

The *Ascent*

November 2009

Ascension Lutheran Church
4803 South Lewis Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74105-5154
918-743-5741 / FAX: 918-743-4854
E-mail:
welcome@ascensionlutheran.net
pastornorm@ascensionlutheran.net

If you receive the Ascent by email and want to print your own copy, please change the VIEW to print layout.

A Note from Pastor Norm

“Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these,” (1 Timothy 6:6-8).

When I shared these verses at a recent Church Council meeting, I asked the council members what they thought of when they heard the word “contentment.” One response I received was “to be satisfied.” We might ask ourselves, “What does it take for us as individuals to feel contented or satisfied? When is enough of anything, enough?”

A colleague of mine recently suggested that the word “contentment” described an ancient City/State which had everything it needed within its own borders and didn’t need to worry about importing goods and services from outside the realm. Rather, it could focus on those resources that it had to export.

Thinking of this concept spiritually rather than materially, we might ask ourselves if we as a community of faith have anything worth exporting. Or do we constantly feel like we have an imbalance of trade—that there is so much that we need from outside of ourselves and that we have little, if anything, to share?

During our November stewardship focus, I would like to have us think about what we need to receive from outside ourselves, and what we have that is worth sharing. Specifically, on our Consecration Sundays, November 8 and 15, I would like us to reflect on **Spiritual Imports and Exports!**

Too often, I believe, any mention of stewardship gets skewed in the direction of money and budgets, and when we think of money and budgets we feel anything but contented. Especially during difficult economic times, we may operate out of a mindset of scarcity and think that there will never be enough.

That’s why I would like to challenge us to think about **spiritual** imports and exports. Certainly God has blessed us in ways that go far beyond money and budgets, although, rightly understood, these are an integral part of our spirituality. But all of life has a spiritual component. As we devote our time to Godly endeavors, what do we need to import and what do we have to export? As we make an inventory of the skills and talents that God calls us to use faithfully, what do we need to import and what do we have to export?

If you would like to think ahead with me, two of the lessons for November 8 are 1 Kings 17:8-16 (The Widow of Zarephath) and Mark 12:38-44 (The Widow’s Mite); and for November 15, I’m changing the appointed readings to 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:1-5; and 9:6-15 (Paul’s Collection for the Christians in Jerusalem).

When we reflect on all of our **Spiritual Imports and Exports**, I pray that we will all find “godliness combined with contentment.”

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

October 11, 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, Lynn Jacobsen

Call to Order: Keith Khoo
Lunch provided by Lynn Jacobsen
Pastor Norm Dake opened meeting with prayer.
Motion by Pastor Norm to approve Minutes of September 6, 2009, meeting.
Second: Lynn Jacobsen. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

Standing Committee Reports:

Pastor's report

A short bible study was held based on 1 Timothy 6:6-7.

Two new members to Ascension were welcomed at the 11:00 am service on October 11, 2009: Jennifer Adams by Affirmation of Faith and Logan Gabriel Adams by Baptism.

Doyle Hill is now residing at Forest Hills Health Care Center in Broken Arrow.

Our new tenant, K-Life had a bigger than expected opening at our church with nearly 150 children present. Some minor issues regarding clean-up were discussed with K-Life following their first meeting at Ascension.

Mary Faulkner's 10th anniversary as Ascension's secretary will be celebrated between the two worship services on November 15th. Be prepared to thank her for her service and be entertained by a special song written by Pastor Norm to celebrate the occasion.

A special Synod Visit/Listen/Share meeting will follow a dinner (6:00-6:30pm) at First Lutheran Church the evening of October 15th.

Donations to our church from Thrivent will undergo changes in 2010. Eligible Thrivent Financial members will need to direct Thrivent contributions to our congregation. The Care in Congregations and GivingPlus programs will be discontinued.

Amendments to our constitution that were recommended by the 2009 Church Wide Assembly will be included at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held in January.

Pastor Norm will be on vacation from October 19th to November 2nd. Pastor Dan Breunsbach will officiate the October 25th services and Pastor Julia Shreve will officiate the November 1st services.

Treasurer's report

Eileen Imwalle presented the Treasurer's report for September noting that Ascension's year-to-date actual income is a little more than \$17,000 below the year-to-date expenses. It was also noted that the roof repair fund is now only \$200 short of our goal thanks to designated gifts made during the last month. Sandy Isakson made a motion to accept the report and Lynn Jacobsen seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Report approved.

Worship and Music report

Our organist, Linda Cooper, has submitted a letter notifying Ascension that she has accepted an offer to work for a church in the Owasso area which is much closer to her home. She will continue to work with us for a short time while we work to find a replacement for her services. She will be missed after serving Ascension for the last two years.

Stewardship report

An annual Pledge Card and Time/Talent survey will be issued to congregation members during the November 8th Services. We are asking the congregation to pray about how they should respond to this opportunity to serve the Church. We are also asking that these forms be completed and returned by the following November 15th service.

As part of the Stewardship initiative, Temple talks will be given by Sandy Isakson at the November 1st services, Jim or Ellen Harris at the November 8th services and Eileen Imwalle at the November 15th services.

Property report

Ceiling tile replacements are needed in the upstairs hallway and nursery area due to water leaks

discovered before the roof repair was completed. The ceiling light fixture in the pastor's office and copy room need to be replaced as well as light bulbs in one of the light poles along the walk to the main Sanctuary. It was also noted that one of the swings in the playground was broken and need repair. Jim Harris accepted responsibility to make all repairs.

Old Business

We have had a number of congregational members take advantage of the automatic withdrawal program that was introduced several months ago. A minor charge of 20 cents per transaction is required to pay for this service. A motion by Eileen Imwalle and seconded by Sandy Isakson was unanimously approved to pay approximately \$4 per month to cover those charges.

New Business

The merger proposal from Bethany Lutheran Church was discussed at length. A motion to call a special congregational meeting at 9:45 am on November 8th to approve the Council of Ascension Lutheran Church entering into conversations with other ELCA congregations regarding a possible merger was made by Lynn Jacobsen and seconded by Sandy Isakson. The motion carried unanimously.

The current phone system at Ascension was discussed at length. A proposal from Cox Communications to replace the current three phone

lines and internet service from AT&T with two phone lines and internet service was approved with a savings of \$2500 over the next three years. The cost of replacing the current non-digital phone system with a digital phone system or removing the phone system and replacing the current phones with digital phones will be investigated during the next 30 days and discussed at the next council meeting.

A dessert auction to be held on October 25th to help fund the Helping Hands program was announced. The next Council meeting will be held on November 8th following the 11:00 Service. Sandy Isakson will provide lunch.

Doris Williams has donated gift baskets for a silent auction. They are on display in the upstairs hallway. Be sure to take a look and bid on your favorites. These make excellent gifts. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Helping Hands Adopt-A-Family program.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim Harris. 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@cox.net or call me at my home phone, 583-3759 by the 21st of each month.

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS: On Saturday night, October 31, remember to set your clocks back one hour.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 8, at 9:45 a.m. in Jordan Hall. Brunch will be served. The purpose of this meeting is to consider discussions with other ELCA congregations regarding a possible merger.

HELP WANTED! Joy Lutheran Church is searching for a new Office Manager. This is a part-time position of 20-30 hours per week. For information on the position, please check with Mary Faulkner in the church office

"MESSIAH" CHORUS SINGERS INVITED! The 89th annual presentation of Handel's "Messiah" by the Tulsa area Lutheran churches will be on December 5th and 6th. 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 25th, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church at 13th and Utica. We will meet each Sunday thereafter at the same time until the presentation.

THE GREAT PIGEON RACE: Our resident counseling center, CCE, is again holding a homing pigeon race. This year's race is on Sunday, November 8 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Camp Loughridge. All are invited. Ascension's pigeon, *Ascender*, won the church division a couple of years ago. We would like to enter *Ascender* again this year. Pigeon sponsorships cost \$250 and go toward scholarship funds for low-income clients of CCE. If you would like to contribute to Ascension's pigeon, please mark your contribution "CCE pigeon" and place in the offering plate or give to Mary Faulkner. CCE thanks you for your support.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: There will be no bible study in November. Please mark your calendar for the Holly Berry luncheon on **December 12** at 11:30. More information later.

DAYTIME 5X5: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, **November 4**, at 10:00 AM in the adult classroom. We are studying the book of Romans. Led by Pastor Norm. All are welcome.

EVENING 5x5: Meetings began in October. Please talk with Blaine Frierson (695-5979) or Keith Khoo (633-4732) if you would like to join.

TRINITY MINISTRIES: Thursday, Nov 12: Annual lunch at OSU Culinary School in Okmulgee at 11:15 AM. Reservations required and we request that you pay the \$8 fee in advance. RSVP by Nov 2 to 794-5041.

Ascenders, pat yourselves on the back!

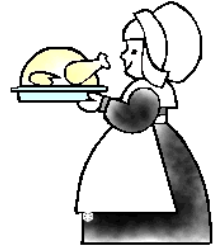
The annual dessert auction held last week was our biggest success ever!!! We raised \$980 for Helping Hands, which will be matched by Thrivent. Special thanks go to the Khoos, Engelkes, Harris', Imwalles, Anwars, Barbara James, and Cathy Newsome for providing all the food for the brunch. Thanks also go to every single person that provided baked goods to be auctioned off. This truly was a team effort. Thanks again!

The Helping Hands Committee

Helping Hands

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

For many years, we have supplied Thanksgiving meals to Family and Children's Services, and this year will be no exception. We all have so much to be thankful for that it is only natural that we share with those less fortunate than ourselves.



If you would like to participate, a **\$25.00 donation provides a complete turkey dinner for a family of 4 – 6 people.** You can donate any amount--\$5 or an amount that feeds several families. We will pool all of the money received and buy as many dinners as we have money for. If you would like to take part in this program, please have your form and appropriate amount of money turned in by **November 22nd** so we can do our shopping and get the meals put together. All dinners will be delivered to Family and Children's Services in time for them to be delivered to the individual families.

Thank you so much for caring enough to share your blessings. If you have any questions, please contact the Ascension church office at 743-5741.

I (WE) WOULD LIKE TO DONATE MONEY FOR THANKSGIVING DINNERS.

DONATED BY: _____ **AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** _____

Mark your checks "Holiday Dinners"

Thanksgiving Pies



Place your order today for a made-from-scratch Thanksgiving pie!!!! All profits will go to the Helping Hands Holiday programs. We will apply for matching funds from Thrivent.

Please be here on Sunday, Nov. 22nd to pick up your pies!

Please place your orders by Monday, Nov. 16th. Contact the church office, Eileen Imwalle or Carol Anwar.

_____ **PECAN PIE(S)** X \$15 each = \$ _____

_____ **APPLE CRUMB PIE(S)** X \$15 each = \$ _____

_____ **Sugar-free APPLE PIE** X \$17 each = \$ _____

_____ **PUMPKIN PIE(S)** X \$12 each = \$ _____



NAME: _____ **AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** _____

Mark your checks "Thanksgiving Pies"

Please pay when your pies are delivered. Orders due by November 16.

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR ORDERS AND MONEY TO:
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
4803 S. LEWIS AVE.
TULSA, OK 74105**

OR PLACE IN THE OFFERING PLATE ON SUNDAY

HELPING HANDS JARS

The Helping Hands committee will be offering jars for sale again this year at \$6 each, to raise money for the Family and Children's Services holiday family adoption program for the needy. All families are personally known and nominated by the FCS counselors and must be actively working towards betterment of their lives. These families would not be able to otherwise provide Christmas gifts for their children. Only the very most deserving families are chosen for this program. We will be providing toys and candy for the kids, but each year we spend a very large amount of our budget on items such as blankets, clothing, winter coats, shoes, underwear, food, diapers, towels, dishes, and other basic necessities. All money raised from the sale of jars will go towards this program.

This year, we will ONLY be making jars that are pre-ordered. WE WILL NOT HAVE ANY EXTRA JARS FOR SALE AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST. Please decide now how many jars you would like for yourself and to give for gifts, and place your order with Carol Anwar by November 15th, at caroll@sbcglobal.net or 296-0235. Jars will be available on Sunday, November 22nd. Please make sure you receive a response back on your order so that you know I received your request. We will not be able to take any orders after the 15th as we will be starting the calculations/shopping process for the ingredients on the 16th.

2009 Jar List

Love Soup
Chicken Noodle Soup
Beef Barley Soup
Jambalaya
Meaty Spanish Rice
Skillet Stroganoff
Skillet Lasagna
Beefy Mexican Casserole
Snow Ball Cookies
Cowboy Cookies
Munchy Crunchy Cookies
Double Chocolate Nutty Brownies

Jar orders due by November 15th

--- No extra jars will be available this year!!! ---

Cost: \$6.00 each

Call Carol Anwar at 296-0235 to place your order.



COMING EVENTS: November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday School: 9:45						
1	2	3	4 Daytime 5X5, 10 a.m. Evang.Mtg.7pm Conf./Joy, 7pm	5	6 <i>George Shelby</i>	7
8 Cong.mtg. brunch, 9:45 Council mtg./ Gt. Pigeon race, 2-4 <i>Gerry Oltrogge</i>	9	10	11 Veterans' Day Conf./Joy,7pm <i>Eileen Imwalle</i>	12 Trin.Min.OSU Culinary School	13	14
15	16	17	18 Daytime 5X5, 10:am Conf./Joy,7pm <i>Clint Britsch</i>	19	20	21
22 <i>Doris Britsch</i>	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving <i>Shirley Bryant</i>	27 Church office closed.	28
29 <i>Aubrey Harris</i>	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.

NOVEMBER READINGS:

Nov. 1 – All Saints Day

Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

Nov. 22 – Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-10; 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

Nov. 8 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 29 – 1st Sunday in Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Nov. 15 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 8:1-15
2 Corinthians 9:1-5
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Serving our Lord, November 2009

11:00 am	Ushers	Lectors	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Lay Assistant	Greeters	Counters
1	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Katherine Tooley	Elizabeth Balman	Doris Elliott Donna Glocker	Jerry Peterson	Mary Peterson	Merl Lindburg Mary Faulkner
8	Stan Lewis Karol Wagar	Karol Wagar		Lillian Cantrell Linda Christy	Sandy Isakson	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Stan Lewis Bonnie Peters
15	Merl & Billie Lindburg	Linda Christy	Jack Frierson	Barbara James Karol Wagar	Ron Peters	Ed & Norma Dreyer	Denise Khoo Kelsey Khoo
22	Ed & Norma Dreyer	Lillian Cantrell		Ron & Bonnie Peters	Linda Christy	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Gerry Oltrogge Jerry Peterson
29	Doug & Roberta Napier	Sandy Isakson	Nathan Napier	Lynn Jacobsen Sandy Isakson	Linda Christy	Mary Faulkner Barbara Shelby	Mary Faulkner Barbara Shelby
8:30 a.m.	Lectors	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild Ardith Andrist Lillian Cantrell Randi Clark Donna Glocker		<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).		
1	Ellen Harris	Eileen Imwalle					
8	Cathy Newsome	Cathy Newsome					
15	Keith Khoo	Denise Khoo					
22	Jim Harris	Eileen Imwalle					
29	Carol Anwar	Carol Anwar					

Altar Flowers Provided by:

1	
8	
15	
22	Irene Preston & Sandy Isakson
29	

TOO GOOD NOT TO SHARE:

Perhaps I shouldn't reveal all of my trade secrets, but a valuable resource I make use of weekly is www.workingpreacher.org. This website is an educational tool of Luther Theological Seminary (one of my alma maters) in St. Paul, Minnesota.

New to the website is a Bible study feature which is too good not to share. It is called "Enter the Bible" and contains a wealth of information on every book of the Bible—and from a Lutheran perspective! Features include: Passages, People, Places, Images (art work), Maps, and Videos. It is not too technical, and I think you will find it to contain material that can be devotional as well as educational. Check it out!

Pastor Norm

Where in the World is the AR-OK Synod?

Tanzania, rich in hospitable people like the Masai, fresh in scenic beauty like Mount Kilimanjaro and Lake Victoria, and abundant in wildlife as on the Serengeti, is also one of the world's poorest nations. Water is scarce. Many Tanzanians spend the better part of each day hauling water for family needs or herding livestock to water, which also keeps them away from their families. The country also deals with poor sanitation, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and lack of education as it struggles to lift its people out of extreme poverty.

Yet Christianity is growing there. The Mission District of the Morogoro Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in central Tanzania has 10,000 new and recent Christians, many of whom walk up to three miles to celebrate their faith.

They meet under tin roofs in stick-and-mud structures or in "pole churches" built by locals and visiting teams, under trees with their cattle nearby, or even in existing churches and schools. Usually, a trained evangelist leads the worship and shares God's Word. When their ordained pastor comes, they celebrate Holy Communion and baptize new members—from children to village elders.



One of four pole churches built to house worship in the bush.

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod connected with the Mission District at the encouragement of Asbury Methodist Church in Tulsa, which in 1997 began visiting the area. Asbury decided to join existing Lutheran efforts rather than establish competing evangelical work. Now Lutherans in our Synod follow the lead of this Methodist congregation in contributing to Lutheran efforts in Tanzania. In support of our brothers and sisters in the Mission District, the Arkansas Oklahoma Synod:

- Raises funds through the Marshal Match to support and train evangelists in sharing God's Word across the District's 120 places of worship. These efforts help spread Christianity and also support the work of 14 ordained pastors, each of whom serves multiple congregations.
- Drills and rehabilitates wells, sending volunteer teams to help and providing support for planning, construction, and quality control, with six functioning wells completed so far.
- Supports medical team visits to address health care needs, most recently a team sponsored by Peace Lutheran Church of Rogers, AR.
- Seeks donations for the education of children in the Mission District.
- Has committed to raise \$20,000 in donations for an appropriate vehicle Pastor Josh and Susan Magwar, the newly-assigned ELCA missionaries in Morogoro, so they can visit their congregations and get around the District.

The AR-OK Synod lobbied the ELCA to assign missionaries to the Mission District and now celebrates the Magyars' appointment. Pastor Josh Magyar grew up in Colorado and Alaska, earned a business degree from Southern Oregon University, and attended Wartburg Seminary. After graduating, he became an Associate Pastor at Pella Lutheran in Sidney, Montana, where he met and married Sue, a native of Sidney. A previous trip to Africa on a Companion Synod visit had greatly influenced Josh. Sue, who became a teacher after graduating from Montana State University, has a passion for working with children and a life-long interest in Africa and its people. For both of them, becoming part of the ELCA Global Mission is a dream come true.

The Magyar's arrived in Morogoro on September 26 and are now learning the native language—Swahili. To visit their blog and share in their ministry experiences, go to joshandsue.blogspot.com.

For ways to support these efforts and for details about the AR-OK Synod's work in the Mission District of Morogoro, see <http://www.helpingtanzania.org>, a featured link on the AR-OK Web site.

God's Work, Our Hands--The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Submitted by Cathy Newsome for the Evangelism Committee

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

**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*



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