

The *Ascent*

May 2007

Ascension Lutheran Church
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A NOTE FROM PASTOR NORM

In the third article of the Nicene Creed we confess our faith "in one holy catholic and apostolic Church." While the Church has many different members (1 Corinthians 12:12-31), in the Body of Christ we are part of something much greater than ourselves. Here are a few reminders of how our community of faith at Ascension is connected to other expressions of the one Church.

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Assembly.

The A-OK Synod is one of 65 regional synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Except for the Alaska Synod, ours is the smallest with 58 congregations and 86 ordained clergy. In contrast, the Metropolitan Twin Cities area of Minnesota (where there are more Lutherans than people!!) has 284 congregations and almost 1100 ordained clergy in two different synods.

So it was good for us to gather for our annual Synod Assembly April 19-21, to remind ourselves that we are part of a much larger community of faith. Ed and Norma Dreyer were our lay delegates, and they will have their own reflections to share about their experiences at the assembly (see p. 7). Some of the inspirations I took away from that gathering will be shared with the Church Council and in other settings here at Ascension in the weeks to come.

Ascension Day Worship.

Last year we at Ascension were invited to join with members of other Lutheran congregations as well as with sisters and brothers from Episcopal churches to celebrate Ascension Day and Thanksgiving Eve. Now it is our turn.

We will celebrate Ascension Day at Ascension (how appropriate!) by inviting our Lutheran and Episcopal friends to join us on Thursday evening, May 17, at 7:00 P.M. for worship. Following the service, there will be opportunity for fellowship and a growing custom of eating pie. Please bring a pie to share.

Vacation Bible School.

Joy Lutheran Church has invited us to join with them for Vacation Bible School, June 11-15, 6:00-8:30 P.M. The theme for the week is Bible Adventures, and all students in grades 1-6 are invited. Junior and senior high youth are welcome to assist with craft projects. Registration forms are available from the Sunday School teachers or the church office.

In all of these activities we are about the work of our Lord Jesus, mindful that our faith and our ministry are interconnected with those of other believers in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Peace and 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.*

Our condolences go out to the families and friends of Fred Preston who died on April 10th and Rosemary Ohde who died on April 14th. Please remember these families in your prayers.

Church Council Minutes - From April 15, 2007

The April 15th meeting was called to order with Chris Falkensten presiding. In attendance were Pastor Dake, Keith Khoo, Ed Dreyer, Eileen Imwalle, Barbara James, Sandy Isakson, Roger Nielsen, and Lynn Jacobson.

The Minutes from the March meeting were amended and approved.

Pastors Report:

- Pastor reported on the losses of Fred Preston and Rosemary Ohde. Fred's funeral was held last week and Rosemary's will be this coming Tuesday.
- He noted that Grace Wood had her membership activated and transferred to Yuma AZ to Faith Lutheran Church
- Confirmation will be on May 27th, Pentecost Sunday. We will have two students confirmed this year. Rebecca Imwalle, and Preston Napier.
- Joy Lutheran will be hosting a day time Vacation Bible School and has invited us to join them. If you have children that would be interested in attending please contact the office or Barbara James for more information.
- Ed and Norma Dreyer are our delegates for the Synod Assembly. They along with Warren Werling and Pastor Dake will be attending a variety of workshops on Thursday.
- Wednesday the 25th will be Secretary's day and we agreed to provide Mary with flowers and several of us will join her and pastor for lunch on Thursday at Zio's.

Treasurers Report:

The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved by council. It is available for review and is posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

Christian Ed Report:

Keith reported that the youth made \$108 from the Easter Breakfast. They will use this as a start to adopt a child. There will be fundraisers to follow to continue support throughout the year.

Evangelism:

Our redesigned web site is up and running. Thanks go to Cathy Newsome and Ed Engelke.

Worship and Music:

- Flyers have been inserted into the bulletins for the purchase of our new hymnals. You may donate one in honor of or in memory of a loved one.
- The services for Holy Week and Lent had positive feedback.
- The first service will see a few changes within the coming weeks.
- We have hired a new florist, Floral Design Studio. The bouquets will be \$15.00 per vase. If you are interested in donating a bouquet for a Sunday please sign up in the back of the narthex.

Stewardship:

Materials have been ordered for DB to use for his monthly report in the Ascent.

Property:

- We have set the Spring Clean-up day for April 28th. Everyone is invited to join us.
- We have been continuing to use the Christmas funds donated for property. The mound in the back corner has been leveled and we are working on replacing the dumpster. We had a sewer back up and that was addressed. We are looking into new switch controls in order to close the breaker box.
- Additional items discussed were Narthex lighting and No Parking signs for the driveway.
- Warren Werling is checking on a new sign to replace the one that faces Lewis.
- We have not been collecting enough paper for our recycle bin and it may be pulled if there is not an increase.
- We will be putting together a call list for plumbers and electricians so that we can call on the same ones consistently.

Helping Hands:

- We delivered 20 Easter Dinners this spring. We used funds that were left from our Christmas Dinners.
- The bake sale done by the Women's group made \$300. Thrivent will match that amount and they will send \$600 to Oaks.

Old Business:

We reviewed and went over the committee list.

New Business:

For our new pictorial directory Life Touch will be taking pictures on Friday, May 11th, from 2:30 to 9:00, and on Saturday from 10:00-4:30.

Our next council meeting will be held May 20th.

Respectfully,
Barbara James

Moses says: "And the Lord granted his prayer," so the Lord will not disregard our sighs and cries either. Only let us be stirred up to pray. --- Martin Luther

15 ways to pray:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Sing a Sunday school song | 8. Thank God |
| 2. Pray silently | 9. Pray for others |
| 3. If you are angry, say so | 10. Cry |
| 4. Draw a prayer | 11. Laugh |
| 5. Play a prayer on a musical Instrument | 12. Just listen |
| 6. Adore God | 13. Read some psalms |
| 7. Confess | 14. Kneel & talk to God |
| | 15. Walk or run while you pray |

(from **The Funny Shape of Faith**, Augsburg Fortress Press, 2007)

Council Corner

The minutes of each of our Council meetings is published for the entire congregation to review; but in reading these details, we may miss the bigger picture. Our Council's objective is to tend to the needs of Ascension; that boils down to two very specific items – people and dollars. The two are dynamic and linked; when more people attend Ascension, there is the opportunity to receive more contributions.

When Council was confirmed by the Congregation in January, there were two words I asked each of us to remember this year – I WILL. I have tied the words to actions and placed small posters about the Church. They read –

I WILL:

- ASK others to experience our Church.
- CONTRIBUTE what I can to grow my Church.
- VOLUNTEER to help in our Church efforts.
- AND ENJOY THE RESULTS OF MY EFFORTS
!!!!

Next year we celebrate our 40th Anniversary of the opening of our Sanctuary. Pam & Roger Nielsen will act

as our Chairs for this committee and Council will be working with and supporting their planning. There will be a great need, both in dollars and in service. Our celebration will be appropriate and fitting to our Congregation – hopefully a larger Congregation through your efforts.

We all carry a great power to impact and improve our Church. Many in our Congregation have already done a great deal in the past to support Ascension, your time is not finished, your race is not over.

I WILL – it is a simple reminder directed to each of us; not a message for someone else.

We are all a bellwether. So focus on the simple, that which is close at hand. Give as much as possible and invite those you love and know best to worship at Ascension. The rest will take care of itself.

It is a pleasure to be in your service; best wishes to each of you.

Chris Falkensten – Council President

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.

6F: Come join us in Jordan hall on Friday, May 11, from 6-9 pm, for fun and games at our *Fabulous ** Friday ** Family ** Fun ** Food ** Fellowship Night.* Please bring a potluck dish to share and invite your friends.

THRIVENT BUILDS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - DEDICATION DAY!!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 6, 2007 at 3:00pm. This is at 2640 E. 28th Street North. The Oti-Lisa Brown family home is just 4 blocks N.E. of Hwy 75 and Apache. Come out and meet Oti-Lisa Brown and her family, and see what the Tulsa Lutherans have been able to complete in 2 months.

This home is another example of what all the Lutherans can accomplish working together. Some give money, some help feed the workers, some volunteer to work at the site, some have given gifts of all these efforts. It would be very difficult for any one congregation to accomplish all of these tasks alone, but working together it is possible. Just think, we have helped a family be able to move into a decent home. All of you deserve a pat on the back, its okay to claim what we have been able to accomplish working together.

Be sure to thank your congregational champion, who has made all those phone calls, temple talks, news items, asking for your money and time. Thank all the ladies' groups who have purchased and prepared all the noon meals for the workers. Thank all the pastors who came out and gave a devotion at the building site. Also, be sure to thank the Lord for all his blessings and grace.

If you want to come out and help finish the home, you are welcome to come out Wednesday 5/02 at 9:00am. If we have bad weather on that date, we might have to work on Saturday 5/05 to be ready for the dedication.

If you have any questions on the address, time, etc., call 252-1406, or e-mail at hseigfreid@cox.net

Again Thanks to everyone who has took part in this great project for the Oti-Lisa Brown family; see you there on Sunday 5/06/2007 at 3:00pm.
Howard Seigfreid

Dear Women of Ascension:

Thank you so much for the wonderful meal you provided after Dad's service. It allowed us to have a special time with our family and friends where we shared our memories of Dad. Your love and support will always be remembered.

~~The Family of Fred Preston

COMING EVENTS: May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 ; Sunday School: 9:45		1 6-9 pm Family to Family NAMI Education course *	2	3	4	5
6 Luther Home dedication: 3:00 pm	7	8 6-9 pm Family to Family NAMI Education course *	9	10 6:30 pm Worship/Music Committee	11 2nd Friday Potluck, Jordan Hall: 6-9 pm / Membership portraits: 2:30-9:00 pm	12 Membership portraits: 10:00 am – 4:30 pm
13 Mothers' Day Graduate Quilt Ceremony	14	15 6-9 pm Family to Family NAMI Education course *	16	17 Ascension Day service: 7:00 pm /refreshments to follow	18	19
20 Council Meeting, 12:15	21	22 6-9 pm Family to Family NAMI Education course *	23	24	25	26
27 Confirmation	28 Memorial Day	29 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	30	31		

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

5/3	Rebecca Imwalle	5/14	Alexander James
5/4	Lillian Cantrell	5/22	Logan Falkensten
5/4	Duane Johnson	5/24	Ardith Andrist
5/6	Keaton Hubbard	5/25	Pam Kroblin
5/7	Stephanie Faulkner	5/27	Donna Glocker
5/7	Dorothy Ingalls	5/28	Ed Dreyer
5/8	Shauna Gayler	5/28	Doyle Hill
5/11	Kadin Falkensten	5/29	Ethan Falkensten
5/13	Natalee Perrin		



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

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If you would like to purchase a hymnal or other ELW item and dedicate it to a loved one, please fill out the lower section and return it to the office with your payment. We will place a bookplate in the front of your hymnal with your dedication.

Name _____ Phone _____

I would like to donate:

- ELW hymnal(s) at a cost of \$20 each
 Accompaniment edition - \$55 each
 Donation toward CD-Rom (total cost \$395)
 Other donation to cover miscellaneous costs

in honor / memory (circle one) of _____

MAY READINGS:

May 6 – Fifth Sunday after Easter

Acts 11:1-18
 Psalm 148
 Revelations 21:1-6
 John 13:31-35

May 20 – Seventh Sunday after Easter

Acts 16:16-34
 Psalm 97
 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
 John 17:20-26

May 13 – Sixth Sunday after Easter

Acts 16:9-15
 Psalm 67
 Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5
 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

May 27 – Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21
 John 14:8-17 (25-27)

Serving our Lord, May 2007

11:00 am	Nursery Attendant	Ushers	Lectors	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Lay Assistant	Greeters	Counters
May 6	Need volunteers	Doug & Roberta Napier	Chris Falkensten	Preston Napier	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Linda Christy	Dorothy Burgess/ Helen Allen	Merl Lindburg/ Mary Faulkner
May 13		Stan Lewis/ Don Robertson	Sandy Isakson	Hailey Peterson	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Jerry Peterson	Ardith Andrist/ Lillian Cantrell	Stan Lewis/ Bonnie Peters
May 20		Bill Bryant/ Doyle Hill	Mary Peterson	Nicole Ramirez	Betty & Lynn Jacobsen	Chris Falkensten	Mary & Jerry Peterson	Ronda Falkensten/ Denise Khoo
May 27		Ed & Norma Dreyer	Katherine Tooley	Alex James	Lillian Cantrell/ Linda Christy	Ron Peters	Brenda Ramirez/ Katherine Tooley	Gerry Oltrogge/ Jerry Peterson

Altar Guild: Dorothy Burgess, Betty Jacobsen, Elaine Baker, Doris Elliott

8:30 am	Communion	Lector
May 6	Cathy Newsome	Cathy Newsome
May 13	Pam Nielsen	Pam Nielsen

	Communion	Lector
May 20	Linda Christy	Linda Christy
May 27	Eileen Imwalle	Pam Dake

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.

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

Lifetouch Pictorial Directory coming soon!

Please be sure to sign up as soon as possible for a portrait session for Friday, May 11th or Saturday, May 12th. You can sign up online at <http://www.appointment-plus3.com/ap/ascensionlutheran/index.php?page=10> or call Mary at the church office to make your appointment.

10 LITTLE CHRISTIANS

10 Little Christians standing in line
1 disliked the preacher, then there were 9

9 little Christians stayed up very late
1 overslept Sunday, then there were 8

8 little Christians on their way to Heaven
1 took the low road and then there were 7

7 little Christians chirping like chicks
1 disliked music, then there were 6

6 little Christians seemed very much alive
but one lost his interest then there was 5

5 little Christians pulling for Heaven's Shore
but one stopped to rest, then there were 4

4 little Christians each busy as a bee
but one got his feelings hurt, then there were 3

3 little Christians knew not what to do
1 joined the sporty crowd, then there were 2

2 little Christians, our rhyme is nearly done
differed with each other, then there was 1

1 little Christian can't do much 'tis true;
but brought his friend to Bible study -- then there were 2

2 earnest Christians, each won one more
that doubled the number, then there were 4

4 sincere Christians worked early and late
Each won another then there were 8

8 splendid Christians if they doubled as before
In just so many Sundays, we'd have 1,024

In this little jingle, there is a lesson true,
You belong, either to the building-, or to the wrecking-crew!

-- Author Unknown

Solving Your Cash Flow Challenge

At one time or another, most people have found themselves strapped for cash. An unexpected repair, the loss of a job, or simply unchecked spending can push a person into a cash flow crisis. Whatever the cause, the results can be nasty: living paycheck to paycheck, putting too many purchases on a credit card without the means to pay them or even tapping into a home equity line for daily living expenses.

Millions of Americans today face this challenge. Unfortunately, a crimped cash flow often means true priorities—like building a financial safety net for emergencies, funding a child's education and saving for retirement—go ignored for the sake of just getting by. Some simple tips can help address this challenge:

Keep track of expenses: Recording all spending for one month helps to get a better handle on one's cash flow. Recognizing how much is being spent and where the money is going can be a real eye opener, but it's a critical first step to seeing where to cut back and use dollars to fund other goals.

Establish goals to reduce debt: Credit cards offer the easiest route to sliding into debt overload. The more cards a person has, the easier the slide. By creating a list of credit cards, interest rates, outstanding balances and minimum payments, one can see the problem and establish a plan to pay down the debt. Once a credit card is paid off, cancel it. To avoid backsliding, establish little rewards when goals are reached. A good rule of thumb going forward: if you can't pay for it with cash, don't buy it.

Keep one emergency credit card: After cutting one's debt, a person should cut up and cancel those credit cards. Keep one low-rate card for emergency use only.

Don't misuse home equity: Recent all-time low interest rates sparked a dangerous trend of people buying larger homes with bigger mortgages than they could afford. Originally meant for investing in home improvements, home equity lines of credit began being tapped to pay for daily living expenses or frivolous pleasure purchases. Avoid this mistake. Consolidate revolving debt with a home equity loan, since it may lower monthly cash outlays and provide a tax deduction.

Start a systematic savings plan: Finally, by having a regular, systematic savings program, one's saving can be an automatic budget item just like other "non-optional" bills. Contributing to a 401(k) or an Individual Retirement Account and creating an emergency fund helps one save automatically while not needing to rely on credit in case of an unexpected event or job loss.

Managing a cash crunch isn't impossible. By taking charge of the checkbook, most people can both live for the present while investing in their future.

From Thrivent for Lutherans.

Stewardship as Discipleship by Kathryn North (2001, M.Div.)

All we have comes from God.

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is, he replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37) We have been called to love God with ALL that we have. Nothing is excluded. In his book *Loving Jesus*, Mark Powell described this kind of person as a Jesus Freak. The early Christians understood what it meant to be a Jesus Freak. The disciples gave up home, career, and family in order to follow Jesus because they loved him. The next generation of Christians sold everything and put it in one large pot to continue the mission of Jesus Christ.

The principal difficulty with funding a budget through special fund drives is not that it is poor stewardship, it is poor discipleship. When we give towards a special project we often give towards a beloved item. The item itself becomes a god. As we give towards a special fund, we aren't called to consider the abundant generosity of our Lord who provides for all of our needs. Solid discipleship starts with an acknowledgement that God loves us and all that we have comes from that divine love. From that understanding we are able to give all of our being back to God in an act of love. We give up control. Rather than "giving to" something that moves us, we "give from" a heart that is moved to love. Stewardship and discipleship are linked.

Thoughts from A-OK Synod Assembly by Norma and Ed Dreyer

We were pleased to serve as Ascension's delegates to the A-OK Synod Assembly, Thursday, April 19 – Saturday, April 21. While there we experienced two memorable worship services, heard a number of enthusiastic speakers, and participated in a "renewal event," a series of exercises to guide our leadership and congregation in developing both purpose and mission for Ascension.

Congregational and self-renewal were the two themes of the workshops and assembly sessions. Linking these two themes is Luther's idea of "the priesthood of believers" (see Hebrews 7, 9, 10). This concept means that each of us has the capacity to approach God directly through prayer and study with no need for "go-betweens." The essential task of the Church, therefore, is to empower and equip its people to discover and carry out their own ministry. In short, we should serve as priests to one another.

At the end of these three energizing days, we were struck by the following thoughts:

- We may be a small denomination in the U.S., but we are huge in our support of ELCA programs, from food banks and world hunger relief, to global missions and disaster relief.
- Stewardship is much more than the annual pledging process; it also includes service, love and caring for all God-created forms of life in the world (well.....maybe not cockroaches).
- Ascension may be on the small side, but we are blessed with a wonderful group of smart and talented people intent on seeing Ascension make an impact in our community.
- As individuals we may be wary of change, but with an understanding of the challenges we face as a congregation, we can be open to new ideas.

All in all, the assembly experience was both fun and inspiring. In the weeks and months to come, we hope we can share all that we learned and work together to realize the potential that we all see in Ascension.



Upper left: A-OK Synod Assembly

Bottom left: Staff and students from The Oaks. Bell chorus of younger students (seated in the back) and singers in front.

Bottom right: Norma and Ed at work (?)



Ascension Lutheran Church

4803 South Lewis Ave.
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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

**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.**

*Glowing and Growing
in the Light of the Lord*



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