

The *Ascent*

June 2007

Ascension Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR NORM

Whenever I celebrate the Lord's Supper with people in their homes, in the hospital, or in a nursing home, I always commune myself as well as them. Why? Because Holy Communion not only is an occasion for us to commune with God and God with us, it is a visible reminder that we are part of a community of faith. I represent the rest of the Body of Christ for those individuals who cannot always be physically present in our worshiping community, and they represent that same Body of Christ for me.

In the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, we confess:

"I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints . . ."

The "holy catholic Church" and the "communion of saints" are one and the same. The word "catholic" (with a small "c") means universal, and "communion" reminds us that the Church is a community. As the baptized people of God, we are all members of one universal community of believers.

We are the Church, both when we are gathered (as on Sunday morning), and when we are scattered (as we often are throughout the week). We are always connected through the Holy Spirit, who "calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth," (Martin Luther's Small Catechism).

But if we are always connected through our common faith, why is it important for us to gather for worship and Bible study? Can't we read our Bibles by ourselves, and can't we worship God in our gardens or on the golf course? Sure we can, although I wonder if worship is truly at the heart of those ventures through potting soil and sand traps. One of the primary reasons that we gather for worship is the same reason I commune myself along with those who may be confined at home or in a health-care facility: it is the witness that we provide to one another.

In preparation for a recent sermon, I came across the following tongue-in-cheek lyrics from a song by Avery and Marsh, entitled *I Can Be a Christian by Myself*.

I can be a Christian by myself.
Leave my dusty Bible on the shelf.
I'll sing a hymn and pray a bit.
God can do the rest of it.
My heart's the church, my head's the steeple.
Shut the door and I'm the people.
I can be a Christian by myself.

I'll break some bread and drink some wine.
Have myself a holy time.
I'll take the offering then I'll know
Where that money's gonna go.
So please remember, Lord, when I die,
Give me my own cloud in the sky.
After this life with its labors
Don't bug me with needy neighbors.

The truth of the matter is, we cannot be Christians by ourselves.

So as we move into the summer months, we will maintain our worship schedule of two services (8:30 and 11:00) on Sundays. Even on the fifth Sunday, which occurs in July, we will have two worship services. But instead of a potluck lunch afterwards, we're going to try a potluck brunch between services on July 29.

My Sunday morning Bible class will continue at 9:45. For those of you with children who would like to participate, we're planning an informal Sunday School time each week, except for July 29.

We're also planning a congregational picnic for our 6F (Fabulous Friday Family Fun Food & Fellowship) gathering on June 8 at 6:00 P.M. Cathy Newsome has invited us to her home (4530 S. Birmingham Place). Plan to bring lawn chairs and fishing poles, and a side dish or dessert. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.

We won't be Christians by ourselves.

Peace & Blessings!

Pastor Norm

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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.
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Church Council Minutes - From May 20, 2007

The May 20th meeting was called to order with Chris Falkenstein presiding. Those present were Pastor Dake, Keith Khoo, Eileen Imwalle, Barbara James, Sandy Isakson, Roger Neilsen, Lynn Jacobson, and Ed Dreyer.

The minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Pastors Report:

- The memorial service for Rosemary Ode on held on April 17.
- The Women of the Church presented quilts to our high school seniors, Sara Anwar and Jason James on Mother's Day.
- Today, May 20th, we received eight new members into our church. They are Blaine Frierson & Kelly Knopp and their children Brennan Frierson, Elizabeth Balman, Jack Frierson and Peter Frierson; Helen Bradley; and Karol Wagar.
- Rebecca Imwalle and Preston Napier will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 27.
- We hosted the worship service Thursday evening celebrating Ascension Day with interfaith worship of the Lutheran and Episcopal Churches. The offering went to the Center for Counseling and Education. Pie was served in the fellowship hall after the service.

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:

- We have confirmation services next Sunday, May 27.
- We will have a group Sunday School through the summer months. A sign up sheet will be provided. We ask that members sign up for one Sunday during the summer. A bible story, game, craft, and prayer will be the format for the classes. This class will be for all Sundays through the summer, except July 29th.

Worship & Music:

- Contributions and dedications have been made for our new Hymnals and they have arrived. We ordered 79 additional hymnals which brings our total to 91 copies. We also ordered the CD-ROM for the office and bookplates.
- After contributions we still have abiding gifts funds available. A request for wireless microphones was made since there are funds available.

Ascension Day Offering Thanks

The offering from the May 17th Ascension night service totaled \$209.75, which will be forwarded to the Center for Counseling and Education. Thanks to all who attended the service and to all who helped support the work of CCE!

Pastor Norm

- Our next 5th Sunday will be July 29th. We will have both services. At 9:45 am we will have a potluck brunch. A motion was made to make this change and approved.
- Input was made for the 40th Anniversary: Improving our PA system including upgrade to wireless mics.
New signage for Lewis.
Invitations to previous members.
We will look into possible fundraisers.
We will also be asking for any additional ideas, improvements, and contributions.

Helping Hands: Family and Children Services have moved their offices to 8th & Cheyenne.

Old Business

Stewardship:

- An Opportunity to Grow!
- We are taking a look at removing committee expenses off the books through fundraising.
- Time, Talents, & Money.
- Stewardship is responding to the grace of God and using the gifts we have for the service of the Lord. God expects us to live within our means.

Audit: Stan Lewis has agreed to head up the Audit of our books. Two more people will be asked in order to meet constitutional guidelines.

The church committee list was reviewed.

We are still looking into addressing the replacement of the lighting globes and putting in new switch controls. We reviewed a sample of an exterior street sign for Lewis.

New Business:

- New resource: Mission Investment Fund-Making a loan to congregations for remodeling or rebuilding.
- We approved the cover design and added pages for the Church directory.
- The next meeting will be June 10th.

Respectfully, Barbara James

Thank you from CCE

Thank you for your partnership and support of the services of the Center for Counseling and Education. CCE is a non-profit pastoral (faith-based) counseling center that enables spiritual and emotional healing and growth. Clients' fees are set according to their income and family size. A scholarship fund (raised from donations) supplements these costs. Thanks to churches and donors like you, CCE assists more than a thousand individuals, couples and families each year. Your support of CCE is truly a blessing.

Clyde Glandon
Executive Director

President's Monthly Message

There are times when I enter our Church and have a thought...what if all I was there to do was to recite words already memorized by practice, listen to Pastor Duke's sermon, see old friends and meet a few new ones, take away our Lord's teaching and then try to be mindful of the lesson until the next weekend. A simple focus; simple but it could be more engaging.

From last month you may recall the need to make a promise to yourself. 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 !!!!

Please note, each of the lines above is an action that you control; it is not dependant upon someone else, does not need to wait until the sun rises at 7:08am nor does it require a certain amount of physical strength or intelligence. It takes action and many members are already achieving the goal set by their promise.

We have members that VOLUNTEER their time - in the Altar Guild by preparing for every service, as lay assistants, greeters, ushers or lectors during each worship, in our Praise Band leading us in joyous praise during Contemporary Worship, as custodians to keep up with our lawn and maintain our facilities and in many other ways not listed here.

We have members that CONTRIBUTE their money. Last month we had a notable surge in giving and I ask all to continue to join the trend by giving more than what you might have expected to give. Remember, the 2007 budget was approved with a noted **shortfall** totaling \$15,000 – money to come from our savings account if we do not increase our giving.

And finally, please ASK others to experience Ascension. We had 8 new members enter our Congregation in May (see separate story and introduction). I do not know each individual's reason for joining us, but I am certain at some point they were asked by an existing member of our congregation to either attend or come back and join us in service again. I heartily welcome their arrival and should realize there is room for more.

We must continue to challenge ourselves to ask others to join us at Ascension. With more members attending, our congregation will receive more; and the more involved you remain, the more you will receive.

I WILL is a promise made by you for your own benefit – to stay engaged in the activities and needs of our Church. And the 30 words of our promise can be reduced to one – Stewardship. Stay tuned, there's more to come next month.

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: Fabulous * Friday * Family * Fun * Food * Fellowship Night.

Come join us on Friday, June 8, at 6:00 p.m. for a congregational picnic at Cathy Newsome's home (4530 S. Birmingham Place). Please bring lawn chairs and a side dish or dessert. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.

Grocery Pantry Needs: We are in need of peanut butter, fruit, spaghetti sauce, rice, beans, jello, canned meat, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry soap, Please help.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Classes for the program year have concluded. Thanks to our teachers: Keith Khoo, Doug Napier, Roberta Napier, Ellen Harris, Ronda Falkensten, Tina Coates and Barbara James. Informal Sunday school classes will meet throughout the summer, except for July 29th.

Senior Quilt Presentation

Sara Anwar and Jason James

On Sunday, May 13, Sara Anwar and Jason James were honored for their high school graduations and were presented with quilts, hand-made by the ladies of Ascension. We wish them both well as they begin a new journey in life.

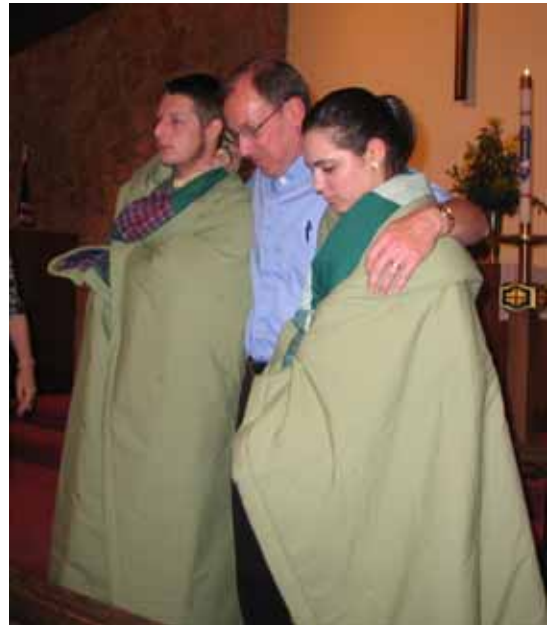


JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

6/1 Dorothy Burgess
 6/13 Sandra Isakson
 6/25 Steve Faulkner
 6/29 Linda Christy



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



JUNE READINGS:

June 3 – Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4; 22-31
 Psalm 8
 Romans 5:1-5
 John 16:12-15

June 10 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 17:17-24
 Psalm 30
 Galatians 1:11-24
 Luke 7:11-17

June 17 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:10, 13-15
 Psalm 32
 Galatians 2:15-21
 Luke 7:36–8:3

June 24 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:1-9
 Psalm 22:19-28
 Galatians 3:23-29
 Luke 8:26-39

Welcome New Members!



Blaine Frierson & Kelly Knopp and their children, Brennan, Jack and Peter Frierson and Elizabeth Balman.



Helen Bradley



Karol Wagar

COMING EVENTS: June 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday School: 9:45					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 F: 6:00 p.m. Cathy Newsome's home	9
10 Council Mtg. 12:15 pm	11 Vacation Bible School, 6-9 pm, Joy Lutheran	12 Vacation Bible School, 6-9 pm, Joy Lutheran	13 Vacation Bible School, 6-9 pm, Joy Lutheran	14 Vacation Bible School, 6-9 pm, Joy Lutheran	15 Vacation Bible School, 6-9 pm, Joy Lutheran	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Trinity Min.. Eureka Springs trip
24 Trinity Min., Eureka Springs trip	25	26 Women's Bible Study 10 a.m.	27	28	29	30

Serving our Lord, June 2007

11:00 am	Nursery Attendant	Ushers	Lectors	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Lay Assistant	Greeters	Counters
3	Need volunteers	Brenda Ramirez / Don Robertson	Linda Christy	Becca Imwalle	Donna Glocker / Doyle Hill	Sandy Isakson	Linda Christy / Ronda Falkensten	Merl Lindburg / Mary Faulkner
10		Clint Britsch / Gary Collins / Stan Lewis	Ronda Falkensten	Hailey Peterson	Sandy Isakson / Mary Peterson	Linda Christy	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Stan Lewis / Bonnie Peters
17		Doug & Roberta Napier	Carroll Werling	Preston Napier	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Jerry Peterson	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Ronda Falkensten / Denise Khoo
24		Ron & Bonnie Peters	Jean Connely	Nicole Ramirez	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Chris Falkensten	Donna Glocker / Sandy Isakson	Gerry Oltrogge / Jerry Peterson

Alter Guild: Ardith Andrist, Lillian Cantrell, Randy Clark, Donna Glocker

8:30 am	Communion	Lectors	<p style="text-align: center;">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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you for volunteering at Ascension!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please mark your calendars for the dates you are assigned to serve.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If you cannot volunteer on your assigned date, please find a substitute and notify the church office (743-5741) of the change.</i></p>
3	Carol Anwar	Carol Anwar		
10	Denise Khoo	Ellen Harris		
17	Eileen Imwalle	Keith Khoo		
24	Linda Christy	Linda Christy		

Helping Hands

Due to popular request, the Helping Hands committee is making some of the holiday jars each quarter. Funds raised will go towards our Adopt a Family program at Christmas. The jars available this time will be Cowboy Cookie, Munchy Crunchy Cookie, Jambalaya, and Beefy Mexican Casserole. They will be \$5 each. We will offer some again in September. If you would like to order some jars, please contact Carol Anwar at 296-0235 **BEFORE June 7th**. We will make enough jars to cover pre-orders only. We will not have any extras to sell.

To the women who worked so hard on my quilt,

Thank you so much! My quilt is so much more beautiful than I had anticipated! I love the designs, the colors, the verse... It is obvious you put a lot of time and effort into it. I really appreciate it very much, and will look forward to using it while I'm away at college so I can be reminded of my loving church family when I am lonely. Thank you so much!

Love, Sara Anwar

I want to thank all the ladies who worked on my quilt. I really love the colors and appreciate the time everyone put into it. When I use it I will always remember my Ascension family.

Thanks, again. Jason.

THRIVENT BUILDS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - LUTHER HOME #3

THANKS TO EVERYONE: The Oti-Lisa Brown home is complete and the Brown family has moved into their new home.

Luther Home #3 was started on 3/10, and completed on Saturday, 5/05, a total of 57 days, and the dedication was on Sunday, 5/06/2007. There was a total of 367 volunteers at the Habitat home during construction, and they worked a total of 2,016 hours. That is an average of 5.49 hours each time a volunteer worked at the Habitat site. The dedication was great, Pastor Sid Flack did the house blessing, and you could feel the Lord was present with all of us.

I want to thank all the Lutherans, Thrivent members, and others who worked at the Oti-Lisa Brown home during the construction. Without your efforts and monies, this Luther Home #3 would not have been built. We had a total of 1,218 volunteers, and they worked a total of 6,340 hours at the three (3) Thrivent Builds Luther Homes for the Vann, Flatt, and Brown families. WOW !!

We are going to take a fall break from construction, so rest up this summer and fall, and get ready to start Luther Home #4 in March 2008. We will apply for the 4th Habitat home this fall and should have the approval mid December.

We want to invite all of you to visit the Thrivent Builds Red Truck display on Sunday, 6/10/2007 from 10:00pm-2:00pm at Fellowship Lutheran church, 6727 S. Sheridan Rd. The big red truck trailer display will explain the Thrivent Builds program of helping to bring decent housing to our neighbors who need our assistance. It will only take about 15 minutes to view the display. We will have some posters and more information on display at each church next week.

Again, THANKS to everyone. May the Lord continue to guide us each day to love our neighbors.
Howard Seigfreid

Trinity Ministries Upcoming Events:

June 23-24: Eureka Springs trip, chartered bus, overnight lodging, buffet dinner, breakfast, Passion Play, Bible Museum, etc. Cost: \$145 each.

July 24, 7 pm: Pastor Dean Maas will present a program based on his recent trip to Rome, Greece, Egypt, Israel, and Turkey. Refreshments. Donations to Trinity Ministries accepted.

August 28, 10 am: Guided tour of Gilcrease Museum. Free.

Prayers from of the mouths of babes

Dear God,

I think the stapler is one of your greatest invention. Ruth

Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy. Joyce

If we come back as something please don't let me be Jennifer Horton because I hate her. Denise

If you let the dinasor not exstinct we would not have a country. You did the right thing. Jonathan

In bible times did they really talk that fancy? Jennifer

I bet it is 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. Nan

I would like to live 900 years like the guy in the bible.
Love, Chris

Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp this year.
Peter

I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying.
Elliott

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

If you give me genie lamp like Alladin I will give you anything you want except my money or my chess set.
Raphael

I am Ameerican. What are you? Robert

If you watch in church on Sunday I will show my new shoes. Mickey D.

We read Thos. Edison made light. But in Sun. school they said you did it. So I bet he stoled your idea.
Sincerely, Donna

Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother. Larry

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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

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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