

The *Ascent*

August 2008

Ascension Lutheran Church
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A NOTE FROM PASTOR NORM

This morning (July 22) I received a letter from one of my prison pen pals, a member of the St. Louis County Jail Alumni Association. I'll call him Richard, because he has grown to be rich in the Lord. Richard's letter was filled with disappointment and discouragement. In early June the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole reviewed Richard's petition for parole after more than 18 years in prison.

In 1990 Richard killed his girlfriend and landed in jail with a contract on his head. His girlfriend's family wanted revenge. Because he was afraid to participate in any group activities like Bible study or worship services, I began to meet with Richard one-on-one. During our first meeting, I gave Richard a Bible which he began to read. Some time later, Richard asked me for a new Bible; he had worn the first one out from reading it. Then it seemed like every time I turned around, Richard was asking me for another Bible, and another, and another. Only these Bibles were not for Richard; they were for the inmates in the surrounding cells to whom Richard was witnessing. For more than 18 years Richard has been a devoted disciple of our Lord Jesus and a faithful witness to what God has been doing in his life.

In May I wrote a letter of recommendation to the Board of Probation and Parole, encouraging them to grant Richard's petition for parole. On July 16, he received their response. Richard is to be paroled on November 21, 2010.

Is this good news or bad? From the tone of his letter, I know that Richard is disappointed. He was hoping that his petition would be granted and that he would be paroled immediately. So Richard is discouraged. But I responded to the news in Richard's letter with relief and excitement, because

Richard finally has an out-date. While I don't have to "do time" for Richard during the next 16 months, I know that a previous petition for parole was simply denied. While Richard considers this disappointing news, I find it hopeful.

Is that how it is with our prayers? We may not only ask God for healing or a solution to a problem, we may develop expectations as to how God should answer our prayers and by when. If God doesn't come through in the way we expect, we may be disappointed, and in our disappointment we may miss the grace of God.

St. Paul had a "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7). Again and again and again Paul prayed for healing; again and again and again God said "no," (2 Corinthians 12:8). No doubt Paul was disappointed and discouraged. But there was more to God's response than a simple, "I'm not healing you." God said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness," (2 Corinthians 12:9). In effect God said to Paul, "I'm not healing you. But I'll give you the strength to live with the thorn in the flesh."

There is often more than a simple "yes," "no," or "not now" from God in response to Richard's prayers and ours. There is God's promise, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Don't miss the grace.

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

July 20, 2008

The July 20th meeting was called to order with Keith Khoo presiding. In attendance were Barbara James, Eileen Imwalle, Sandy Isakson, Ed Dreyer, Lynn Jacobsen, Roger Nielsen, and Pastor Dake.

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Pastors Report:

- Nathaniel Griffin was baptized June 22nd and Beth Griffin became a member through Affirmation of Faith.
- Chris & Ronda Falkensten and family have transferred to Fellowship Lutheran.
- Pastor Dake attended Christian Companion Senior Care Seminar on July 17, and will be attending the Just Faith Conference on August 23. He will represent the A-OK Synod at the Book of Faith Conference August 15-16th in Chicago.
- The Eastern Oklahoma Conference of A-OK Synod will be held October 5th at Salem Lutheran Church in Stillwater. We can send 4 delegates if members are interested in attending.
- On August 24th Bishop Schoenhals will speak at both services and in the adult class on Global Missions.
- Pastor will leave on Vacation July 30th and will be back in the office on August 19th

Treasurers Report:

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

Jim Harris gave us a report on the roof. We have received a couple of bids and are waiting for more information before making any decisions,

Evangelism:

Cathy is still working on the updating the web site.

Worship and Music:

The committee will pick a hymn of the month for the 11:00 service that we will be singing each Sunday of the month. We will be changing the order of worship to a different setting in the fall.

There will be no August meeting.

Ministry:

- We will have our dessert auction on October 26th.
- The council has approved a letter to be attached to grocery sacks the youth will deliver throughout the neighborhood. We will also have these available for congregation members.

Christian Education:

The youth will discuss going to New Orleans next July for the Lutheran National Youth Gathering.

New Business:

A motion was made and approved to allow Toastmasters to use the facility on September 13.

A couple of volunteers will be here for day of caring through Family and Children Services on September 12 to do general cleaning. This is F&CS's way of thanking us for the services we provide. Keith will put together a list of activities and Barbara, Sandy, and Eileen will supervise and provide lunch.

Katherine Tooley has requested funds for restoration of old scrap books. We will request amount that will be needed and discuss at next meeting.

The next meeting will be August 24th and DB Woods will provide lunch and Devotion.

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.

SIMPLY GIVING: If you are interested in the Simply Giving program, please contact Mary in the church office. Simply Giving is a service for people who wish to have their offerings transferred electronically to the church's account rather than having to write checks.

This and That

PASTOR ON VACATION: Pastor Norm will be on vacation beginning July 30th, and will be back in the office on August 19th. For pastoral care services, call the church office (743-5741), Linda Christy (346-1112), or Blaine Frierson (695-5979).

TRINITY MINISTRIES: Saturday, August 23, 5:00 p.m. Bluegrass concert and ice cream social at First Lutheran Church.

FINANCES: Our year-to-date giving has fallen significantly behind our budget requirements. With the coming of summer vacations, please keep your pledges current and help us wipe out our deficit. Give as God has given to you. If you would prefer the ease of electronic donations, talk to Mary in the office about "Simply Giving".

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE? What do we believe about heaven, hell, the resurrection of the dead, purgatory and the afterlife. What is the historical orthodox view? Is it compatible with the contemporary church's views? What happens when we die? On the Sundays of August 3, 10, and 17, Blaine Frierson will explore these themes in our Adult Sunday school class using a controversial new book by famous New Testament Scholar N.T. Wright, called *Surprised by Hope*. We will search New Testament passages in depth, and see what they really mean.

HELPING HANDS TAG-ALONG: Our Helping Hands Food Pantry is vital to the hungry of our community, but is often an invisible ministry of our congregation. Let's make it more visible. Spend about an hour and 45 minutes to learn from Barbara and Eileen's "Show and Tell." They can work with 1-2 people each week, and there are sign-up sheets in the narthex to help you schedule a time to come and see (**Tuesday** is the regular day, and **8:00-9:45** is the usual time). No heavy lifting required.

FOOD PANTRY is in need of supplies. On your next trip to the grocery store, please consider picking up a little extra for our pantry. Special needs include canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, spaghetti and sauce, canned tuna, canned meat, beans and rice.

LOSING WEIGHT, GAINING FAITH: The 3D (Diet, Discipline, Discipleship) Plan is a small-group program focusing on wholeness in all aspects of life, from the physical to the spiritual. Participants make small, gradual changes in their diet, lifestyle and discipleship practices. Pam Dake is looking into forming a new 5x5 group based on the 3D Plan. For more information, please contact Pam at 747-8557.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: There will be no Bible study during the summer months. Our next Bible study will be on Tuesday, September 23rd.

6F – Fabulous Friday Family Fun Food & Fellowship Night: We will not have a 6F night in August. Our next 6F night is planned for September 12. Join us at 6:00 PM in Jordan Hall for a potluck meal and activity to be announced. Pam Dake is in need of assistance to help with the planning of the evening. If you can help out, please call Pam at 747-8557.

JUSTFAITH WORKSHOP: On Saturday, **August 23**, from 10:00 AM until 2:30 PM, an Introductory Workshop on *JustFaith* will be presented at Christ Church Episcopal, 109 & Yale. *JustFaith* seeks to assist the world's hungry by organizing churches to lobby our nation's decision-makers. The workshop is a joint presentation of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of OK. Registration fee is \$25 and includes lunch. Please see the church office for more information.

HEAL OUR LAND CONCERT: You are invited to attend a bilingual concert with the well known praise and worship leader Darrell Evans on Saturday, **August 30th**, at 6:00 PM at Iglesia Piedra Angular (Cornerstone Hispanic Church), 13016 E. 4th Place in Tulsa. Darrell Evans is known for his songs, "I'm Trading My Sorrows", "Field of Grace", "So Good to Me", "Your Love is Extravagant", and many more. Also appearing will be the ORU worship band, dramas and Live Hip-Hop Dance Team. Tickets are \$10 (\$8 for kids 8 and under) and can be purchased online at www.okctickets.com or buy them at the door.

"ONE SONG, MANY VOICES": A 500-voice Community Choir is now being formed to perform at the **BOK Center's Community Multi-Faith Celebration** to be held on Sunday, **August 31**, from 3:00 – 4:15 PM. This celebration is part of the Grand Opening festivities for the new BOK Center. It will provide a wonderful opportunity for you to see the Center and participate in an exceptional spiritual event. Eleven spiritual leaders will lead the blessing ceremony. And, the celebration is free! All interested persons age 18 and over are invited to participate in the choir. No auditions will be held. There will be four rehearsals on August 14, 19, 21, and 26 at the Tulsa Convention Center and a dress rehearsal on August 30 at the BOK Center. To sign up for the choir, go to <http://www.cityoftulsa.org/ShortPrograms/index.asp> or call 596-7806.

FURNITURE NEEDED: Cornerstone Assistance Network is requesting gently used furniture donations for needy families in the community. Items needed are beds, couches, dining tables and chairs, end tables, refrigerators, washers and dryers. Please only donate items that don't need repairs or cleaning that can be immediately given free to families. You may drop items off at 1120 N. Peoria or call to have it picked up in within Tulsa. Call Chris Beach, Director of Cornerstone at 918-583-3670 or 918-734-0471.

COMING EVENTS: August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday School: 9:45					1 Church office closed <i>Ellen Harris</i> <i>Barbara James</i> <i>Alden Coleman</i>	2 <i>Tresa Helm</i>
3 <i>Nathaniel Griffin</i>	4	5	6	7 <i>Bonnie Peters</i> <i>Melissa Born</i>	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Church office closed	15 Church office closed ~Pastor Norm in Chicago-Book of Faith Workshop>> <i>Cathy Newsome</i>	16 <i>Dave Imwalle</i>
17 <i>Jack Frierson</i>	18	19 <i>Andrea Engelke</i>	20 Daytime 5X5, 10:30 <i>Christie Pena</i>	21 <i>Michelle Engelke-Griffith</i>	22 <i>Helen Bradley</i>	23 10:00 JustFaith wrkshp, Christ Church Epis./ 5:00 Trin.Min. concert
24 12:15 Council Mtg. <i>Sandi Biggs</i>	25 <i>Dave Devault</i>	26	27 <i>Barbara Shelby</i>	28	29	30
31 BOK Multi-Faith Celebration, 3:00-4:15						

Birthdays 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.

AUGUST READINGS:

August 3 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5
 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
 Romans 9:1-5
 Matthew 14:13-21

August 10 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18
 Psalm 85:8-13
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-33

August 17 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
 Psalm 67
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 24 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6
 Psalm 138
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

August 31 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21
 Psalm 26:1-8
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

A “Back to School” Concert

Hans Peterson and Larry Olson of Dakota Road

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

9940 S Yale Avenue

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

4:30-5:30 PICK UP CHOIR REHEARSAL*

5:30-6:30 DINNER PROVIDED BY THRIVENT

6:30-8:00 CONCERT

ALL ARE WELCOMED TO ATTEND

*PICKUP CHOIR IS FOR VOCALISTS AND MUSICIANS WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN SOME OF THE SONGS AND HELP WITH THE CONCERT
PLEASE RSVP TO 299-3292 IF INTERESTED IN SINGING OR PLAYING



Notice anything different?

The awning over the office entrance has been installed! Now visitors will not have to stand in the rain waiting for us to come to the door. And we can go to the mailbox without getting wet!

Serving our Lord, August 2008

11:00 am	Nursery Attendant	Ushers	Lectors	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Lay Assistant	Greeters	Counters
3	Need volunteers	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Karol Wagar	Elizabeth Balman	Donna Glocker Lynn Jacobsen	Blaine Frierson	Donna Glocker Sandy Isakson	Merl Lindburg Mary Faulkner
10		Clint Britsch Stan Lewis			Linda Christy	Sandy Isakson	Randi Clark Karol Wagar	Stan Lewis Bonnie Peters
17		Doug & Roberta Napier	Sandy Isakson	Nathan Napier	Mary Peterson	Ron Peters	Mary Faulkner Barbara Shelby	Denise Khoo
24		Doyle Hill DB Woods	Pam Dake		Ron & Bonnie Peters	Jerry Peterson	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Gerry Oltrogge Jerry Peterson
31		Ed & Norma Dreyer	Katherine Tooley	Elizabeth Balman	Barbara James Karol Wagar	Linda Christy	Merl & Billie Lindburg	Mary Faulkner

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

8:30 a.m.	Communion	Lectors	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please Help!</i></p> <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;">Please mark your calendars for the dates you are assigned to serve.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you cannot volunteer on your assigned date, please find a substitute and notify the church office (743-5741).</p>
3	Linda Christy	Linda Christy		
10	Tom Williams	Tom Williams		
17	Denise Khoo	Pam Dake		
24	Cathy Newsome	Ellen Harris		
31	Pam Nielsen	Jim Harris		

Altar Flowers Provided by:

3	Ron & Bonnie Peters Dwayne Johnson in memory of Shirley
10	Mary & Jerry Peterson in honor of the start of school
17	Katherine Tooley in honor of her mother's birthday
24	Dorothy Burgess in memory of Bill
31	Betty & Lynn Jacobsen in memory of Jane

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2008

Prepared to Care *Enterprise, Ala.*

When a tornado struck Enterprise, Ala., in March 2007, the members of Christ the King Lutheran Church were equipped to respond, bringing help and hope to the community.

Only 18 days before, two seminary interns had come to this small city to give a presentation at Christ the King on behalf of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). Prior to the presentation, many members of the congregation had never heard of LDR, a collaborative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The members of Christ the King started putting together their congregational plan, and several members agreed to serve on a disaster preparedness committee. Just over two weeks later, a devastating storm tore through the city, destroying two schools, leveling portions of downtown and residential areas, and killing eight high school students.

When Lutheran Disaster Response personnel arrived the next morning to begin assessing the situation, members at Christ the King were their first contacts. The church was soon named as the volunteer reception center for anyone coming to help, and within a month, nearly 4,000 volunteers participated in work projects around Enterprise.

Donations to ELCA Domestic Disaster Response fund hardship grants, spiritual and emotional care, disaster preparedness, volunteer coordination, and other relief and recovery efforts. ELCA Domestic Disaster Response works through Lutheran Disaster Response and its affiliates. To learn more about the work of the ELCA in disaster response, visit www.elca.org/disaster.

For more Stories of Faith in Action, visit www.elca.org/stewardship/interpreting.html.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.



STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2008

Breakthroughs *Englewood, Ill.*

Last fall, 14-year-old James wrote a summer vacation essay. His teacher was amazed at the people James met, the books he read and the field trips he took, not to mention his collecting signatures supporting

children's health care sent to senators and the governor—all in six weeks. James earned his first "A" last fall, and his mentor John was among those celebrating.

James is one of 12,000 children in Chicago's Englewood community who faces violence, drug dealing, and warring gangs.

James is also a student at the Bethel Imani Children's Defense Fund Freedom School.

Your mission support is helping to fund the Freedom School through an ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit grant, along with the City of Chicago and other sponsors.

The Freedom School provides free, high-quality summer programming, including reading, conflict resolution and social action for children and youth ages 5-18 in Englewood where 43 percent of residents live below the poverty level. Year-round mentors for the children and weekly workshops for parents also are available.

"It is our intention to inspire and motivate children living in this neighborhood to want to read and learn, and to help them discover their own identities and unique gifts and talents in a safe environment," said Paulette Corney, executive director, Bethel Imani CDF Freedom School.

Bethel Imani Lutheran Church sponsors the Freedom School, which began its ministry in the summer of 2006 as one of 102 Children's Defense Fund sites serving 7,700 children across the United States. Other Lutheran-affiliated sponsors include local St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

For more Stories of Faith in Action, visit www.elca.org/stewardship/interpreting.html.



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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:

Responding to God's love,

We faithfully

Welcome

Worship

Grow

Witness

Serve

***Glowing and Growing
in the Light of the Lord***

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