

# The *Ascent*

October 2009

## Ascension Lutheran Church

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## A Note from Pastor Norm

Change often comes hard. Changes in our health, work, finances, or social relationships can create a great deal of anxiety. Where we have often counted on reliable routines and unchanging circumstances to add stability to life, change can seem to shake the very foundations of our existence.

When changes in our personal life are compounded by societal changes, we can become really uncomfortable. I wonder, for example, how much of the rancor in our national debate on health care is really about ensuring adequate medical services for all citizens. If we are honest with ourselves, isn't a lot of our anxiety due to the uncertainty of how these changes, if any, will affect us and our loved ones. Will we be better served if there is change? Will we be expected to pay more if there is change? Even if we are willing to acknowledge that there are gaps in care that need to be closed, the uncertainty of how all of this might affect us can make us resistant to anything unfamiliar or innovative.

In the midst of such change and uncertainty, we may cling even more closely to those reliable sources of stability and constancy in our journey through life. For many of us, our faith and our church are such resources. So what happens when there is change in the church? Practices and policies of longstanding are changed or modified, and we can feel like the rug has been pulled out from under us. Is nothing sacred? Is there nothing trustworthy that we can count on not to change?

We are not the first to wrestle with these questions. The early church had to face the issue of Gentile believers. Could they be welcomed into the church? Should they be included in the community

of believers? If so, under what circumstances? Members of that first-century church were not all of one mind on how these questions should be resolved. If we read Acts 15, we discover that some insisted that Gentiles should be required to undergo circumcision, just like the Jews (Acts 15:5). That was their custom going back to the days of Moses. Peter and James, on the other hand, argued that this was not necessary (Acts 15:6-21).

How was this disagreement resolved? The Jerusalem church decided that circumcision would not be required of Gentile believers, who were rather encouraged to abide by certain food laws (Acts 15:20, 29). But even these dietary restrictions came to be lifted (Acts 10; 1 Corinthians 10).

Did these changes in longstanding traditions and practices tear the early church apart? No! On the contrary, when news of the Jerusalem church convention reached the believers in Antioch, they were delighted that a way had been found to extend the grace of God to all believers (Acts 15:30-35). For they realized that ultimately it was not their church policies or practices that united them, but rather the grace of God offered through the Lord Jesus that saved them all (Acts 15:11).

In the face of changes that are personal, societal, or ecclesiastical, let us not lose sight of the unchanging, rock-solid foundation upon which our faith and life is built: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever," (Hebrews 13:8).

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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## A WORD FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Fellow Ascenders,

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually **we are members one of another**,” (Romans 12:4-5). “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it,” (1 Corinthians 12:26).

One of the goals of Bishop Schoenhals is to “to foster more communication, cooperation, and collaboration among synod congregations so that rostered leaders, lay leaders, and congregations can learn more from one another, support one another more creatively and effectively, and witness and serve together in strategic ways.”

In his initial letter to invite communications between congregations, Bishop Schoenhals suggested that “too many congregations suffer alone and even rejoice alone.”

Bishop Schoenhals also writes, “Research reveals a great paradox/irony about congregations: On the one hand, congregations do not want to learn from one another. On the other hand, congregations learn more and better from one another than they learn from outsiders – even synod staff!”

Bishop Schoenhals initiated the call to begin sharing with other congregations in October 2008. The pastors and lay leaders of each congregation have met 4 times over this past year. In efforts to carry on with this suggestion, I initiated conversation with Joy Lutheran and its council president Dennis Franchini with the blessings of our council. In the conversation, we discovered that Joy is much like Ascension. Joy has two worship services each Sunday. The difference is that we have a contemporary service. They have three adult Sunday school classes. They worship a few more parishioners than we do. They have few youth

members, as do we. Joy has helped us with Helping Hands on many occasions. Joy is also interested in continuing with this communication.

In the mean time, we have also received an “Intent to Merge” document from Bethany. Bethany has sent this document to all congregations in the Tulsa area. Two Friday’s ago, Pastor Dake, Sandy Isakson and I met with Bethany’s merger committee chair, Arlo DeKraai and with Edna Jackson (Bethany’s council president) to determine their intent and for them to ask questions of us. I will make this document available for your perusal with Mary Faulkner.

In efforts to prevent the surprise of the council communicating with Joy and now Bethany, I am writing to let you know that this is a beginning that I hope you will embrace as we share with our fellow Lutherans at Joy and Bethany our victories and attempt to resolve our limitations together.

I am calling for a congregational meeting as soon as possible to occur between our Sunday services to determine where and how the membership of Ascension stands regarding the possibility of merger and whether we should move forward with further conversation regarding merger with another congregation. Look for the announcement of the time and date in the near future.

Thanks for your confidence in your council.

Keith Khoo  
Council President

# Church Council Meeting Minutes September 6, 2009

## Officers Present:

Norman P. Dake, Pastor  
Keith Khoo, President  
Sandy Isakson, Vice President  
Kelly Knopp, Secretary  
Eileen Imwalle, Treasurer

**Council Members Present:** Lynn Jacobsen

**Call to Order:** Keith Khoo

**Devotion and Lunch:** Eileen Imwalle

## Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Eileen Imwalle to approve Minutes of July 12, 2009 Meeting. Second: Sandy Isakson  
All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.  
Minutes of July 12, 2009 Meeting approved as written.

## Standing Committee Reports:

### Pastor's Report:

- Nathan Napier and Lily Balman are joining the Confirmation class at Joy Lutheran.
- K-Life will begin using Jordan Hall on September 14, 2009.
- Pastor Norm will attend the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Fall Conference on September 14 through 16, 2009.
- The Rally Day Service will be held on September 13, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. with a brunch and other activities to begin at 10:30 a.m.
- Pastor Norm received information that Bethany Lutheran has adopted a resolution to seek a merger partner. Pastor Norm made a motion for representatives from Ascension to engage in a conversation with persons from Bethany about the possibilities of a merger.  
Second: Eileen Imwalle.  
All in favor.  
None opposed.  
Motion carried. Keith Khoo will contact Arlo DeKraai to discuss this matter further.
- Pastor Norm received information from Bishop Floyd about responding to the resolutions adopted by the Church Wide Assembly. Pastor Norm will draft a response for discussion at the next meeting.

### Treasurer's Report:

Motion by Kelly Knopp to approve Treasurer's Report for August. Second: Sandy Isakson  
All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.  
Treasurer's Report approved.

### Evangelism:

The committee has attempted to make telephone contact with 25 to 30 occasional members, and

Pastor Norm sent letters to each of these members following the telephone contact. Prior to Advent, the Committee plans to send these members information about the Wednesday soup suppers and other Advent events at Ascension.

### Property:

Harold Wicks will be out of town from September 17 through October 7, 2009. We need to identify persons who will assist with trimming and edging the lawn during this time.

Motion by Pastor Norm Dake to approve reports.  
Second: Eileen Imwalle All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

### Order of Business:

#### Old Business:

- An additional \$700 is still outstanding on the roof repair.
- Airco Contract: At the last meeting, Jim Harris agreed to investigate the price of service agreements with other heat and air companies

#### New Business:

- Synod Support Sunday: The Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod of the ELCA has requested that each congregation take an extra offering for the Synod on any Sunday in October which we will do on October 11, 2009.
- Carol Anwar has asked that she be allowed to conduct a Silent Auction for one item, a Swedish-woven blanket (woven by Carol's mother), to raise funds for Alyssa Anwar's upcoming trip to China. Sandy Isakson moved to approve the silent auction of the blanket. Second: Lynn Jacobsen  
All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
- A dessert auction is scheduled for October 25 at 9:45 AM in Jordan Hall to raise money for the Helping Hands Food Pantry. Matching funds will be requested from Thrivent for this event.
- Motion by Kelly Knopp to authorize keys for K-Life representatives, Jeff Moore, Meredith Grooms, and Lori Perkins, and for Greg Sinclair of CCE, and for Catherine Gausvik. Second: Sandy Isakson. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Council authorized keys to be distributed to the persons named.

Lynn Jacobsen will provide lunch and devotion in October.

Pastor Norm provided a closing prayer.

Motion by Eileen Imwalle to adjourn meeting.  
Second: Lynn Jacobsen. All in favor. None opposed. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned.

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**ASCENT NEWS ITEMS;** Please submit any news items by email to [norma-dreyer@cox.net](mailto:norma-dreyer@cox.net) or call me at my home phone, 583-3759 by the 21st of each month.  
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## This and That

**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.

**HELP NEEDED:** We need assistance with lawn trimming at the end of September and the beginning of October while Harold is out of town. Please contact Dave Imwalle (446-0474) if you can help out.

### **JOURNEY TOGETHER FAITHFULLY: ELCA STUDIES ON SEXUALITY.**

A look at biblical teaching, church doctrine, and present-day experience and knowledge. Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the adult classroom. Led by Pastor Norm.

**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. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

**SHALOMFEST:** Temple Israel invites you to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> annual ShalomFest on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6 p.m. at Temple Israel, 2004 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Place. This is an annual celebration of Jewish food, music, and tradition, a window into Jewish culture for Tulsans of many different faiths. Admission is free.

**EVENING 5X5:** Meetings begin in October. If you would like to join this study and fellowship group, contact Blaine Frierson (695-5979) or Keith Khoo (633-4732) for details.

**DAYTIME 5x5:** October meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> due to Pastor Norm being on vacation. November meetings will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. All meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in the adult classroom. We are studying the book of Romans and will be led by Pastor Norm. All are welcome.

**“MESSIAH” CHORUS SINGERS INVITED!** The 89<sup>th</sup> annual presentation of Handel's "Messiah" by the Tulsa area Lutheran churches will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in singing in the chorus should contact your church office for information and rehearsal schedules. All singers are urged to attend all 6 rehearsals and all 4 presentations. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00 PM at First Lutheran Church at 13<sup>th</sup> and Utica. We will meet each Sunday thereafter at the same time until the presentations.

**Doyle Hill** is now at Forest Hills Health Care Center, 4300 W. Houston, Room #506, Broken Arrow, 74012 (81<sup>st</sup> Street) if you care to pay him a visit or send him a card.

### **MAKING WORK WORK FOR YOU!**

Does your job come with benefits? Taking advantage of them may help you improve your financial situation and be cost effective. Here are a few ways:

- **Enroll in your 401(k):** Enrolling in this type of retirement account offers tax deductions and tax-deferred growth.
  - **Get the match:** If your employer offers a 401(k) match, contribute enough to get the full match. If you don't, you're missing out on free money.
  - **Review how your dollars are allocated:** Review your portfolio each year, and if necessary, rebalance. Be sure to keep in mind your risk tolerance, as well as how long you plan to keep your money invested. Review these assets and your other investments.
- **Take advantage of flexible spending accounts:** These accounts allow you to contribute pre-tax dollars to use during the year to pay eligible medical and child care expenses. Be sure to use wisely.
- **Add on insurance:** Many employers allow employees to buy additional life and disability insurance coverage at a low cost.

*For help understanding and making work work for you, contact Ed Meyer, FIC, Robert Morgenthaler, FIC, Tim Veldstra, FIC, or Tamara Massey, MBA at (918) 392-7130 or [greencountryassociates@thrivent.com](mailto:greencountryassociates@thrivent.com) today, or visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).*

## COMING EVENTS: October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship: 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b> <b>Sunday School: 9:45</b>				1	2	<b>3</b> <b>9-3:00 Book of Faith Teacher workshop</b> <b>And 3:00 Conf 3 Annual Mtg at Fellowship</b>
4	5	6	<b>7</b> <b>Confirmation, 7 p.m.-Joy</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Worship &amp; Music, 6:30</b> <b>Evangelism, 7:30</b>	9	10
<b>11</b> <b>Council Mtg. 12:15</b> <b>Shalomfest, 12-6 p.m., Temple Israel</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Christian Gausvik</i>	13	<b>14</b> <b>5X5, 10 a.m.</b>  <i>Michael Coleman</i> <i>Preston Napier</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20	<b>21</b> <b>Confirmation, 7 p.m.-Joy</b>  <i>Betty Jacobsen</i>	22	23	<b>24</b>  <i>Matthew Hillstrom</i>
<b>25</b> <b>9:45 Dessert Auction</b>	26	<b>27</b> <b>Women's Bible Study 10:00</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Confirmation, 7 p.m.-Joy</b>	<b>29</b>  <i>Frances Imwalle</i>	30	<b>31</b> <b>Halloween</b>

*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.*

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### OCTOBER READINGS:

#### Oct 4 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 2:18-24  
 Psalm 8  
 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12  
 Mark 10:2-16

#### Oct 18 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 53:4-12  
 Psalm 91:6-16  
 Hebrews 5:1-10  
 Mark 10:35-45

#### Oct 11 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15  
 Psalm 90:12-17  
 Hebrews 4:12-16  
 Mark 10:17-31

#### Oct 25 – Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Psalm 46  
 Romans 3:19-28  
 John 8:31-36

## Serving our Lord, October 2009

| 11:00 am  | Ushers                          | Lectors              | Acolytes                                                                                          | Communion Assistants           | Lay Assistant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Greeters                           | Counters                         |
|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4         | Doug & Roberta Napier           | Karol Wagar          | Nathan Napier                                                                                     | Ron & Bonnie Peters            | Linda Christy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Helen Allen<br>Dorothy Burgess     | Keith Khoo<br>Kelsey Khoo        |
| 11        | Stan Lewis<br>DB Woods          | Linda Christy        |                                                                                                   | Barbara James<br>Karol Wagar   | Sandy Isakson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ardith Andrist<br>Lillian Cantrell | Stan Lewis<br>Bonnie Peters      |
| 18        | Bill & Shirley Bryant           | Lillian Cantrell     | Jack Frierson                                                                                     | Sandy Isakson<br>Lynn Jacobsen | Ron Peters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Doris Elliott<br>Katherine Tooley  | Denise Khoo<br>Kelsey Khoo       |
| 25        | Gerry Oltrogge<br>Mary Peterson | Sandy Isakson        |                                                                                                   | Bill & Shirley Bryant          | Jerry Peterson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | DB Woods<br>Karol Wagar            | Gerry Oltrogge<br>Jerry Peterson |
|           |                                 |                      |                                                                                                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |                                  |
| 8:30 a.m. | Lectors                         | Communion Assistants | <b>Altar Guild</b><br><br><b>Dorothy Burgess</b><br><b>Doris Elliott</b><br><b>Betty Jacobsen</b> |                                | <i>Thank you for volunteering at Ascension!</i><br><br><b>Please mark your calendars for the dates you are assigned to serve.</b><br><br><b>If you cannot volunteer on your assigned date, please find a substitute and notify the church office (743-5741).</b> |                                    |                                  |
| 4         | Keith Khoo                      | Eileen Imwalle       |                                                                                                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |                                  |
| 11        | Jim Harris                      | Denise Khoo          |                                                                                                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |                                  |
| 18        | Carol Anwar                     | Carol Anwar          |                                                                                                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |                                  |
| 25        | Linda Christy                   | Linda Christy        |                                                                                                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |                                  |
|           |                                 |                      |                                                                                                   |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |                                  |

### Altar Flowers Provided by:

|    |                                                                    |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4  |                                                                    |
| 11 |                                                                    |
| 18 | Bill & Ruth Rasbold in honor of their 57 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary |
| 25 |                                                                    |

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Did you know?

- One in four women and one in nine men in the United States are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives (Center for Disease Control, 2005).
- At least three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends each day (Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data, 2003).
- Females age 20-24 are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006).
- Domestic violence crosses ethnic and cultural boundaries.
- We are all called to denounce and combat domestic violence and encourage greater awareness in our congregations and communities (ELCA Social Policy Action, "Violence Against Women," 1995).

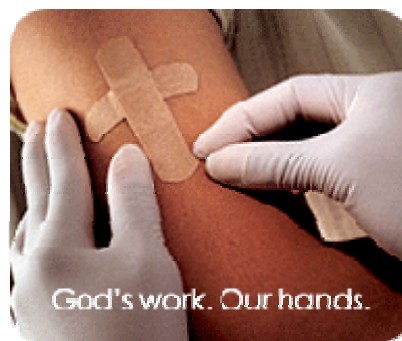
Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) is a Tulsa resource for those needing information or assistance (585-3163). Further domestic violence resources are available through [www.elca.org/justiceforwomen](http://www.elca.org/justiceforwomen)

## Where in the World Is ELCA?

At Ascension, we respond to Christ's love and example, reaching out to those in need through Helping Hands and other ministries. We buy groceries, deliver goods, organize fundraisers, or simply help fund these efforts. We see first hand what it takes to witness and serve in such ministries. Sometimes, however, we do not see how belonging to ELCA connects us to similar efforts within our community, across the country, and around the world.

Your membership in Ascension makes you part of the ELCA--a body 5 million strong in 10,500 congregations from 65 synods in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. As a public church, this body steps forward, responding to poverty, hunger, violence, disease, and disasters at home and around the world.

Beginning this month, the Ascent will feature information on how we respond as a public church to needs around the world. Usually, these will be vignettes of faith in action. This month, we will begin with a look at where your mission dollars went in 2008:



- **59** new congregations started
- **230** congregations under development
- **175** congregations supported for renewal
- **260** missionaries in **48** countries
- Ministry and projects support in over **90** countries
- Social ministry serving **1 of every 50** people in the U.S. and the Caribbean
- **8** seminaries
- **28** colleges and universities
- **185** campus ministries
- **1,530** Lutheran early childhood education centers
- **267** Lutheran elementary schools
- **147** outdoor ministries
- Health/pension benefits for clergy, missionaries, and church workers
- Long-term community development
- Advocacy with the United Nations, federal and state governments, and corporate development
- Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, and National Council of churches in Christ

**Evangelical Church in America: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Ascension Lutheran Church**

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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](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*



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