

The *Ascent*

June 2009

Ascension Lutheran Church
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A Note from Pastor Norm

Our Sunday morning adult Bible study has been using Dr. Harry Wendt's *The Bible for Busy People: A Panoramic View of Testaments Old & New*.

On our helicopter ride through 2000 years of Biblical history, we have made stops in the books of Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings. There we observed how Israel's leadership changed from judges (including at least one woman, Deborah, whom we read about in Judges 5:4-10) to kings.

With the advent of the monarchy, God began to send prophets to the nation of Israel. Prophets were the social critics, or loyal opposition, to provide a system of checks and balances in the face of royal power. When the United Monarchy (kingships of Saul, David, and Solomon) came to an end around 930 B.C., the nation split into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

The first of the so-called "writing prophets" (prophets whose oracles came to be written down) appeared in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Our helicopter ride has now landed in Israel in the 8th century B.C. We are currently reading the book of the prophet Hosea; Amos will be next.

While Hosea and Amos were contemporaries in Israel during the 8th century B.C., their prophetic focus was very different. Hosea focused on the spiritual side of things, addressing Israel's fascination with the Baal cult (a fertility god symbolized by a bull or calf—remember the golden calf?). Amos, on the other hand, focused on the

economic side of things, addressing Israel's neglect and exploitation of the poor.

Studying Hosea and Amos in tandem is instructive. While the nation of Israel had multiple problems, neither Hosea nor Amos felt compelled to address all of them. Each picked out one issue and spoke to that.

As we move in the church's calendar from Easter to Pentecost (May 31), we are reminded of how God gives different gifts to different people for the good of all (1 Corinthians 12). We all have gifts, but we don't all have the same gifts. This is a good thing. Like Hosea and Amos, we can use our spiritual gifts in the unique ways in which the Holy Spirit calls and equips us.

Our congregation is like the body which St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12. Each of us has different functions, but we work together for the good of the whole. Pentecost is an opportune time to thank God for all of the gifts with which we have been blessed individually and collectively (I won't even begin to try to enumerate them all), and thank you for all of the ways in which you use those gifts both inside (What a blessing if each of us shared at least one gift for the common good!) and outside our community of faith.

Even though we may have different gifts, what unites us is our common faith that "Jesus is Lord," (1 Corinthians 12:3).

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

May 17, 2009

Officers Present: Pastor Norman P. Dake, President
Keith Khoo, Vice President Sandy Isakson, Treasurer
Eileen Imwalle
Council Members Present: Jim Harris (acting Secretary),
Ed Dreyer

Call to Order: Keith Khoo
Lunch and devotions: Ed Dreyer (1 John 1, 1-10)
Pastor Norm Dake opened meeting with prayer.
Motion by Eileen Imwalle to approve Minutes of April 19,
2009 meeting. Second: Sandy Isakson. All in favor.
None opposed. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

Pastor's report

Two new members to Ascension were welcomed on
May 3, 2009. Andie Wright by Affirmation of Faith and
Josee Wright by Baptism.

Pastor reviewed Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Assembly
report: 50 people attended the workshop "Book of
Faith". A number of resolutions were approved and
adopted including two of particular mention:

Resolution #8: Resolved, that each congregation of the
Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod designate one Sunday in
October as "Synod Support Sunday" to receive a special
offering for the Synod's ministry which will be given in
addition to the congregation's usual Mission Support to
the Synod; and that this special annual offering continue
in future years to support the work of the Synod; and that
in addition to the special offering, "Synod Support
Sunday" be a special time for congregations to celebrate
the programs, activities and staff of the Synod and pray
for God's guidance and blessing for the Synod's work.

Resolution #9: Resolved that the Arkansas-Oklahoma
Synod encourage and challenge its member
congregations to increase their efforts of financial
support to Oaks Indian Mission; and that the Arkansas
Oklahoma Synod challenge each member congregation
to make a \$1,500 contribution to Oaks Indian Mission
annually.

The Ascension roster of members was recently divided
into three categories by Mary Faulkner, Ed Dreyer and
Pastor Norm:

- Category 1 members who were regular attendees of church services.
- Category 2 were members who have not attended during the last 3 years. These members are to receive a written invitation to become active by July 1, 2009 and to contact the Pastor if Pastoral care is needed.
- Category 3 members had a more intermittent attendance record over the last three years and the evangelism committee is to personally invite them to attend more regularly.

Treasurer's report

Eileen Imwalle presented the Treasurer's report for April noting that Ascension's year to date actual income is a little more than \$8,000 below the year to date expenses. This deficit figure is approximately twice the deficit that was budgeted. Sandy Isakson made a motion to accept the report and Ed Dreyer seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Report approved.

Worship and Music report

Following last weeks service it was decided that a substitute organist list should be created in order to find quality organists that can be contacted when our organist is unable to attend our 11:00 service.

Property report

A number of outlets are out both inside and outside the Sanctuary due to the recent roof repair. Jim Harris will look into the problem and get an electrician if needed to repair the problem if necessary. Any costs associated with repair should be charged to the roof repair company that caused the outage.

Jim Harris and Keith Khoo have identified Saturday, May 30th as a date to replace lights that have burned out in the sanctuary.

It was suggested that we have a monthly congregational clean-up day and we are asking the congregation's help in both defining what tasks need to be accomplished as well as help in getting the job done.

Ministry report

Helping Hands reports that Family and Children's Services has indicated that they are in need of more non-perishable food and also more people to volunteer for their services. They are now specifically asking Ascension to provide two orders of food each week.

Old Business

The council received a thank you card from Mary Faulkner regarding taking her out to lunch for Secretary's Day.

The payment of the roof repairs is waiting on completion of the repair work. (Specifically the repair of the underside of the roof where we had wood rot damage)

New Business

The Federal Tax withholding for Mary Faulkner is to be looked into to determine whether we are following the right guidelines.

As part of an ongoing effort to plan for the future, the council spent the remaining period of our meeting conducting an analysis of Ascension's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The Pastor supplied a short Bible study from 1 Corinthians 12 before the analysis and Keith Khoo led the analysis effort.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eileen Imwalle. Second: Sandy Isakson. All in Favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Closing benediction by Pastor Norm Dake.
Respectfully submitted by Jim Harris

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



FABULOUS FRIDAY! Please join us on Friday, June 5th at 5:45 PM for a Fabulous Friday the Fifth Fish 'n Picnic at 4530 S. Birmingham Place (Cathy Newsome's). Meat, tea and lemonade provided. Please bring a side dish or call 747-3120 to see what's needed. Bring gear if you like to fish.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday, June 23 at 10:00 AM, brunch at Sandy Isakson's house, 6619 E. 55th Street. All are welcome!

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.

THANK YOU! Dear members of Ascension, thank you for saving, gathering and giving the toiletries and underwear for those who are in need. Be assured that each gift is priceless to them and very appreciated. May God's blessings fall upon each of you. ~Operation Hope Ministry

YOUTH COMPASSION PROJECT: The Ascension youth group thanks you for your generosity in donating to the Compassion Project. We raised \$744 toward this worthwhile project. Thank you!

HOLY LAND TOUR: Pastor Norm will host a tour to Israel **November 4-13, 2009**. A \$300 deposit per person in the form of a check payable to NAWAS Travel reserves your space. Payment in full is due to NAWAS Travel by July 31st. Brochures are available on the table in the narthex. Plan to join us as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

TRINITY MINISTRIES: RSVP to Billie Lindburg or Warren Werling

Thursday, June 11, 10:00 AM – The June meeting will be at Ascension and Ron Peters will be the speaker with a Legislative update. An appreciation lunch honoring Trinity's supporters will follow, the cost is \$6.00.

Thursday, June 25 – The L&H Asparagus Farm/Kiwi Farm tour has been cancelled by Karen's Tours, but IF we have enough early response, it could possibly be rescheduled. Cost is \$74 per person. **DUE BY JUNE 5.**

Thursday, July 16, 10:00 AM – A patriotic program, brought to us by Warren Werling, will feature several gentlemen in period costume who describe the meaning of the first Stars and Stripes. Program at 10:00 AM at First Lutheran Church. Lunch will follow at a cost of \$6.00.

VBS AT JOY: Joy Lutheran Church extends an invitation to any students (and/or volunteers) from Ascension who would like to participate in Vacation Bible School at Joy the week of **June 15-19**, from 6:00-8:00 PM. This year, they will be using the curriculum, *Gadget's Garage* from Concordia Publishing. "Come witness the wonder and workmanship of Jesus at Gadget's Garage, where Jesus makes all things new!" There is no charge for participation. Please contact the church office for enrollment information.

JUNE READINGS:

June 7 – The Holy Trinity

1st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalms 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

June 21 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-11

Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

June 14 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13]14-17

Mark 4:26-34

June 28 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalms 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

COMING EVENTS: June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday School: 9:45	1 Lifeline Screening, 8-5, Jordan Hall <i>Dorothy Burgess</i>	2	3	4	5 Fabulous Friday the Fifth Fish 'n Picnic 5:45 at Cathy Newsome's house	6
7 Evang. Mtg., 12:15	8	9	10	11 Trin. Ministries, 10 a.m., Jordan Hall Worship/Music 6:30	12	13 <i>Sandy Isakson</i>
14 Council 12:15	15 VBS, Joy Luth., 6-8 pm	16 VBS, Joy Luth., 6-8 pm	17 VBS, Joy Luth., 6-8 pm	18 VBS, Joy Luth., 6-8 pm	19 VBS, Joy Luth., 6-8 pm	20
21	22	23 Women's Bible Study & Brunch at Sandy Isakson's house	24	25 <i>Steve Faulkner</i>	26	27
28	29 <i>Linda Christy</i>	30				

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.

Baby step your way to financial independence

Imagine eating an apple in one bite...that's what saving for your long-term financial goals can feel like if you don't first break them into small, manageable steps. Whether your goals include buying a new home, starting a college education fund for your children or saving for retirement, the best way to achieve them is to start saving early—and often. Doing so puts time on your side. The longer your money has to grow, the more you can enjoy the benefits of compounding.

Even if you set aside as little as \$20 a month, your savings can add up over time*. Here's how:

<u>Invest</u>	<u>In 20 years, you'll have*</u>
\$20 a month	\$15,173.50
\$50 a month	\$30,346.00
\$100 a month	\$60,692.00

You can also take other steps today that will pay off over the long term:

- Establish an emergency savings account by setting aside one to three months' worth of living expenses.
- Pay off your credit card debt.
- Set up a college savings plan.
- Open an IRA.

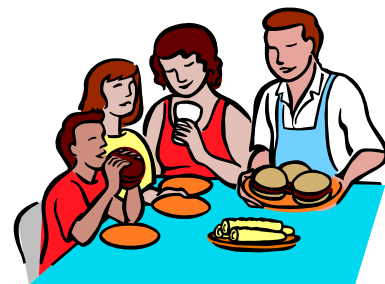
Completing these steps will help build your confidence and put you well on your way to achieving your long-term financial goals.

For help reaching your financial goals, contact Ed Meyer, FIC, Robert Morgenthaler, FIC, Tim Veldstra, FIC, or Tamara Massey, MBA at (918) 392-7130 or greencountryassociates@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

The food pantry is in need of restocking. Special needs are: cereal, peanut butter, cornbread mix, canned tuna, rice, beans, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti noodles and sauce, dish soap, hand soap, and toilet paper.

Helping Hands appreciates your donations!



Serving our Lord, June 2009

11:00 am	Ushers	Lectors	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Lay Assistant	Greeters	Counters
7	Merl & Billie Lindburg	Karol Wagar	Elizabeth Balman	Barbara James Karol Wagar	Ron Peters	Merl & Billie Lindburg	Merl Lindburg Mary Faulkner
14	Stan Lewis Karol Wagar	Lillian Cantrell	Jack Frierson	Lynn Jacobsen Sandy Isakson	Linda Christy	Donna Glocker Barbara Shelby	Stan Lewis Bonnie Peters
21	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Linda Christy		Bill & Shirley Bryant	Sandy Isakson	Betty & Lynn Jacobsen	Denise Khoo
28	Ed & Norma Dreyer	Sandy Isakson	Jack Frierson	Doris Elliott Donna Glocker	Ron Peters	Helen Allen Dorothy Burgess	Gerry Oltrogge
8:30 a.m.	Lectors	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild Dorothy Burgess Doris Elliott Betty Jacobsen		<i>Thank you for volunteering at Ascension!</i> 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).		
7	Pam Dake	Eileen Imwalle					
14	Ellen Harris	Denise Khoo					
21	Cathy Newsome	Cathy Newsome					
28	Linda Christy	Linda Christy					

Altar Flowers Provided by:

7	Betty & Lynn Jacobsen in memory of Jake
14	Doris Williams in memory of Tom
21	The Napiers in memory of Fred Preston and Guy Napier
28	



Harold (tree planter extraordinaire) Wicks continues to bless us with his horticultural skills.



Thrivent Builds - Home #5 Tulsa County Dedication Ceremony

GREETINGS EVERYONE: Saturday, May 16, 2009 was a great day. The Thrivent Builds with the Tulsa Habitat for Humanity house at 3117 NO. Wheeling Place was turned over to Andrecca Maupin and her children Mariona and Thais to be their new home.

A crowd of 52 braved the weather to come and see this new home that was built by 340 volunteers from the Lutheran Congregations in the Tulsa metro area. These 340 volunteers worked a total of 1,952, an average of 5.75 hours each time they came to help build this new home.

The Lutheran congregations and these volunteers also gave a total of \$8,415.00 to help pay the cost of this new this new home for Andrecca and her family.

This new home is the 5th home in 4 years that Thrivent Builds and the Lutheran congregations in the Tulsa area have joined to help build a Habitat home for some one who needed decent, affordable housing for their families.

God Bless
Howard Seigfreid

Welcome to Our New Ascension Members!

Rev. Julia Shreve
P O Box 1485
Muskogee, OK 74402
918-913-1566

Andie Wright and daughter Josee
4136 S. Rockford Place
Tulsa, OK 74105
742-7822

Thoughts on the AK/OK Assembly by Mary Peterson

I would like to thank the congregation for sending me to the Assembly. This was my first time and it was a real eye opener. We all operate mostly in our own congregations but this makes us realize the larger extent of our church – the city, the Synod, and the international scope.

One thing that I did not realize was that a part of Texas is in our Synod and the group is very conservative.

There is not space to tell you everything that happened but I will tell you a few incidents.

Dr. Nathan Frambach, Wartburg Theological Seminary, was the guest speaker at the Assembly. Our Bishop was one of the group that recommended him for tenure. He was an eloquent, dynamic speaker.

One passage he spoke on was Acts 8:26-40, the story of Philip and the eunuch. The eunuch was in charge of the treasury of the queen of Ethiopia. Why was he in Jerusalem? He was reading the scriptures. Why? How did he get a copy of the scriptures?

The Holy Spirit told Philip to go to the eunuch's chariot and stay near it. When he saw the man was reading Isaiah he asked him if he understood what he was reading. The eunuch said, "How can I unless someone explains it to me." And he invited Philip into the chariot.

The message here for Christians is to be ready to explain and proclaim the Gospel but don't push it in people's faces. Wait to be invited but always be ready.

One more mundane matter – we discussed the human sexuality statement. There is a proposed statement that outlines a process for rostering a gay person who is in a public, lifelong, monogamous relationship. A memorial to the churchwide assembly to recommend adoption passed 81-42.

We took an offering for the building and medical teams that are going to Tanzania. It was about \$1,000 for the group. We voted that in addition to the minimum number of lay members to go to Synod Assemblies, a congregation may include a youth. We rejected purposefully putting military language and imagery into our worship materials. We learned that Sunday worship attendance is down 18.7% from 2001.

Bill Gates will attend our International Convention. Both he and the Lutheran Church want to work together to eradicate malaria.

The only person I failed to mention was Dr. Mark Wilhelm who was the representative of the ELCA Church-Wide Office. He was here to offer a message from Mark Hansen, the Presiding Bishop.

In the love of Christ,
Mary Peterson

Repairing
the eaves
from
woodpecker
damage and
repainting



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:

Responding to Gods love,

We faithfully

Welcome

Worship

Grow

Witness

Serve

*Glowing and Growing
in the Light of the Lord*



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