

The **A**scent

March 2007

Ascension Lutheran Church
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A NOTE FROM PASTOR NORM

As I write these words, it is Ash Wednesday. As you read them, we will already be part way through our 40-day Lenten journey.

These 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter do not include Sundays. Even in this penitential season, every Sunday is a little Easter, a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord.

These 40 days correspond to Jesus' 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13), and Moses' 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18; 34:28) when God gave the people of Israel the Ten Commandments. The Biblical use of the number 40 represents a significant amount of time or of human endurance. 40 lashes with a whip were permitted (Deuteronomy 25:3), but not more (2 Corinthians 11:24).

How shall we use our 40 days in preparation for Easter? I suggested in my homily on Transfiguration Sunday that we use this time to "Listen to Him," (Luke 9:35). The beginning of our 5x5x5 small group ministry is a new opportunity for us to "Listen to Him" through Scripture reading and prayer.

Every Sunday is an opportunity to listen as we gather for worship. No one needs to wait until Easter to hear the marvelous good news (Gospel) of Jesus' victory over death and the grave.

During these weeks of Lent we have additional opportunities to listen as we gather on Wednesday evenings (6:30 P.M. for a soup supper; 7:00 for a brief worship service). Our theme for these mid-week gatherings is "Jesus' Encounters on the Way to the Cross." We will listen to what God is saying to us through Jesus' encounters (and ours) with people like Judas, Peter, Simon of Cyrene, the two

criminals crucified with Jesus, and Joseph of Arimathea.

For those of you who are able, my prayer is that you will join our community of faith regularly at Ascension. For those of you who are not able but who are connected to the world wide web, have you checked out our website lately (www.ascensionlutheran.net)? Ed Engelke has updated our webpage, and recent sermons are available there. If you missed one (or more) because of the snow and ice—or if you suffer from insomnia—you'll find homilies there arranged according to the sermon text. Stay tuned for further developments, as Cathy Newsome is working on a whole new design for our website.

Read, pray, worship, and "Listen to Him" during these 40 days.

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 February 11, 2007

The February 11th meeting was called to order at 12:15 with Chris Falkenstein presiding. In attendance were Pastor Dake, Keith Khoo, Eileen Imwalle, Barbara James, Sandy Isakson, Ed Dreyer, DB Woods, Lynn Jacobson, and Roger Nielsen.

Minutes from the Church Council meeting on January 14th were amended and approved by a unanimous vote.

Pastor's Report.

- Pastor Dake reported that Don & Cleta Bixler have transferred to Fellowship.
- The Conference 3 annual meeting will be Sunday February 18th. Pastor, Chris Falkenstein, and Warren Werling will represent Ascension.
- Pastor will be a guest speaker at the Annual Women's Interfaith Sisterhood luncheon to be held at Temple Israel on Feb. 12.
- Pastor attended a meeting in Wichita for the Lutheran Social Services Task Force. They made recommendations concerning the future delivery of Lutheran social services in Kansas and Oklahoma.
- Pastor has invited Tim Veldstra with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to speak to us about programs available with Thrivent for Lutherans in March.
- Pastor supplied us with an update on St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Sand Springs and the pastoral transition there.
- The Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod ELCA Assembly will be held in April at the Tulsa Marriott. Representatives will be needed.

Treasurer's Report.

January 7th finances were reviewed and approved by council as presented. The treasurer's report is available for review. It is posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

Christian Education.

Still looking for someone to head up Christian Education. Until then we will operate as we have been. Roberta Napier has agreed to head up the Youth Group for us. They will be going to an Audio Adrenaline Concert on Feb. 16th.

Evangelism.

Cathy Newsom is updating our Ascension Website. She is looking for additional input for the site.

Worship & Music.

Several members went to the Worship Seminar at Fellowship on Saturday. They will meet Thursday February 15th to discuss the new Hymnal as well as other items on their agenda.

Ministry.

Helping hands will be doing Easter Baskets for Family and Children's Services.

Stewardship.

A flyer was included with last year's giving statement as a reminder to keep Ascension in mind if you are receiving an income tax refund. D.B. Woods will be the council contact for the stewardship committee.

Property.

Chris will be council contact for the property committee. They will be looking at replacing light bulbs and addressing other property items on the Ascension Gift list.

Old Business:

No Parking signs will be posted for the south drive fire lanes

New Business:

Keith Khoo has agreed to coordinate a membership photo directory.

CCE has requested continued use of space for their board meetings. Their request was granted and approved.

Council approved a committee to be formed to prepare for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of our sanctuary dedication in 2008.

Council will be looking for members to chair and participate on our various Committees. If you are interested please let one of the council members know.

Respectfully,
Barbara James

ASCENT NEWS ITEMS;

Please submit any news items by email to norma-dreyer@utulsa.edu or call me at my home phone, 583-3759 by the 21st of each month.

Trinity Ministries' Luther Place community room is in need of the following donations:

1. Bar or larger dorm-sized fridge with freezer compartment
2. Medium sized wood coffee table and 1 end table or narrow sofa table
3. Table lamp; boom box: radio plus CD or tape player
4. Flatware service for 12+, doesn't have to match!; a couple of paring knives; bottle opener
5. Working battery operated wall clock
6. Some good extension cords

If you can provide any of the above, contact Katherine Tooley [599-8002] to arrange pick-up or delivery. The residents thank you!!

TRINITY MINISTRIES EVENTS:

June 23-24: Bus trip to Eureka Springs. Although the trip isn't until June, the motel requires a significant deposit very early on to hold the block of rooms, so the quicker we begin receiving deposits, the better. See the flyer in the Narthex for more information. Contact Trinity Ministries at 794-5041 or see Warren Werling or Billie Lindburg for reservations.

FIRST COMMUNION: While we do not have a set age for first communion here at Ascension, if your child has shown a readiness to receive this sacrament, please talk with Pastor Norm.

DECODING THE LITURGY, Part 6

By Pam Dake

Since this is Part 6 of my series on *the Liturgy*, it is somewhat belated to discuss the meaning of the word "*Liturgy*", but Lorraine S. Brugh brought the oversight to my attention by her discussion of the word in an article published in the February 2007 issue of "The Lutheran". Derived from the Greek "*leitourgia*", it means "work of the people", "...our public service, our work and praise of God together. It doesn't mean 'work' in the sense of accomplishing something to gain God's favor." The concept is active, not passive, and those who attend worship services are not observers, but are active participants in the process. As such, the diversity of God's people will inevitably color the ways in which we worship Him.

Liturgy provides a framework for worship, so, from a general standpoint, any format which is used for this purpose can be considered a "liturgy". But many Lutherans, along with members of many other Christian sects, consider the liturgy to be much more than a framework for worship. Many long-time Lutherans can recite and sing the familiar words of our liturgy as easily as they can the words of the Lord's Prayer or the Apostles' Creed. "... the liturgy allows us to rely on the church's tradition to carry us when we're weary."

"For others, the liturgy seems baffling, confusing or even irrelevant in our contemporary culture. Some see it as complicated or repetitive. Believing it to be an artifact, others attempt to discard the liturgy and create something different."

Martin Luther, in deciding what to keep and what to leave behind as he left the Roman Catholic church, made his choices using the "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," rule. Consequently, our traditional Lutheran liturgical service may look and feel much like that of a Roman Catholic mass, because we all use patterns of words, gestures, and actions which can be traced back to early patterns of prayer and worship. (This may be one reason why so many ex-Catholics find happy new church homes in Lutheran congregations.)

A great deal of the wording used in traditional liturgies is rooted in the scriptural texts of the Old and New Testaments. Perhaps the use of actual Scripture in our liturgy lends authority to our worship. . (Trivia buffs—did you know that the prayer of preparation for confession that begins: "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us..." is from I John 1:8-9?)

Luther was a very open-minded, progressive thinker for his time. He was personally responsible for translating The Holy Bible from Greek and Hebrew into German because he believed that congregants, and not just the clergy, should be able to read it, study it, and draw strength and inspiration from its message.

Brugh states that ... "Gathering, word, meal and sending: This simple pattern—essentially the same that the early Christian church developed—was preserved by Martin Luther who retained the essential parts as he made reforms for his time."

Luther breathed new life into the liturgy, especially in finding ways for all people to participate. He also encouraged poets and musicians to develop new resources, and to publish them in hope of making worship accessible and understandable to all.”

Ms. Brugh states that...“Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the ELCA’s first core worship resource and [“nu-cranberry red”] hymnal that was released last year, applies Luther’s principles for our day. The book provides hymns and liturgical music in many styles and languages, expansive images for God, new and traditional prayers and responses, and new translations of liturgical texts...”

I became a Lutheran in 1981, and was introduced to the green Lutheran Book of Worship, (copyrighted in 1978), as “The New Hymnal”. I have heard it referred to in the same way many times over the years, the most recent instances having occurred since our arrival at Ascension in Tulsa. Author Robert C. Bleza states that, “a

problem can arise when we know the service so well we don’t reflect on its meaning and fail to be led into a deeply meaningful experience of God’s presence.” Luther recognized the value of having worship formats that appealed to a wider array of worshippers, and wanted to find ways to connect with everyone in ways that would be meaningful to them. Ms. Brugh states that, “The liturgy is not only a tradition we bring with us intact from the past. It’s a living and breathing organism, a form enlivened anew with each faith-seeking generation. ‘The church is renewed one text at a time,’ mused a wise pastor. We find ourselves as we sing and pray our way through the liturgy. We gather our desires for God’s presence. We listen for God’s word. We eat God’s meal. And we are sent out to live our lives in God’s world.” As we evaluate the use of this new liturgical resource in our congregation, I encourage you to keep these thoughts in mind.

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**SECOND FRIDAY:** Come join us in Jordan hall on Friday, March 9, from 6-9 pm, for **Second \*\* Friday\*\* Family\*\* Fun\*\* Food\*\* Fellowship Night**. Please bring a potluck dish to share according to the following schedule: Last names A-e: desserts; F-J: main dish; K-R: salads; S-Z: side dishes. Invite your friends.

## Getting a TAX Refund?



Consider giving to meet Ascension’s needs!

If you have good news after figuring 2006 taxes, please consider donating a percentage of any refund to Ascension. Your donation will help our church council to:

- balance the budget
- prepare for unscheduled expenses

**Thank you for thinking of Ascension.**

## COMING EVENTS: March 2007

|                                                                                                                |    |                                                                                              |                                                                  |                                                         |                                                         |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
|                                                                                                                |    |                                                                                              |                                                                  | 1                                                       | 2                                                       | 3  |
| 4<br>Worship 8:30 &<br>11:00<br>Sun. School 9:45                                                               | 5  | 6<br>6-9 pm Family to<br>Family NAMI<br>Education course *                                   | 7<br><b>Lent supper/<br/>Service,<br/>Jordan Hall,<br/>6:30</b>  | 8<br><b>Worship &amp;<br/>music comm.<br/>Mtg. 6:30</b> | 9<br>Second Friday<br>Potluck,<br>Jordan Hall<br>6-9 PM | 10 |
| 11 <b>Daylight<br/>savings time<br/>begins</b><br>Worship 8:30 &<br>11:00<br>Sun. School 9:45<br>Council 12:15 | 12 | 13<br>6-9 pm Family to<br>Family NAMI<br>Education course *                                  | 14<br><b>Lent supper/<br/>service,<br/>Jordan Hall,<br/>6:30</b> | 15                                                      | 16                                                      | 17 |
| 18<br>Worship 8:30 &<br>11:00<br>Sun. School 9:45                                                              | 19 | 20<br>6-9 pm Family to<br>Family NAMI<br>Education course *                                  | 21<br><b>Lent supper/<br/>service,<br/>Jordan Hall,<br/>6:30</b> | 22                                                      | 23                                                      | 24 |
| 25<br>Worship 8:30 &<br>11:00<br>Sun. School 9:45                                                              | 26 | 27<br>Women's Bible<br>Study, 10 am<br>6-9 pm Family to<br>Family NAMI<br>Education course * | 28<br><b>Lent supper/<br/>service,<br/>Jordan Hall,<br/>6:30</b> | 29                                                      | 30                                                      | 31 |

\*National Alliance on Mental Illness course taught by Jim and Ellen Harris. Call for more information and registration.

## HOLY WEEK CALENDAR:

Maundy Thursday service 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary  
Good Friday service 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary  
Easter Sunday 8:30 and 11:00 services

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

3/9 Brenda Ramirez  
3/13 Norman Dake  
3/24 Elaine Baker  
3/28 Bill Bryant  
3/30 Cesar Pena

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



## MARCH READINGS:

### March 4 – Lent 2

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Phil. 3:17--4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

### March 18 – Lent 4

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### March 11 – Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

### March 25 – Lent 5

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126  
Phil. 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

## Serving our Lord, March 2007

| 11:00 am | Nursery Attendant | Ushers                                  | Lectors          | Acolytes        | Communion Assistants             | Lay Assistant    | Greeters                             | Counters                           |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4        | Bonnie Peters     | Doyle Hill/<br>Bill Bryant              | Linda Christy    | Hailey Peterson | Linda Christy/<br>Lynn Jacobsen  | Jerry Peterson   | Linda Christy /<br>Ronda Falkensten  | Merl Lindburg /<br>Mary Faulkner   |
| 11       | Need volunteers   | Doug &<br>Roberta Napier/<br>Stan Lewis | Sandy Isakson    | Preston Napier  | Mary Peterson /<br>Sandy Isakson | Chris Falkensten | Ron &<br>Bonnie Peters               | Stan Lewis /<br>Bonnie Peters      |
| 18       |                   | Ed &<br>Norma Dreyer                    | Mary Peterson    | Nicole Ramirez  | Donna Glocker /<br>Doyle Hill    | Ron Peters       | Bill &<br>Shirley Bryant             | Ronda Falkensten /<br>Denise Khoo  |
| 25       | Ronda Falkensten  | Gerry Oltrogge /<br>Gary Collins        | Katherine Tooley | Alex James      | Ron & Bonnie Peters              | Sandy Isakson    | Brenda Ramirez /<br>Katherine Tooley | Gerry Oltrogge /<br>Jerry Peterson |
| 8:30 am  |                   |                                         |                  |                 |                                  |                  |                                      |                                    |
| 4        |                   |                                         | Keith Khoo       |                 | Denise Khoo                      |                  |                                      |                                    |
| 11       |                   |                                         | Cathy Newsome    |                 | Cathy Newsome                    |                  |                                      |                                    |
| 18       |                   |                                         | Pam Nielsen      |                 | Pam Nielsen                      |                  |                                      |                                    |
| 26       |                   |                                         | Linda Christy    |                 | Linda Christy                    |                  |                                      |                                    |

**\*\* Nursery volunteers are needed. Please sign up in the Narthex. Plan on being in the nursery at 10:30 AM to receive the children as they arrive.**

***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.***



Chris Falkensten working hard.



Women's Bible Study group, Katherine, Sandy, Shirley, Lillian and Pam

## Out of the mouths of babes

Dear God:

please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now.

Amanda

Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before.

You can look it up.

Joyce

I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart I had to have 3 stitches and a shot.

Janet

I read the bible. What does beget mean? Nobody will tell me.

Love Alison

how did you know you were God? Who told you?

Charlene

is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house?

Anita

I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.

Nancy

I like the story about Noah the best of all of them. You really made up some good ones. I like walking on water, too.

Glenn

my Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go?

Love, Dennis

do you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does?

Nathan

did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was it an accident?

Norma

in bible times, did they really talk that fancy?

Jennifer

how come you did all those miracles in the old days and don't do any now?

Billy

please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year.

Peter

maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out OK with me and my brother.

Larry

I keep waiting for spring, but it never did come yet. What's up? Don't forget.

Mark

my brother told me about how you are born but it just doesn't sound right. What do you say?

Marsha

if you watch in Church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes.

Barbara

is Reverend Coe a friend of yours, or do you just know him through the business?

Donny

I do not think anybody could be a better God than you. Well, I just want you to know that. I am not just saying that because you are already God.

Charles

it is great the way you always get the stars in the right place. Why can't you do that with the moon?

Jeff

I am doing the best I can. Really !!!!

Frank

**And, saving the best for last .**

I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday night. That was really cool.

Thomas



Marked with the cross of Christ.  
Our tree trimmers left behind a sign of faith.

## **Ascension Lutheran Church**

4803 South Lewis Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74105-5154  
Phone: 918-743-5741  
Fax: 918-743-4854

**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:**

- Ø 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.
- Ø Worship our Lord through Word and Sacrament, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death as the hallmark of our faith
- Ø Teach our members the relevancy of faith in life.
- Ø Extend care and the call of Christ to each person in accordance with their needs
- Ø Promote fellowship among our members.

Glowing and Growing  
in the Light of the Lord



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