much of this information comes from the [Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook](#), by S. Anita Stauffer. In this first article, I will be quoting extensively from her book, because she says things so much more eloquently than I could. Unless otherwise noted, quoted passages are from this source

Worshiping God is the foundation of our faith. "The church's liturgy is a public event. Corporate worship has both a vertical dimension (involving the worshiper with God) and a horizontal dimension (involving worshipers with each other)." The cross itself depicts this concept, with its vertical and horizontal components.

"People learn about God in part from how God is worshiped. Each thing that is done in worship (including tasks done by the altar guild/sacristans) teaches the congregation. The key question is whether what is taught is consistent with the church's theology. If the altar linens and paraments are kept spotless and the Eucharistic vessels are beautiful, the congregation learns something of our respect for God."

"The liturgy is the church's form of corporate worship. The Sunday liturgy of word and sacrament has come to us from our ancestors

in the faith, both Jewish and Christian. We use a liturgy derived in part from the ancient synagogue service, consisting of readings, psalms, prayers, and a type of sermon. The other part of our liturgy derives from the upper room, when Jesus identified the bread and wine of the Jewish ritual meal as his body and blood and said, 'Do this for the remembrance of me.' Since Pentecost, Christians have had an insatiable appetite for this meal, because in it Christ himself is present. We gather for word and sacrament because that is what our Lord told us to do." The ancient roots of this liturgy help to connect us to the believers of every time and place. From synagogue and Last Supper, this liturgy "helps us remember and celebrate God's mighty acts of salvation."

"Worship is our adoring response to the Holy One whom we call God."... Worship is the central and unique function of the church; without worship, there would be no church. Worship identifies the church as the church, for it is the one unique function of the church.

"We who are baptized gather each week to give thanks to God and to celebrate the presence and power of God's Son in our midst...Christianity is a corporate faith; it is not a private affair between 'God and me'. We are the *corpus* or body of Christ. We are baptized

into this body of Christ, the family of God, and the whole church of every time and place..."

"Things used in worship should be appropriate to the time of the liturgical year and to the service being used. Things are appropriate when they serve the liturgy; they are inappropriate when they are not in accord with the church's theology and tradition." (Heaven forbid that there would ever be an Easter bunny or Santa Claus in the worship space!)

"Christians...come to participate actively in the liturgy—not to be entertained passively..." (The word *Liturgy* literally means "work of the people".)

"The *style* of worship (the genre of preaching, the music and hymns, and the visual environment of the worship space) may vary...but the *content* of worship (Christ incarnate, crucified, risen and ascended), and the essential *shape* of worship (gathering, word of God, Eucharistic meal, and sending out for mission) are the same around the globe..."

Isn't it comforting to know that these things are so organized, and that, no matter where we go, the essential parts of the worship service will be recognizable and familiar to us, and that Jesus will be there, too?

COMING EVENTS:

August	4	6:00 p.m.	6F – First Friday Family Fun Food & Fellowship Night
	10	6:30 p.m.	Worship & Music committee meeting
	13	12:15 p.m.	Council meeting
	15	7-8 p.m.	Trinity Ministries Domestic Violence Intervention program at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Sand Springs
	22	7-9 PM	Employing Immigrant Workers Legally workshop at Good Shepherd Lutheran
	31		Reservations due for Trinity Ministry program on Sept.5
Sept.	5	10:00 a.m.	Trinity Ministry LutherLand presentation, Jordan Hall.
	9-10		Fellowship Lutheran celebrates 30 th anniversary
	10		Rally Day
	18-20		Synod Theological Conference at St. Crispins

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: We will be taking August off. Please plan to join us in September

IMMIGRATION WORKSHOP: There will be a program on "Employing Immigrant Workers Legally" to answer employers' questions about immigration laws on Tuesday, August 22nd from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 8730 E. Skelly Drive. Open to all.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Ellen Harris
8/1 Barbara James
8/2 Tresa Helm
8/4 Nicholas Niemann
8/6 Shirley Johnson
8/7 Bonnie Peters
8/7 Melissa Born
8/8 Philip Kurin
8/11 Allen Kroblin
8/15 Cathy Newsome
8/16 Dave Imwalle
8/17 Chris Falkensten
8/19 Andrea Engelke
8/21 Michelle Griffith
8/24 Sandi Biggs
8/27 Barbara Shelby
8/29 Bill Burgess
8/30 Bryson Duis



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



Good Lutherans like to eat. Trinity Ministries outing.



Beam me up, Scottie.

SUNDAY READINGS FOR AUGUST:

August 6, 2006: NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
Psalms 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 13, 2006: TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalms 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 20: ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalms 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 27, 2006: TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalms 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

FIrST
FrIdAy
FaMiLy
FuN
FoOd &
FeLlowShiP NiGhT

August 4, 2006

6-9 pm

Potluck Dinner
Family-Friendly White
Elephant Bingo

PlEAsE bRinG a
PotLUck
diSh
to sHaRe and
a wrApped whitE
ElepHant GiFt for
eAch playEr.



SERVING OUR LORD AUGUST 2006

7:30 SERVICE:

Altar Guild: Doris Elliott
All are invited to join us for this brief prayer service

8:30 SERVICE:

Communion Assistants:

6 Linda Christy
13 Carol Anwar
20 Eileen Imwalle
27 Dave Imwalle

Lectors:

6 Linda Christy
13 Carol Anwar
20 Ellen Harris
27 Jim Harris

11:00 SERVICE:

Acolyte Teams: Crucifer/Torch Bearer:

6 Hailey Peterson
13 Frankie & Becca Imwalle
20 Avery Baker
27 Alex James

Altar Guild:

Elaine Baker, Dorothy Burgess, Betty Jacobsen

Communion Assistants:

6 Ron & Bonnie Peters
13 Donna Glocker, Doyle Hill
20 Bill & Shirley Bryant
27 Barbara James, Mary Peterson

Counter Schedule:

6 Mary Faulkner, Bonnie Peters
13 Stan Lewis
20 Doyle Hill, Linda Christy
27 Gerry Oltrogge, Jerry Peterson

Greeters:

6 Mary Faulkner, Katherine Tooley
13 Merl & Billie Lindburg
20 Bill & Shirley Bryant
27 Ardith Andrist, Lillian Cantrell

Lay Assistants:

6 Linda Christy
13 Linda Christy
20 Ron Peters
27 Jerry Peterson

Lectors:

6 Katherine Tooley
13 Linda Christy
20 Linda Christy
27 Rosemary Ohde

Ushers:

6 Gary Collins, Doyle Hill
13 Stan Lewis, Don Robertson, Eileen Imwalle
20 Merl & Billie Lindburg, Gerry Oltrogge
27 Ron & Bonnie Peters

Nursery Attendant:

6
13
20
27

*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.

We need Nursery Attendants! If you are interested in volunteering, please see Annette Stange!

Ascension Lutheran Church

4803 South Lewis Ave.

Tulsa, OK 74105-5154

Phone: 918-743-5741

Fax: 918-743-4854

Pastor Norman Dake

Sunday Services:

First Prayer – 7:30am

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

E-mail: welcome@ascensionlutheran.net

pastornorm@ascensionlutheran.net

Mission Statement:

- **Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people in all walks of life with every possible means, in accordance with the Work of God, Creeds and Confessions of the church.**
- **Worship our Lord through Word and Sacrament, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death as the hallmark of our faith**
- **Teach our members the relevancy of faith in life.**
- **Extend care and the call of Christ to each person in accordance with their needs**
- **Promote fellowship among our members.**



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