

The **A**scent

Ascension Lutheran Church

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November 2006

Pastor Norman Dake

A WORD FROM PASTOR NORM

“For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth,” (Psalm 47:2).

Our awesome God has created an awesome world.

Pam and I saw some of God’s awesome world During our recent vacation to the Southwest. Mountains and domes that have been mightily thrust into the sky and have stood for ages! Impressive! Awesome!

But for all of their force and majesty, those rocky formations are no match for the power of water and wind. Over countless periods of time, water and wind have worn away stone, creating canyons, buttes, mesas, towers, pinnacles, and (our favorite) arches. Awesome!

But you are expecting more than a travelogue from me.

This awesome world is a reflection of our own experience. Sometimes life gets rather rocky for us. Health issues, family strife, or occupational stresses can make for a bumpy road. Sometimes these personal and interpersonal difficulties create seemingly impassable mountain ranges. We may feel like we are between a rock and a hard place, with no place to turn. Sometimes, the hardness is inside of us, within our own hearts.

But we people of God are people of water and wind. The forces of baptism and Holy Spirit are even more powerful than the rocky barriers that

rise before us and within us. Water and wind create paths and openings that we never thought were possible.

This, of course, is not our doing. Our awesome God opens the way for us, just as the stone on Jesus’ grave had to give way on the third day. Stone is no match for the water and wind of our mighty God. Our awesome God softens hard hearts, blesses us with forgiveness and peace, makes a way out of no way, and brings life out of death. Awesome, indeed!

Our God is an awesome God! “Holy and awesome is his name,” (Psalm 111:9).

Peace & Blessings!

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 - From October 8, 2006

Meeting called to order at 12:18pm with Jim Harris presiding; also in attendance were Pastor Dake, Keith Khoo, Chris Falkensten, Eileen Imwalle, Lillian Cantrell, Sandy Isakson and Barbara James.

Minutes from Council meeting on September 17th were approved by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports Presented:

Pastor's Report:

- ? Pastor provided information on general church activity – no outstanding items prior to his planned vacation activities.

Treasurer's Report:

- ? September, 2006 finances reviewed and approved by council as presented.
- ? Treasurer's Report is available for review – posted on bulletin board outside office.

Christian Education: No report presented.

Evangelism: No report presented

Worship and Music:

- ? Thanksgiving activities - Ascension has been invited to join city wide group of Lutheran Churches for the celebration of minor festivals and activities. Council accepted invitation by unanimous vote and we will announce further details on upcoming activities and Ascension's role for each.
- ? Holiday activities and planning discussed – Advent, three Wednesday services planned on the 6th, 13th and 20th of December.

Stewardship: No report presented.

Property:

- ? Work weekend was a success and an Inventory was completed of Ascension assets during the work day on Sept 30; Eileen Imwalle to pursue getting a copy of assets counted for church records.

Mutual Ministry / Helping Hands:

- ? Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets being planned; estimated \$600 each season cost.
- ? Adopt-A-Family program under planning.
- ? Angel Tree for holiday gift giving for kids in need being planned by Pam Nielson.

- ? Desert Auction planned for 5th Sunday service, Oct 29th to benefit Helping Hands.

Continuing Business:

Thrivent Coordinator – Sandy Isakson, Helen Allen and Ardith Andrist have agreed to act as Thrivent contacts for Ascension.

Habitat for Humanity and Web Master are all positions within congregation that we have a need to fill with members interested in serving.

Janitorial Services Contract – 2 proposals were received, reviewed and all parties contacted with new service starting in November.

- ? Motion made to allow for rebid by one party – seconded with motion failing 4 to 3 with 1 abstain.
- ? Motion made to accept current bids as provided – seconded with motion passing 7 to 1.
- ? Motion made to require any future non-salaried, contracted services hired by church for work be licensed (as required), bonded and insured – seconded and passed unanimously

Preparations being made to staff Nominating Committee for upcoming elections; at least one outgoing member of Church Council to Chair this Committee.

New Business:

Janice Engleke has resigned from Property Committee and as wedding Coordinator – if you have any needs, please direct them to church office pending further notice about a new Chair.

Synod has reminded all Churches that there are specific requirements on personnel in close working situations with children and minors – Ascension and Council to review and assure requirements are being maintained.

Council adopted by unanimous vote Fiscal Standard Operation Procedures to be used by Treasurer in performing budget and reporting functions.

2007 draft budget discussed and being prepared for Congregation review and acceptance in January.

November Council meeting to be held Sunday, 11/12, following Traditional Worship service.

Meeting adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted by Chris Falkensten, Council Secretary.

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**ASCENT NEWS ITEMS:**

Please submit any news items by email to [norma-dreyer@utulsa.edu](mailto:norma-dreyer@utulsa.edu) or call me at my home phone, 583-3759 by the **NEW DEADLINE: THE 21<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH MONTH**. This earlier deadline will ensure that the Ascent arrives at your home by the first of the month.

**Trinity Ministries Event:**

On Thursday, November 9, we will have an elaborate buffet lunch at 11:00 a.m., at the O.S.U. Culinary School in Okmulgee. Please make advance reservations and payment of \$7.00 per person to Billie Lindburg or Warren Werling by Sunday, November 5. The carpool will leave Ascension's parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

**COMING EVENTS:**

|          |         |            |                                                                  |
|----------|---------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November | 3       | 6:00 p.m.  | <b>6F</b> – Dinner and family friendly movie                     |
|          | 9       | 11:00 a.m. | Trinity Ministries Event: lunch at OSU Culinary School, Okmulgee |
|          | 9       | 6:30 p.m.  | Worship & Music Committee meeting                                |
|          | 11      | 10:00 a.m. | Luther House #2 Dedication                                       |
|          | 12      | 12:15 p.m. | Council meeting                                                  |
|          | 21      |            | <b>ASCENT DEADLINE</b>                                           |
|          | 23      |            | THANKSGIVING                                                     |
|          | 28      | 10:00 a.m. | Women's Bible Study, adult classroom.                            |
| December | 1       | 6-9 pm     | 6F – First Friday celebration                                    |
|          | 6,13,20 | 6:30 pm    | Advent Supper/Worship in Jordan Hall                             |
|          | 16      | 11:30 am   | Women's Holly Berry Luncheon – potluck and ornament exchange     |

**HOLLY BERRY POTLUCK LUNCHEON.**

Mark your calendars for the Holly Berry luncheon, Saturday, December 16 at 11:30 a.m. in Jordan Hall. All Ascension women are invited and are encouraged to bring guests. Please bring a dish to share and a Christmas ornament for an ornament exchange. Charitable donations of socks, gloves and underwear will be welcomed and will go to The Oaks children, and canned goods will go to Helping Hands Pantry.

**THANK YOU** for all the cards, telephone calls, flowers and prayers. Thanks for the many friends at church that came to the hospital and our home to visit with Lorraine and me. I feel stronger every day and hope to be in church soon. Many, many thanks, Don Doty.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

11/3 Sara Moore  
11/6 Gerald Shelby  
11/8 Gerry Oltrogge  
11/9 Nicholas Todd Niemann II  
11/11 Eileen Imwalle  
11/24 Janice Engelke  
11/24 Fred Preston  
11/24 L.T. Williams  
11/26 Shirley Bryant  
11/29 Aubrey Harris



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

## READINGS FOR NOVEMBER:

### November 5: All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9 or Wisdom of  
Solomon 3:1-9

Psalm 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

### November 12: Twenty-third Sunday

After Pentecost

1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

### November 19: Twenty-fourth Sunday

After Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

### November 26: Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

## Ascender” Flying High in CCE Blue Skies Pigeon Race

Join us on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at Lookout Mountain for the annual fundraiser benefiting the Center for Counseling and Education. There will be live music and a comedian for entertainment as well as a catered lunch and activities for the kids. Ascension is sponsoring a pigeon again this year. Come out and cheer “Ascender” on! Call Mary Faulkner for more information and directions.

## GREAT NEWS

Prayers have been answered again. I want to thank everyone for your thoughts, concerns and prayers while I was undergoing cancer treatment. As of now, I am cancer free and, Lord willing, will remain that way.

Thank you, Shirley Bryant.

## TEN things you NEVER hear in church.

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
5. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the junior high Sunday school class.
6. Forget the denominational minimum salary, let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.
7. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
8. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
9. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
10. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!

## **HELPING HANDS DESSERT AUCTION, Sunday, October 29.**

A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in the dessert auction!!! Thanks to all who made such wonderful treats, and to all who very generously participated in the auctioning of the items. Thanks to Dave Imwalle, who made the auction a lot of fun, and a rousing success! We raised a total of \$574, which will be matched by Thrivent! The proceeds will go to the Helping Hands pantry and will enable us to purchase perishable foods for our families that we feed each week. These funds will also be used to occasionally restock items in the pantry when the inventory is too low.

### **Helping Hands update:**

We are gearing up for our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner donation drive. Joy

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## **THRIVENT/HABITAT LUTHER HOME #2 DEDICATION**

We started construction on Saturday, September 9th and now the home is complete, and ready for the Flatt family to move in. GREAT!!!

We invite you to help us celebrate the dedication of the home on Saturday, 11-11-2006 at 10:00AM. The home is located at 3711 W. 53rd Place, just 7 blocks S.W. of I-44 & 33rd W. Ave. Get off I-44 at 33rd W. Ave, go under the overpass, go west on Skelly Drive to 37th W. Ave, go south three (3) blocks to 53rd Place, then west on 53rd Place. It is the second home on the north side of the street.

We plan to start with coffee and donuts at 10:00AM, you can walk thru the home, see all that has been done, and then we will start the Dedication program about 10:30AM.

Come and see what all the Lutheran congregations have been doing the last eight (8) weeks each Wednesday and Saturday. If you have any questions, call me at 252-1406. We do not have time to send out individual RSVP's, if you plan to come, will you e-mail me at [hseigfreid@cox.net](mailto:hseigfreid@cox.net) or call me if you do not have e-mail.

Howard Seigfreid

Lutheran has already started their campaign for the Thanksgiving dinners. The cost to provide an entire meal is \$25 for a family. ALL size donations are welcome.

We will also sell our Christmas jars again this year to raise funds for the Adopt-a-Family program through Family and Children's Services. This will be our 3rd year to participate.

We will be selling pies again this year for Thanksgiving (available the Sunday before Thanksgiving). We don't have the final menu yet, but we will be offering pecan (Oklahoma grown), and pumpkin. We will apply for matching funds from Thrivent. The proceeds will go to the Helping Hands holiday programs.



## **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP**

On Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 pm, St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 5635 E. 71st Street, will host a community Thanksgiving worship service. It is good that we join our ecumenical partners in worship and in thanksgiving for all the gifts we have from God. In addition, the circle of partner congregations invited to join has grown to include: Ascension Lutheran Church, Bethany Lutheran Church, Christ Church Episcopal, Fellowship Lutheran Church, Joy Lutheran Church and St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church. Following the service, there will be a reception with pie, coffee and tea. Please join us and bring **PIES** to share. Please plan to attend this wonderful celebration of our unity in Christ.

## SERVING OUR LORD –

### 8:30 SERVICE:

#### Communion Assistants:

5 Carol Anwar  
12 Eileen Imwalle  
19 Denise Khoo  
26 Cathy Newsome

#### Lectors:

5 Carol Anwar  
12 Ellen Harris  
19 Pam Dake  
26 Keith Khoo

### 11:00 SERVICE:

#### Acolyte Teams:

5 Avery Baker  
12 Hailey Peterson  
19 Preston Napier  
26 Alex James

#### Altar Guild:

11:00: Barbara James & volunteers

#### Communion Assistants:

5 Sandy Isakson, Barbara James  
12 Bill & Shirley Bryant  
19 Lillian Cantrell, Linda Christy  
26 Barbara James

#### Counter Schedule:

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

#### Greeters:

5 Betty & Lynn Jacobsen  
12 Bill & Shirley Bryant  
19 Merl & Billie Lindburg  
26 Mary Peterson, Katherine Tooley

#### Lay Assistants:

5 Linda Christy  
12 Jerry Peterson  
19 Sandy Isakson  
26 Chris Falkensten

#### Lectors:

## November 2006

5 Jean Connely  
12 Carroll Werling  
19 Lillian Cantrell  
26 Katherine Tooley

#### Ushers:

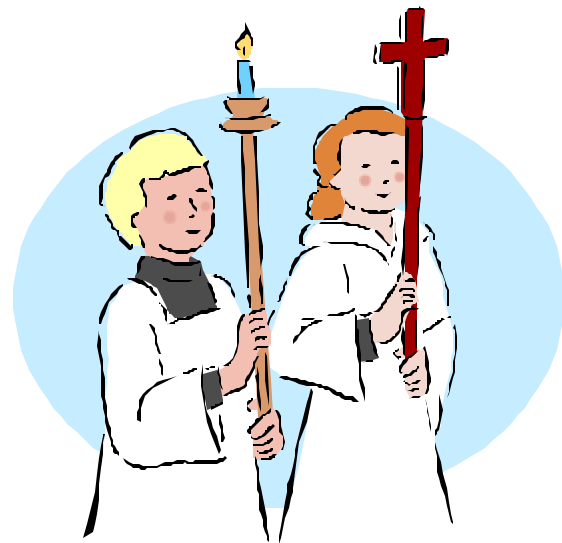
5 Ed & Norma Dreyer  
12 Stan Lewis, Gary Collins  
19 Doug & Roberta Napier  
26 Gerry Oltrogge, Mary Peterson

#### Nursery Attendant:

5 Bonnie Peters  
12 Mary Peterson  
19 Randi Clark  
26

*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 still need Nursery Attendants! If you are  
interested in volunteering, please sign up in the  
Narthex.



# New Charitable Giving Opportunities

THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006



The **Pension Protection Act of 2006** (the Act) might provide you with a new opportunity to support your favorite ministry perhaps in an extraordinary way. The Act includes a variety of charitable giving incentives, most notably a version of the long-awaited IRA Charitable Rollover. Individuals 70 years old or older may make a qualified charitable distribution outright to charity in an amount up to \$100,000 per year directly from an Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA).

Under prior law, these distributions would be taxable to the IRA owner, but under the Act, the distribution will be excluded from the donor's taxable income. The IRA Charitable Rollover is only available in 2006 and 2007.

Another benefit of the IRA Charitable Rollover is that the charitable distribution may be used by the IRA owner to satisfy a portion or all of their annual minimum distribution requirements.

## You may take advantage of this new opportunity:

- + if you are age 70½ or older
- + for gifts up to \$100,000 each year
- + if you make the gift on or before December 31, 2007
- + if you transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA

It is important to note that a distribution from an IRA to benefit the ministry of the ELCA must be an outright gift distributed directly from the IRA trustee or administrator. Therefore, life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts are not eligible to be funded by an IRA distribution; nor are distributions to donor advised funds. Distributions from retirement accounts other than IRAs are also not eligible under the Act.

## How to make a gift:

Contact our ELCA Regional Gift Planner Joyce JP Palmer at 816-861-6584 or 816-204-5181.

JP is available to discuss this planned giving opportunity. She can also provide you with sample letters to send to your IRA trustee/administrator **AND** a notification letter to our ELCA Foundation (or ministry organization) to direct where you want

the distribution to benefit (congregation, Bethany Home, Bethany College, Oaks Indian Mission, Synod Lutheran Campus Ministry, MLM, LSTC, Lutheran Family & Children's Services, Hollis Renewal Center, Camp Tomah Shinga, Synod Endowment Fund, Synod where need is greatest, ELCA Disaster Appeal, ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission, ELCA Global Mission, or where the need is greatest).

## Joyce "JP" Palmer

Director/ELCA Regional Gift Planner  
Lutheran Planned Giving

3210 Michigan Avenue Suite 407

Kansas City MO 64109-2055

Phone: 816-861-6584 or Cell: 816-204-5181

E-mail: jcpalmer49@aol.com

## EMERGENCY DEBT RELIEF FUND

As you know, our Synod has had a Mutually beneficial partnership with our fellow Lutherans in the Morogoro Diocese for several years. As you may also know, the Morogoro Diocese has endured financial loss attributable to mismanagement of funds by the previous Bishop of that Diocese. The result is a debt of approximately \$75,000 facing the faithful pastors, evangelists and staff who are remaining true to their ministry and working feverishly to overcome these obstacles, which were not of their own making.

The good news is that Pastor Jacob Mameo, the Acting Head of the Diocese, has done a very good job of candidly sharing the truth of these matters with the members of the Diocese. While, of course, initially there were feelings of anger and mistrust expressed, when confronted with the truth and with the conviction that the Diocese is under new and strong leadership, the people of Tanzania have responded to the call. They are currently meeting their budget for the current year, but they are not able to dig themselves out from under the load of the \$75,000 debt without our help. Bishop Floyd Schoenhals and the Synodical Council have endorsed this campaign to help our Tanzanian brothers and sisters meet the challenge.

Any contributions, which you and your members make for this important cause, should be sent to:

**The Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod  
Note On Memo Line of Check: Emergency Debt Relief Fund  
6931 66<sup>th</sup> East Ave., Suite 310  
Tulsa, OK 74133**

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**Pastor Norman Dake**

### **Sunday Services:**

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

**Sunday School – 9:45 am**

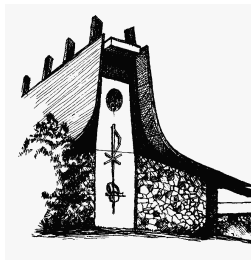
**Office Hours: 8:00am–12:00 noon Mon-Fri**

**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:**

- ✍ **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.**



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