

The *Ascent*

July 2007

Ascension Lutheran Church
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A Note from Pastor Norm

40th Anniversary Celebration

In one of the petitions in the Kyrie (a part of our traditional liturgy), we pray “for this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise.”

Our “holy house” at Ascension will be 40 years old next year. Our sanctuary was dedicated on May 19, 1968. Some of you may remember the occasion!

As with our own homes, facilities age over the years and show signs of wear, no matter how well they have been maintained. The celebration of the 40th anniversary of our sanctuary seems like an opportune time to reflect on how well this building has served us, and to think about the steps we need to take now to make sure that our facility will continue to be a welcoming and worshipful place for years to come.

The Ascension Church Council has appointed a committee (it’s the Lutheran way) to help us do just that. With Pam and Roger Nielsen serving as co-chairs--with assistance from Lynn Jacobsen, Ed Dreyer, and myself—this group will take the lead in planning for this 40th anniversary celebration.

But we want input from all of you. Elsewhere in this Ascent, you will find a form that invites you to share your ideas, especially as they relate to changes, improvements, or maintenance that you would like to see in our worship space. Now is the time to dream and be creative. Many eyes can see what one pair may not, and many minds can imagine what only one may not. At this stage there are no dumb ideas.

Once you have had an opportunity to share your dreams and visions, our 40th Anniversary Committee will provide leadership for evaluating, cost-analyzing, prioritizing, recommending, funding, and implementing the proposals it receives from you. Our goal is to accomplish this by

May of 2008. It will be a special occasion to offer our worship and praise!

July 1, 2007

On Sunday, July 1 we will implement some changes in our worship:

1. We will dedicate and introduce Evangelical Worship, our new hymnal, at the 11:00 service.
2. We will introduce Cody Lowery, our new organist, also at 11:00.
3. In our prayers we will include a petition for the congregations and pastors in our conference, which extends from Enid in the west to Oaks in the east. Each week we will pray for one of our partners in ministry in Conference 3 of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod. Coincidentally, the list begins with Ascension in Tulsa.

5x5x5

The end of June brings to a conclusion the five-month period of our small group ministry for which we covenanted back in February. We are currently collecting evaluation forms from each of the small group participants. Our plan is to take the rest of the summer to reflect on this feedback. In September we hope to shuffle, and perhaps multiply, the groups to give new people a chance to join and to give all of us an opportunity to fellowship and study within the context of a new group. One preliminary idea for this fall is a day-time 5x5x5 group for those who prefer not to go out at night!

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 - June 10, 2007

The June 10th meeting was called to order with Chris Falkensten presiding. Those present were Pastor Dake, Eileen Imwalle, Barbara James, Sandy Isakson, Roger Nielsen, Lynn Jacobson, and DB Woods.

The minutes from the May 20th meeting were approved.

Pastors Report:

- On May 27th, Rebecca Imwalle and Preston Napier were confirmed.
- The 5x5x5 study groups will be coming to an end in June with a couple of groups continuing to meet. In September we will resume the 5x5x5 and change groups.
- Pastor has written an article for the newsletter that Conference 3 is planning.
- Beginning in July, the Sunday prayers will include prayers for the congregations in Conference 3.
- Pastor will be on vacation July 2-10. Pastor Dan Breunsbach will be our supply pastor. Thrivent will do a presentation on Simply Giving on July 8 in the adult classroom during the Sunday school hour.

Christian Education:

- The Adult Sunday school class will continue throughout the summer. The children's regular classes have finished for the summer, but we will have a combined children's Sunday school class. Volunteers have been asked to sign up to teach one or more Sundays during the summer.
- The Napiers will be hosting a pool party for the youth group on June 22nd. They will be making plans for the rest of the summer. Group members are invited to bring a friend.

Worship and Music:

- Tina, our organist, has resigned. Several entities have been contacted to search for another organist. We have an applicant that is being interviewed and considered, but will continue to take applicants until a decision has been made.
- Mary has begun to create the bookplates for the new hymnals. We will start to utilize the hymnals once an organist has been hired.

Stewardship:

The stewardship committee is looking for one more person. They will be meeting in late August to prepare for the next stewardship drive.

Ministries:

The helping hand cupboard is looking bear. We are in need of donations especially the basic items like tuna, canned spaghetti, beans, and other non-perishable staples.

Treasurer's 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. Treasurer has plans to start using the new checking account starting July 1st.

Old Business:

The new committee lists are posted outside the office.

We are still looking for an additional person to be on the audit committee in order to meet constitutional guidelines.

Bylaw changes for the budget due date will be handled in the August meeting.

New Business:

40th Anniversary: The committee will ask for ideas and feed back from the congregation through inserts and the Ascent as to what activities and enhancements they would like to see. Once they are collected they will be reviewed and discussed by the Anniversary committee. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Roger or Pam Nielsen.

Suzanne Tips with Musik Garten has requested the use of the facility for music and movement classes, birth to 9 years, to include piano lessons for 6-9 yrs. The council will look into the possibilities.

We will defer discussing the Consensus report to our July meeting.

Property will be looking at doing a summer property clean-up day.

Our next meeting will be July 15th.

Respectfully,
Barbara James

A Message from your Stewardship Committee:

What would you be willing to change in your life to become a joyful steward of all that God has given you? Read 1 Chronicles 29:9 and 2 Corinthians 8:2.

"Joyful people will be generous people, and generous people will be joyful people--it is difficult to say which is cause and which is effect, for either appears to produce the other." (Milo Kauffman, *Stewards of God*)

Taken from an article by Susan Humphrey,
Joy Lutheran Church

President's Corner

Over the past few months, my message has focused on a promise I asked you to make to yourself - to give what you can of your time and money and to ask others to experience our Church and its activities.

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 !!!!

We are Stewards to our Church and each element above supports our Church in three vital areas. These are actions we control and change, sometimes not easily.

Our Church receives great financial support from our Congregation. While there is a very tangible need to increase our giving to maintain a balanced budget, there is a finite quantity each of us can give before jeopardizing our own livelihood and well being. I thank each and every member for what they have continued to give.

Similarly, our time is precious and we have always received support from our Congregation. I am grateful for the help and assistance in the past and know we will receive more in the future.

BUT, there is one element in our promise that is a wildcard – it is probably the most difficult for us to do, but it carries a huge, hidden, positive impact for our Church.

It is ... ASK others to experience our Church. No matter who it may be – family, friend, neighbor, co-worker, or a clerk at the local store.....each of us will find it difficult to summon the courage to ask someone about their worship practice. And every situation is unique: the who, where, when, and how to enter into the discussion creates fear – fear of embarrassment for both people, fear of being rebuked or chastised, fear of losing a relationship - fear.

ASK we must. As we increase the number of people attending Ascension, we all benefit on many levels – more dollars may be received by the generosity of more people, more people to help with Council and Committee efforts, and more members to ask others to experience our Church.

So make the experience enjoyable: You select the best time, place, and way to ask someone to join you for worship and learning at Ascension. And here is something you may not know; from *The Unchurched Next Door* by Thom Rainer:

- 82 percent of the unchurched say they are “somewhat likely” to attend if invited.
- Most unchurched feel guilty about not attending.
- Many of the unchurched are more concerned with the spiritual well-being of their children than of themselves.
- Very few unchurched have had someone share with them how to become a Christian or had its influence in their lives.
- The attitudes of the unchurched do not correlate to where they live, their ethnic or racial background or their gender.
- Finally, only two percent of Church members ever invite an unchurched person to church.

So, we know it is difficult for us to summon the courage to ask another, but most people that do not attend a church service likely want to and would be receptive to an invitation, especially if they have children to consider.

Our action will be our legacy to the next 40 years at Ascension – ask someone you care about to visit and attend activities with you. Through your action, our Church will increase its capabilities, its reach will be magnified through others, you will set an example for all members, we will likely see increased contributions and we can establish new leaders for our Congregation in the future.

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: Please join us in Jordan Hall on Friday, July 13, from 6-9 pm, for

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

We will have a square dance demonstration and an opportunity to learn the steps. Come kick up your heels or just observe. Please bring side dishes and desserts to compliment a barbecue style meal.



6F Picnic at Cathy Newsome's home.
Thank you, Cathy, for serving as our host for this fun outing.

COMING EVENTS: July 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday School: 9:45	2	3 <i>Ed Engelke Doris Kurin</i>	4 Independence Day	5 <i>Hayly Helm</i>	6	7
8 <i>Ronda Falkensten</i>	9 <i>Lynn Jacobsen</i>	10	11	12 Worship & Music 6:30 pm	13 5 F – 6:00 pm, Jordan Hall	14
15 Council Mtg. 12:15	16 <i>Mary Peterson</i>	17	18	19	20 <i>Keith Khoo Kelsey Khoo</i>	21
22 <i>Stacey Baker Ron Oestmann</i>	23	24 Trinity Ministries, Bethany Lutheran, 7 p.m.	25 <i>Roger Nielsen</i>	26	27	28
29 Fifth Sunday Potluck brunch 9:45	30	31				

Birthday honorees are highlighted in italics on the calendar. If your birthday does not appear, please contact the church office at 743-5741 so we may update our records.

JULY READINGS:

July 1 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:15-16; 19-21
Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

July 22 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 8 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6: (1-6) 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 29 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

July 15 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Trinity Ministries Upcoming Events:

July 24, 7 p.m. – 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 a.m. – Guided tour of Gilcrease Museum. Free.

FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUNCH BRUNCH: There will be two services as usual on the fifth Sunday, July 29th. We will have a potluck brunch at 9:45 AM between services in Jordan Hall. Please bring breakfast casseroles, fruit, muffins, bagels, etc. for the brunch.

Bible Stories & Kids

STORY OF ELIJAH ~~The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut a steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

"Now," asked the teacher, "Can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

LOT 'S WIFE ~~ The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot 's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

GOOD SAMARITAN ~~ A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH? ~~ A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark ?"

"No," replied David. "How could he, with just two worms?"

HIGHER POWER ~~ A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES AND THE RED SEA ~~ Nine-year-old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea , he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD ~~ A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task -- but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
The grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

Serving our Lord, July 2007

11:00 am	Nursery Attendant	Ushers	Lectors	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Lay Assistant	Greeters	Counters
1	Need volunteers	Gerry Oltrogge	Linda Christy	Alex James	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Ron Peters	Mary Faulkner / Barbara Shelby	Merl Lindburg / Mary Faulkner
8	Eileen Imwalle	Merl & Billie Lindburg	Lillian Cantrell	Becca Imwalle	Lillian Cantrell / Linda Christy	Sandy Isakson	Betty & Lynn Jacobsen	Stan Lewis / Bonnie Peters
15		Doug & Roberta Napier	Brenda Ramirez	Preston Napier	Donna Glocker / Doyle Hill	Linda Christy	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Ronda Falkensten / Denise Khoo
22		Bill Bryant / Doyle Hill	Pam Dake	Hailey Peterson	Sandy Isakson / Mary Peterson	Jerry Peterson	Helen Allen / Dorothy Burgess	Gerry Oltrogge / Jerry Peterson
29		Brenda Ramirez	Sandy Isakson	Nicole Ramirez	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Chris Falkensten	Ardith Andrist / Lillian Cantrell	Mary Faulkner

Alter Guild: Helen Allen, Linda Christy, Mary Peterson, Bonnie Peters

8:30 a.m.	Communion	Lectors
1	Cathy Newsome	Cathy Newsome
8	Pam Nielsen	Pam Nielsen
15	Pam Nielsen	Pam Dake
22	Pam Nielsen	Pam Nielsen
29		Pam Dake

Please Help!

**** 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).

Sanctuary 40th Anniversary in 2008

Your ideas for changes, improvements and maintenance of the Sanctuary:

Please cut this section off and return it to the church. You may place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you for your ideas.

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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