

The *Ascent*

January 2009

Ascension Lutheran Church
4803 South Lewis Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74105-5154
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A Note from Pastor Norm

For my Advent/Christmas devotions (I'm writing this before Christmas; you will be reading it after the New Year) I have been reading a book by Frank G. Honeycutt entitled, Marry a Pregnant Virgin: Unusual Bible Stories for New and Curious Christians.*

Most of us are probably not new Christians, but I hope that we will always remain curious: curious about God's word and curious about our faith. In pursuing our curiosity, we may discover, along with Honeycutt, that "faithful interpretation of God's word is more often than not an intentionally befuddling enterprise," (p. 1). Our curiosity may be stymied by perplexing passages written by ancient scribes that may seem to have little or nothing to say to 21st century people.

Or maybe we have become so set in our ways and in our faith that we assume there is nothing more left to learn. As Honeycutt puts it, "Sometimes I think we reach a point in our faith development where we stop asking good questions, stop looking. Our faith becomes a series of settled assertions about Jesus and God that need no further perusal or examination," (pp. 64-65).

My own experience tells me that the more I study and learn, the more I know that I don't know. Befuddling or not, my curiosity about what God is trying to say to me—in both old ways and new—is forever evolving. I hope the same is true for you.

I'm not much of a person for New Year's resolutions. Why start something new just because 2008 has rolled over into 2009? But for those of you who do make New Year's resolutions, or who are simply ready to explore the Scriptures and your faith in new and curious ways, let me encourage you to make a renewed commitment to your devotional life and Christian education in the new year.

In 2007 the ELCA churchwide assembly voted to embrace an initiative called Book of Faith. The vision for this five-year initiative is "that the whole church become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of

Scripture." Here at Ascension, we have pledged ourselves to being a Book of Faith congregation.

Toward that end, let me remind you of the Christian education opportunities that are available. We have Sunday School and a youth group for the younger ones to learn with their peers. Our Sunday morning adult Bible study has been focusing on "Opening the Book of Faith." Soon that will evolve into a new course called "Rediscovering the Book of Faith." Our 5x5 (five or more people committed to meeting together for five months) small groups will be resurrected in January. My daytime 5x5 group will meet for the first time on Wednesday, January 14, at 10:00 A.M. in the adult classroom; we'll negotiate future meeting times and topics during that gathering. There will also be at least one, and possibly two, evening 5x5 groups as well. These are opportunities to study the Scriptures in a way that I hope will not be befuddling, to become better acquainted with other members of our community of faith, to invite newcomers to explore with us, and to pray with and for each other.

In addition, there are printed devotional materials available on the table in the narthex, and electronic devotions and Bible studies that are online (www.elca.org is one site: click on "Growing in Faith" and then on "Education"). Each of us can do this, and it's not nearly as difficult as marrying a pregnant virgin.

Peace & Blessings!

Pastor Norm

*Minneapolis: Augsburg Books (2008). In all there are 44 devotions or Bible reflections arranged in five sections: Advent-Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Time after Pentecost.

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.*

Annual Congregational Meeting:
Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 9:45 AM

Church Council Minutes

December 14, 2008

The December 14th meeting was called to order with Keith Khoo presiding. Those present were Pastor Dake, Eileen Imwalle, Barbara James, Sandy Isakson, Kelly Knopp and Ed Dreyer.

The minutes from the November meeting were amended and approved.

Pastor's Report:

- We had a reception today for our new members, Chris and Catherine Gausvik and their children Christian, Brendan and Tyler.
- We will be baptizing Don and Betty Robertson's granddaughter, Makenzie Louise Bridges, on December 28th.
- Memorial services were held for Clinton Beeler on November 22.
- At the congregational meeting in January, we will be presenting the ELCA –mandated constitutional revision.
- Pastors and leaders from seven different congregations met on December 4th for the 2nd Bishop's consultation.
- Pastor Dake has been asked to put together a program for a trip to the Holy Land for November 4-13, 2009

Treasurer's Report:

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 & Music:

The organ has been repaired. The service on Christmas Eve will be at 7:00 and the service on Christmas Day will be at 10:00 AM.

Helping Hands:

- We provided 25 dinners for Thanksgiving and will be providing 43 dinners at Christmas. Thanks to Tom and Doris Williams for all the turkeys they donated.
- We were able to adopt 10 families for Christmas thanks to the sale of the jars. Everyone's contributions are greatly appreciated.
- We would also like to thank Patterson Realtors for adopting our food pantry for Christmas this year. Each year they choose a charity to give to and this year we were blessed to receive their gifts.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ed Dreyer is putting some of our unused books from the library on Amazon. He will keep us updated on his project.

The roof will be replaced towards the end of March.

Kelly is drawing up a contract with CCE for the rental of one of our rooms.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made and approved to discuss cooperative opportunities with St Andrews and Bethany in regard to mission and ministry.

Life Line Screening has requested to use the Jordan Hall in June. The request was approved.

The council approved that the money collected from the community bucks would go into the general fund.

The annual meeting will be held January 25. Barbara's term as secretary will be up so we will be voting for a new secretary. If you are interested in this position please contact Barbara or one of the council members.

The budget for 2009 was discussed and numbers will be put down on paper.

Council approved payment of the remaining Benevolence to the Synod.

Pastor Dake closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully
Barbara James

December 20 Dessert Auction Success!!!!

A great time was had by all, and we raised \$639 at our Christmas dessert auction/brunch!!! The money will go towards our roof fund. Thanks to everyone who provided the wonderful desserts, and of course to everyone who supported the event by bidding. Special thanks go to dashing Dave Imwalle for keeping us entertained, and to the Engelkes, Khoos, Imwalle, and Anwars for providing the food for the brunch, and to everyone who stayed for the clean up.

*Our newest members are the Gausvik family:
Chris, Catherine, Christian, Brendan, and
Tyler
Address: 2951 E. 44th Place, Tulsa 74105
Phone: 743-3613*

Please add to your Ascension directory.

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.

COMING EVENTS: January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday School: 9:45				1	2 <i>Beth Coleman</i>	3 <i>Katie Williams</i>
4	5	6 <i>Annette Hillstrom</i>	7 <i>Gary Collins</i>	8 Worship & Music 6:30	9	10 <i>David Hillstrom</i> <i>Elizabeth Balman</i>
11 Church Council 12:15 <i>Karol Wagar</i>	12	13	14 Daytime 5x5 10:00	15 Trinity Ministries Mosque Tour, 10:00 a.m.	16 <i>Mary Faulkner</i>	17 <i>Doris Williams</i>
18 Evangelism 12:15	19 Office Closed MLK Day	20	21 <i>Jim Harris</i>	22 <i>Betty Collins</i>	23	24
25 Annual Meeting 9:45	26	27 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. <i>Sara Anwar</i>	28	29	30	31

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.

JANUARY READINGS:

Jan. 4 – 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Jer 31:7-17
 Psalm 147:12-20
 Eph 1:3-14
 John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Jan. 18 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:2-15
 1 Cor 7:29-31
 Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 11 – 3rd Sunday after Christmas

Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
 Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 25 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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

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Many Thanks!

On behalf of my family, thanks to the congregation for your warm and gracious welcome to our new church home. We enjoyed the reception and the cake and the warmth of everyone at Ascension.

Christian E. Gausvik (Chris)  
Senior Vice President and Manager  
Wealth Management Services  
BOK Financial Corporation

Email: cgausvik@bokf.com  
Phone: 918/619-1219  
Fax: 918/624-5259  
Address: 6242 E 41st BTC-2W, Tulsa, OK 74135

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Lutheran High School to Open in August 2009

After a year of study, the Board of Trustees of Immanuel Christian Academy and the membership of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Broken Arrow have voted to open a Lutheran High School on that property for the 2009-10 school year.

Nine committees researched the areas of facility/equipment, curriculum, extra-curricular activities, marketing, publicity, finance, personnel, cutting edge practices, and student services in starting a high school. Current donations and pledges for startup costs have exceeded \$210,000 in just two months, making further planning and implementation possible. Current plans are for the high school to become accredited at the end of the opening year, the earliest time possible.

A Lutheran high school for the Tulsa Metro area offers the rich heritage of Lutheran education, first started by Martin Luther. The balance of Law and Gospel, in addition to a quality college preparatory curriculum, offers students a firm foundation for their futures. We ask for your prayers as we plan for the opening! Please contact Katherine McGrew, Headmaster, for further information: 251-5422 or kmcgrew@icaba.org <<mailto:kmcgrew@icaba.org>> .

Enrollment will begin in February 2009.

Kathie Klein
Immanuel Christian Academy
400 North Aspen Ave.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
PH: 918-251-5422
FAX: 918-251-8365
www.icaba.org <<http://www.icaba.org>>

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“ Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, ‘ Oh, thank you, God! ’ I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other believers. And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it. You have no idea how good your love makes me feel, doubly so when I see how your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of fellow believers. “  
Philemon 4 - 7 ( The Message )

# Serving our Lord, January 2009

| 11:00 am         | Ushers                    | Lectors                     | Acolytes                                                                                                                                        | Communion Assistants              | Lay Assistant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Greeters                     | Counters                         |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4                | Ed & Norma Dreyer         | Mary Peterson               | Elizabeth Balman                                                                                                                                | Mary Peterson<br>Sandy Isakson    | Blaine Frierson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Karol Wagar<br>DB Woods      | Merl Lindburg<br>Mary Faulkner   |
| 11               | Stan Lewis<br>Karol Wagar | Linda Christy               |                                                                                                                                                 | Bill & Shirley Bryant             | Sandy Isakson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Ron & Bonnie Peters          | Stan Lewis<br>Bonnie Peters      |
| 18               | Merl & Billie Lindburg    | Karol Wagar                 |                                                                                                                                                 | Doris Elliott<br>Donna Glocker    | Ron Peters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Randi Clark<br>Donna Glocker | Denise Khoo                      |
| 25               | Ron & Bonnie Peters       | Lillian Cantrell            |                                                                                                                                                 | Lillian Cantrell<br>Linda Christy | Jerry Peterson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ed & Norma Dreyer            | Gerry Oltrogge<br>Jerry Peterson |
|                  |                           |                             |                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                              |                                  |
| <b>8:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Lectors</b>            | <b>Communion Assistants</b> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Altar Guild</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Helen Allen<br/>Bonnie Peters<br/>Mary Peterson</i></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).</i></p> |                              |                                  |
| 4                | Linda Christie            | Linda Christy               |                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                              |                                  |
| 11               | Denise Khoo               | Ellen Harris                |                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                              |                                  |
| 18               | Cathy Newsome             | Cathy Newsome               |                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                              |                                  |
| 25               | Pam Nielsen               | Pam Nielsen                 |                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                              |                                  |
|                  |                           |                             |                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                              |                                  |

## Altar Flowers Provided by:

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## THRIVENT BUILDS WITH TULSA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

In 2009, Thrivent Financial is going to assist in building 314 Thrivent Builds homes in the USA at a cost of \$24 million. The local Tulsa Thrivent chapter and 16 Lutheran congregations in the Tulsa metro are going to provide the 300+ volunteers, and the \$8,415,00 to help pay for the building of the 5th Thrivent Builds home in the Tulsa area in 2009.

The Thrivent Builds #5 home in the Tulsa area will be built in the South Haven area, this is just west of 33rd W. Ave, and south of I-44. This is where the Flatt #2 home was built in the fall of 2006. We plan to start construction on Saturday, March 14th and finish on Saturday, May 9th. We plan to work each Wednesday and Saturday as in the past from 9:00am-3:00pm.

We need a total of about 300 volunteers to complete in those 8 weeks, and we need to raise \$8,415.00 for our 10% share of the building costs.

Howard Seigfreid

**Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry Christian Unity Committee Sponsors  
a service of prayer for Christian Unity “That they may become one in your hand”**

TMM’s Christian Unity Committee will host a prayer service for Christian Unity under the global theme “That they may become one in your hand” from Ezekiel 37:17. The service will be held at 7:00 pm on Sunday, January 18, 2009 in Powell Hall of St. John Episcopal Church, 4200 S Atlanta Place, in Tulsa. The service will include reflections by leaders representing several denominations of the Christian Church. All are welcome to join in this time of prayer for the unity of Christ’s Church. For more information contact the Rev. Susanne Methven, 742-7381.

In brief—

What: Prayer service for Christian Unity: “That they may become one in our hand.”

When: Sunday, January 18, 7:00 pm

Where: Powell Hall, St. John’s Episcopal Church, 4200 S Atlanta Place

Who: All are welcome; sponsored by Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries (Christian Unity Committee)

Contact: **Rev. Susanne Methven, 742-7381**

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*On December 28<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Holy Baptism of Makenzie Louise Bridges, infant daughter of Ken and Marsha Bridges and granddaughter of Don and Betty Robertson. Sponsors are Wendy Dallenbach and Donald Robertson.*

*Our sympathy goes out to the family of Carol Anwar on the death of her father, Curt Colbenson, on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please keep them in your prayers.*

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**Trinity Ministries:**

**Thursday, January 15:** We will start the day at 10:00 AM with a free tour of the Islamic Mosque at 4620 S. Irvington Avenue. Lunch will follow at 11:30 at the Piccadilly Cafeteria, 4003 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, private room. Reservations by Monday, Jan. 12 at noon.



David Imwalle, our excellent auctioneer.

# This and That

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Our next Bible study will be on Tuesday, **January 27<sup>th</sup>**, in the adult classroom. Please join us.

**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.

**FOOD PYRAMID COMMUNITY BUCKS:** If you shop at Food Pyramid, be sure to ask for "Community Bucks" when you check out. This is Food Pyramid's way to support non-profit organizations and churches. This is a short term program which runs through **1/31/09**. Give your Community Bucks to Mary Faulkner as soon as you can, because they must be redeemed prior to their expiration date. The funds collected will be spent on an Ascension project. Thank you for your support.

**HOLY LAND TOUR:** Pastor Norm will host a tour to Israel November 4-13, 2009. Brochures are available on the table in the narthex. Plan to join us as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

**DAYTIME 5X5** will meet for the first time in 2009 on Wednesday, **January 14**, 10:00 – 11:30 AM in the adult classroom. We'll select a topic and set the schedule for the next five months.

**EPIPHANY SERVICE:** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it! Bethany Lutheran Church, 4615 S. Darlington Ave., welcomes you as we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord with a service of lessons and carols, Tuesday, **January 6**, 7:00 PM. A fellowship time with coffee and cider will follow the service. For more information call 627-4218.

**WELCOME CCE!** The Center for Counseling and Education (CCE) is renting space from us and its office is located on the first floor of our education building.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Our annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM. We will review the 2009 budget and the ELCA-mandated constitutional changes.

**THANK YOU!** *The staff wishes to thank the members of Ascension for the gifts presented to them from the congregation. We are grateful to you for your kindness and generosity to us.*

## LUTHERAN PLANNED GIVING

### Life Insurance: The Forgotten Gift?

Do you have a life insurance policy you no longer need? Perhaps your other assets have grown to provide the protection you require, and the insurance policy lies forgotten in a safety deposit box.

Did you know that the policy could make a wonderful charitable gift to ministry organization(s)?

Instead of giving cash or stock, you could sign over your policy to ministry and, generally, receive a charitable income tax deduction for the replacement value of the policy (or the cost basis if less). Lutheran Planned Giving can assist in cashing in the policy and put those dormant dollars to work right away.

Your gift of life insurance can be used to fund a future named memorial endowment fund, mission endowment fund, or distribution agreement. Or, the policy could also be used to assist with a capital campaign or simply give the annual fund a boost.

If you have insurance you may like to contribute, or if you are currently paying premiums on a policy and want to discover how this policy might work as a gift, contact Joyce "JP" Palmer, our ELCA Regional Gift Planner. She will be pleased to meet with you and describe the various ways insurance can be prudently used to make a planned gift. She is available to meet with your life insurance professional, if you wish.

Contact: Joyce "JP" Palmer, Director/ELCA Regional Gift Planner  
21 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 210  
Kansas City, KS 66102  
Cell: 816-204-5181  
E-mail: jcpalmer49@aol.com



Upper Left: Gathering foodstuffs for Helping Hands dinner donations.

Middle Left: Bags are ready to be delivered.

Lower Left: Mary Faulkner arranges gift baskets for Silent Auction to benefit the Roof Fund.

Upper Right: Fruit baskets for those who are confined.

Middle Right: Crosses for those confined in hospitals and nursing homes, made by Nathan Napier and Elizabeth Balman.

## **If We Give**

If we give what is left over,  
the church neither feeds us spiritually nor feeds anyone else.

If we give dues,  
the church will be no more than a club.

If we give for sentimental reasons,  
the church will be like a museum.

If we give the same as we always have,  
the church will only receive declining returns.

If we give out of obligation,  
the church will become a place of resentment for us.

If we give only because we feel responsible,  
the church will be a heavy burden.

If we give out of compassion for those whose needs are great,  
then our needs will seem so much smaller.

If we give because we are thankful,  
the church will reflect the measure of our gratitude.

If love leads us to selfless giving,  
the church will become the place where we discover joy!

## ***THANK YOU, ASCENSION!***

Hi,  
My daughter attends the local headstart program here in Tulsa. We were blessed to receive one of the bags that your congregation prepared for needy families. We just wanted to say thank you for the time and effort spent on strangers. It was very kind.

A blessed family

Dear Ascension,  
Thank you so much for the bountiful Christmas dinner you provided for our family. Our girls had never seen such a big turkey! The gifts you gave to the girls were so wonderful. We could not have chosen more perfect gifts if we had shopped for them ourselves. We adopted all three girls from abusive homes, and we were managing just fine until the recent economic downturn. My husband lost his business this past fall, and we've been struggling to pay off our debts. I am a teacher, but carry everyone on my health insurance, so my paychecks are about half of my salary. Without your generosity, the girls would have only received a few small gifts this year. I wish you could have seen their faces on Christmas morning – they were so surprised! We appreciate all the thought and love that went into the gifts. We hope that God will bless your church family in the new year.

In Christian love

## **In the spirit of giving**

“Forty-three families will awake to a brighter Christmas on Thursday thanks to the efforts of a small midtown Lutheran congregation.” This article, written by Ascension’s Lynn Jacobsen, was published in the Tulsa World and on [www.tulsaworld.com](http://www.tulsaworld.com) on 12/24/2008. Be sure to check it out if you missed it in the newspaper.

**Ascension Lutheran Church**

4803 South Lewis Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74105-5154  
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](http://www.ascensionlutheran.net)

**E-mail:** [welcome@ascensionlutheran.net](mailto:welcome@ascensionlutheran.net)  
[pastornorm@ascensionlutheran.net](mailto: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*



**Ascension Lutheran  
4803 S. Lewis Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74105-5154**