

The *Ascent*

September 2008

Ascension Lutheran Church

4803 South Lewis Avenue

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A Note from Pastor Norm

As most of you probably know, I recently spent 12 days in India. Why did I go and what did I learn?

It's all about family. My daughter-in-law Divya (Mary-Susan for those who prefer the Americanized version of her name) and her family are natives of India, although her parents now live in Botswana. Her sister Sowmya (Mary-Anna to her U.S. friends) is an ORU graduate and lives here in Tulsa. She and her fiancé Sajeev decided to be married in his hometown of Trivandrum, India. Prior to receiving their wedding invitation, I really had had no desire to visit India. But since we are part of her American family, I was delighted to be part of their special day.

One holy catholic and apostolic church. The wedding was at Trinity Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Trivandrum. While I have known American Lutheran pastors who have served as missionaries to India, the Mar Thoma Syrian Church traces its origins to St. Thomas (AKA "Doubting Thomas"), one of Jesus' twelve disciples, who tradition says visited India prior to his death and founded the church there. Sajeev's father teaches at the church's seminary in Trivandrum.

The wedding ceremony itself consisted of two parts: The Engagement—Blessing of the Rings, and The Marriage—Blessing of the Crowns. The Blessing of the Rings recalls the gold ornaments given to Rebekah in Genesis 24 (although there the gold ring was placed in Rebekah's nose!) when Abraham's servant set out to find a wife for Isaac. During the Blessing of the Crowns, the minister uses a gold chain to crown the heads of the bride and the bridegroom while praying that they may be adorned with the crown of righteousness and joy all the days of their life. Neither the bride nor the bridegroom utters a single word during the ceremony, not even an "I do." Most of the service was in English, with portions in Malayalam, the native language of the state of Kerala in southern India. Except for using "debts" instead of "trespasses," the Lord's Prayer was identical to the form we have appropriated from the King James Version of the Bible.

Even though in a different culture and 8,000 miles away from Tulsa, I was reminded that all the people of God in Christ Jesus are joined together in one holy catholic and apostolic church, as we profess in the words of the Nicene Creed.

Leaky buckets for the newlyweds. At the wedding reception I was invited to offer a blessing of the couple and the meal. I began by retelling the story of the leaky bucket from my homily here at Ascension on July 27 (see www.ascensionlutheran.net if you missed it). I encouraged Sowmya and Sajeev, when they think they have found a crack in their spouse, not to wish for a different bucket, but to find a way to plant flower seeds instead, trusting that in all things God works for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28). How the folks at the reception loved that story!!

Signs of new life and resurrection. During the nearly three days that it took me to get home from India, after a 13-hour layover in the booming metropolis of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, I had a 7½-hour layover in New York. (That 7½ hours would eventually grow to more than 12 hours, but that's another story.) Rather than sitting around JFK Airport for the better part of a day, I took the subway down to Manhattan. On my last visit to New York City more than 10 years ago, my boys and I had taken an elevator to the top of one of the World Trade Center towers to get a bird's-eye view of New York. This time I went to see Ground Zero, the site where the Twin Towers had stood prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Out of that massive hole in the ground, building cranes and new construction are beginning to emerge. That site which saw so much death and destruction seven years ago, is now showing signs of new life and resurrection.

It is new life and resurrection with which God blessed the world on Easter morning. It is that new life and resurrection that we gather to celebrate as the people of God, whether in Tulsa, Oklahoma or New York City or Trivandrum, India.

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 August 24, 2008

The August 24th meeting was called to order with Keith Khoo presiding. In attendance were Barbara James, Eileen Imwalle, Sandy Isakson, Ed Dreyer, DB Woods, Kelly Knopp, and Pastor Dake.

Keith called the meeting to order. Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Pastors Report:

- Doris Kurin passed away on August 21st and her funeral will be August 25th.
- Pastor attended the Book of Faith Advocates workshop in Chicago on August 15-16. He will be the Book of Faith advocate for the Ark/OK Synod.
- The OK Synod Conference 3 Annual Meeting will be October 5th in Stillwater. Pastor will be attending and is still looking for delegates to attend with him. The theme will be Congregational Leadership as Ministry.
- September 7th is Rally Day. We will have a brunch and a congregational meeting addressing the roof. We will also collect non-perishable items for the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

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.

Worship and Music:

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.

This and That

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 forming a new 5x5 group based on the 3D Plan beginning **September 8th** at 7:00 PM in the adult classroom. For more information, please contact Pam at 747-8557.

6F – Fabulous Friday Family Fun Food & Fellowship Night: 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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Our next Bible study will be on Tuesday, **September 23rd** in the adult classroom. Lillian Cantrell will be our hostess and Katherine Tooley is the study leader. Please join us.

Beginning in September we will use a new setting for the 11:00 service.

Old Business:

We will table the restoration of the Anniversary photos till next month.

New Business

- We will present the roof options to the congregation at the meeting on Sept. 7th. We will also address the parking lot repair.
- We will not be renewing our contract with the current cleaning company.
- Suzanne Tips has requested putting signage in the yard on Lewis for her new session of piano classes. The request was approved.
- Eileen has requested use of the fellowship hall for the Edison Chinese exchange program dinner on September 2nd. Request was approved.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Barbara James will be providing lunch and devotion at the September 14th meeting.

Respectfully,
Barbara James

FINANCES: Our year to date giving has fallen significantly behind our budget requirements. Please keep your pledges current and give as God has given to you. 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. Check with Mary for information.

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.

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 is required.

COMING EVENTS: September 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday School: 9:45 | 1 Labor Day | 2 <i>D.B. Woods</i> | 3 10:00 – Daytime 5 X 5 <i>Don Doty</i> <i>Betty Robertson</i> | 4 <i>Mark Harris-McGinnity</i> | 5 | 6 <i>Tom Dossett</i> |
| 7 Rally Day – Brunch 9:45 <i>Carol Anwar</i> | 8 3D – 7:00 pm <i>Kelly Knopp</i> | 9 <i>Randi Clark</i> | 10 <i>Ben Christy</i> | 11 Worship&Music 6:30 pm <i>Peter Frierson</i> | 12 6F Night Potluck 6-9 pm <i>Hailey Peterson</i> | 13 |
| 14 Shalom Fest, 12:00 – 5:00 <i>Alicia Malsam</i> | 15 | 16 <i>Billie Lindburg</i> | 17 10:00 – Daytime 5 X 5 <i>Blaine Frierson</i> | 18 <i>Kristin Perrin</i> | 19 | 20 <i>Katie Bruce</i> |
| 21 | 22 -----A-OK Synod | 23 10:00 – Women's Bible Study Fall Theological Conference | 24 <i>Pam Dake</i> Conference----- | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 <i>Ron Peters</i> <i>Denise Kilmetz-Khoo</i> | 29 | 30 | | | | |

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.

SEPTEMBER READINGS:

Sept. 7 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezek 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Sept. 21 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10--4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Phil 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Sept. 14 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8:13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Sept. 28 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezek 18:1-4, 15-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Phil 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Serving our Lord, September 2008

| 11:00 am | Nursery Attendant | Ushers | Lectors | Acolytes | Communion Assistants | Lay Assistant | Greeters | Counters |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7 | | Gerry Oltrogge /Mary Peterson | Sandy Isakson | Elizabeth Balman | Doris Elliott Lynn Jacobsen | Blaine Frierson | Betty & Lynn Jacobsen | Merl Lindburg Mary Faulkner |
| 14 | | Stan Lewis Merl Lindburg | Katherine Tooley | | Lillian Cantrell Linda Christy | Sandy Isakson | Helen Allen Dorothy Burgess | Stan Lewis Bonnie Peters |
| 21 | | Karol Wagar Bill Bryant | Linda Christy | | Sandy Isakson Mary Peterson | Ron Peters | Ardith Andrist Lillian Cantrell | Denise Khoo |
| 28 | | Doug & Roberta Napier | Mary Peterson | Nathan Napier | Ron & Bonnie Peters | Jerry Peterson | Doris Elliott Katherine Tooley | Gerry Oltrogge Jerry Peterson |

Alter Guild: Helen Allen, Mary Peterson, Bonnie Peters

| 8:30 a.m. | Communion | Lectors |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| 7 | Eileen Imwalle | Pam Dake |
| 14 | Cathy Newsome | Cathy Newsome |
| 21 | Pam Nielsen | Pam Nielsen |
| 28 | Tom Williams | Tom Williams |
| | | |

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).

Altar Flowers Provided by:

| | |
|----|--|
| 7 | Warren & Carroll Werling in honor of their Anniversary |
| 14 | |
| 21 | Doris Elliott in memory of her mother |
| 28 | |



Adventures and wedding in India



Ground Zero



Word Find Books of the Bible: New Testament

Words to Find

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
FirstCorinthians
SecondCorinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philipians
Colossians
FirstThessalonians
SecondThessalonians
First Timothy
SecondTimothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
FirstPeter
SecondPeter
FirstJohn
SecondJohn
ThirdJohn
Jude
Revelation



K S N A I H T N I R O C T S R I F V E J
D R P S N R H E I R V S S C C C Y S S K
D E E N D S I G G Y R N X E F M C E N N
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N E Z M A T T H E W N N Z I G S Z S E C

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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:

Responding to Gods love,

We faithfully

Welcome

Worship

Grow

Witness

Serve

*Glowing and Growing
in the Light of the Lord*

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