

# The *Ascent*

December 2009

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

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*If you receive the Ascent by email and want to print your own copy, please change the VIEW to print layout.*  
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## A Note from Pastor Norm

Throughout history there have been famous couples: Anthony and Cleopatra, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier, Martin and Katie Luther, Lucy and Ricky, Oscar and Felix (The Odd Couple). Some were married (some more than once), and some were not.

For our Wednesday evening Advent soup suppers, I want to reflect on some of **GOD'S COUPLES**:

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| December 2      | Zechariah & Elizabeth |
| Luke 1:5-25     | Dutiful & Dumbfounded |
| December 9      | Simeon & Anna         |
| Luke 2:22-38    | Elderly & Expectant   |
| December 16     | Mary & Joseph         |
| Matthew 1:18-25 | Fearful & Faithful    |
| Luke 1:26-38    |                       |

Some were married; Simeon and Anna were not, at least not to each other. Each of these couples has something to teach us about the baby Jesus and about ourselves.

Our **Wednesday evenings** will begin at **6:30 P.M.** with a soup supper in Jordan Hall, followed by a brief and informal time for worship. Plan to join us.

Our **Christmas Eve** service of Lessons and Carols on **December 24** will be at **7:00 P.M.** in the sanctuary. This service will also feature candle light and Holy Communion.

Our **Christmas Day** service of Holy Communion on **December 25** will be at **10:00 A.M.**, also in the sanctuary.

In the midst of all of the activities that can so quickly fill our calendars during this time of the year, I trust that these extra opportunities for worship and spiritual reflection will remind us that our busyness needs to allow time for God's business, and that the holidays are truly holy days.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor Norm

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**Pastoral Care:** *If you are in need of pastoral care when dealing with health issues, life choices, or other personal challenges, please contact Pastor Norm.*  
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# Church Council Minutes November 8, 2009

Officers Present: Pastor Norman P. Dake, President  
Keith Khoo, Vice President Sandy Isakson, Secretary  
Kelly Knopp, Treasurer Eileen Imwalle  
Council Members Present: Jim Harris, Lynn Jacobsen

Call to Order: Keith Khoo  
Motion by Sandy Isakson to approve Minutes of October  
11, 2009 meeting. Second: Eileen Imwalle. All in favor.  
None opposed. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

## Pastor's report

We received letter of transfer for Eric Pfaff. Pastor Norm  
is taking the last of his vacation Thanksgiving week and  
the Sunday following Thanksgiving.

## Treasurer's report

Motion by Kelly Knopp to approve the Treasurer's report.  
Second: Lynn Jacobsen. All in favor. None opposed.  
Motion carried. Treasurer's report approved

## Worship and Music

Our organist has accepted an offer of employment with  
another congregation. Her last day was today. We have  
names of temporary persons who are willing to fill in but  
we are looking for a permanent organist.

## Mutual Ministry

The committee held a preliminary meeting. Next  
Sunday, November 15, 2009, the committee has  
planned an event honoring Mary Faulkner's ten years of  
service to our church.

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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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## Make your retirement fund work harder for you and your church. .50% extra bonus rate

Get an IRA from the Mission Investment Fund, and you'll not only build your portfolio. You'll help build your church.

From November 1, 2009, through April 15, 2010, purchase a new Mission Investment Fund fixed-rate IRA – and earn an  
extra .50% over the rate in effect at the time of purchase for the full term of the investment. All it takes is a minimum \$100  
investment in a MissionTermSelect fixed-rate IRA or \$250,000 in a MissionTermSelectGrand fixed-rate IRA. Check out  
current rates at [www.elca.org/mif](http://www.elca.org/mif) or contact Paula Kitt at 773.682.2738; [paula.kitt@elca.org](mailto:paula.kitt@elca.org).

When you invest in the Mission Investment Fund, you get more than a great rate. You also help build your church. We use  
the money you invest to make loans to ELCA congregations and related ministries for building and renovation projects.  
Get your IRA today. Call 877.886.3522.

## Old Business

We have new phone service with Cox. Jim Harris is  
researching the possibility of replacing our existing  
phones and rewiring the system. Our existing fax  
machine requires a dedicated line and is not compatible  
with the new phone service. We can borrow CCE's fax  
machine if necessary.

## New Business

Pastor Norm requested that the council make a  
resolution regarding his compensation and benefits.  
Motion by Keith Khoo for a continuous resolution which  
states that an amount of \$35,000 of Pastor Norm's  
annual compensation package shall be designated for  
housing. Second: Jim Harris. All in favor. None  
opposed. Motion carried. Resolution approved.

## Budget

Discussion of budget followed.

Next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is December  
14, 2009. Eileen Imwalle will provide lunch.

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

Pastor Norm closed the meeting with a blessing.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Knopp

# COMING EVENTS: December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship: 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b> <b>Sunday School: 9:45</b>		1	<b>2</b> <b>Daytime 5X5 10:00</b> <b>Advent Supper 6:30</b> <i>Brittany Engelke</i>	3	4	5 <i>Ron Hillstrom</i>
<b>6</b> <b>Evang. Comm. 12:15</b> <b>Merger Survey mtg. 9:45</b> <i>Norma Dreyer</i> <i>Helen Allen</i>	7	<b>8</b> <b>Trin.Min. Sand Springs trip</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Advent Supper 6:30</b> <b>Worship &amp; Music 7:30</b> <i>Katherine Tooley</i>	10	11	<b>12</b> <b>Women's Holly Berry lunch, 11:30</b> <b>Oaks Mission party, 1:00</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Council Mtg. 12:15</b>	14	<b>15</b> <i>Gregory Engelke</i>	<b>16</b> <b>Daytime 5X5 10:00</b> <b>Advent Supper 6:30</b> <i>Kathy Dossett</i>	17	18 <i>Richard Harris</i>	19 <i>Margaret Butler</i>
20	21	22	23	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve, Service 7:00</b> <i>Bradley Devault</i>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas service, 10:00</b> <i>Carole Broadland</i> <i>Katie Devault</i>	26 <i>Irene Preston</i>
27 <i>Nathan Napier</i>	28	29	30	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>		

**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.

## Helping Hands -- A Winner!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans had their annual meeting, November 8<sup>th</sup>, to elect officers for our chapter and to distribute food baskets to each of the 17 churches in our area.. This year they decided to make an 18th basket and have a drawing for the extra one.

Not only did Ascension get the basket from Joy Lutheran (we share our Helping Hands Ministry with them) we won the extra basket in the drawing.

Each church received a basket, from Reasor's, worth \$133. Yea! We came out of the meeting with \$399 worth of non-perishables for our Helping Hands Pantry

Thank you to Keith Khoo for meeting Helen Allen and me at Reasor's to pick up the groceries. The load filled Keith's SUV. Thanks, also, to Eileen Imwalle for helping Keith unload.

Ascension is blessed with so many "helping hands" like Keith and Eileen.

Sandy Isakson, Ascension's Thrivent Congregational Coordinator.



# *Helping Hands* **CHRISTMAS DINNERS**

For many years we have supplied Christmas 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 or ham 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 **December 13th** 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.

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## *HELPING HANDS* **CHRISTMAS DINNERS**

***I (WE) WOULD LIKE TO DONATE MONEY  
FOR CHRISTMAS DINNERS.  
DONATED BY:***

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***AMOUNT  
ENCLOSED:*** \_\_\_\_\_

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

***OR PLACE IN THE OFFERING PLATE***

***Mark your checks "Holiday Dinners"***



# **Helping Hands** **Adopt-A-Family Program**

Many of us are greatly blessed in so very many ways. Christmas brings us an additional opportunity to share some of our blessings with others who are not as fortunate as we are.

This program is administered by Family and Children's Services. They choose families who will not otherwise be able to provide Christmas gifts for their children, and then ask for members of the community to adopt these families.

**Ascension will coordinate the effort so that you can participate by making a cash donation. We pool the donations and money we raise from selling jars and adopt as many families as we have money for.**

We provide the ENTIRE Christmas meal and gifts for families, centering on the needs of the children. We also try to provide some much needed household items for the adult(s). We are provided with the history of the family and the wish list.

**We do want to point out that this program is completely separate from the Helping Hands Christmas dinner project.** Funds for the dinners provide the holiday meal for families. The Adopt-A-Family project is separate and provides Christmas gifts for other families.

***If you have any questions please contact  
Carol Anwar at 296-0235.***

If you would like to participate in any way, please fill out the form below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to provide a cash donation  
in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make checks payable to Ascension Lutheran  
Church with the memo "Adopt-A-Family"

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to make jars, do shopping, and/or help  
with gift wrapping.

*Thank you for your support.*



**DECEMBER READINGS:**

**Dec. 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Mal 3:1-4 or Bar 5:1-9  
 Luke 1:68-79  
 Phil 1:3-11  
 Luke 3:1-6

**Dec 24 – Christmas Eve**

Isa 9:2-7  
 Psalm 96  
 Titus 2:11-14  
 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

**Dec. 13 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Zeph 3:14-20  
 Isa 12:2-6  
 Phil 4:4-7  
 Luke 3:7-18

**Dec 25 – Christmas Day**

Isa 62:6-12  
 Psalm 97  
 Titus 3:4-7  
 Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

**Dec. 20 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a  
 Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7  
 Heb 10:5-10  
 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

**Dec 27 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

1 Sam 2:18-20, 26  
 Psalm 148  
 Col 3:12-17  
 Luke 2:41-52

**Serving our Lord, December 2009**

11:00 am	Ushers	Lectors	Crucifer	Communion Assistants	Lay Assistant	Greeters	Counters
6	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Katherine Tooley		Barbara James Karol Wagar	Sandy Isakson	Chris & Catherine Gausvik	Merl Lindburg Mary Faulkner
13	Stan Lewis DB Woods	Karol Wagar		Doris Elliott Donna Glocker	Ron Peters	Linda Christy Barbara Shelby	Stan Lewis Bonnie Peters
20	Donna Glocker Karol Wagar	Chris Gausvik		Ron & Bonnie Peters	Linda Christy	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Denise Khoo Kelsey Khoo
24	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Sandy Isakson Lillian Cantrell		Bill & Shirley Bryant		Merl & Billie Lindburg	
27	Merl & Billie Lindburg	Linda Christy		Lillian Cantrell Linda Christy	Ron Peters	Betty & Lynn Jacobsen	Gerry Oltrogge Jerry Peterson
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>  <b>Helen Allen</b> <b>Bonnie Peters</b> <b>Mary Peterson</b>		<i>Thank you for volunteering at Ascension!</i>  <b>Please mark your calendars for the dates you are assigned to serve.</b>  <b>If you cannot volunteer on your assigned date, please find a substitute and notify the church office (743-5741).</b>		
6	Carol Anwar	Carol Anwar					
13	Linda Christy	Linda Christy					
20	Ellen Harris	Eileen Imwalle					
27	Cathy Newsome	Cathy Newsome					

**Altar Flowers Provided by:**

6	Ron & Bonnie Peters
13	Betty & Lynn Jacobsen in memory of Jake, Wayne and Janie Dorothy Burgess in memory of Bill
20	The Napiers in memory of Elaine Preston
27	

# A Gift of Peace

Financial Peace University (FPU) is a life-changing program that teaches achievement of financial goals. The course challenges and motivates participants to manage money and improve their lives by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving back. For news stories on the Web about how FPU works, see [Finance Guru Teaches Debt Control](#) (Kansas City's *Fox4 News*) or [Dave Ramsey: America's Most Relevant Christian](#) (Carroll, Iowa's *Daily Times Herald*).

On January 30, Ascension will begin a 13-week Financial Peace University class on Saturdays from 10 AM till noon. Earlier that month, the Adult Sunday School class will have a course preview (date TBA). The series is open to the community and includes free child care. Participants pay only for the course kit, available for \$99 (\$93 + shipping & handling) from the Course Coordinator. Any couple registering shares one kit, which includes:

- Course membership
- FPU workbook
- CD with all 13 lessons
- Dave Ramsey's bestseller *Financial Peace Revisited*
- Budgeting form
- FPU envelope system
- Bonus CD
- Online access to FPU Member Resources throughout the course

This class makes a good Christmas gift for anyone struggling to make ends meet--family members, a friend, or even yourself. Those completing the class qualify for a drawing for a \$100 savings bond. If you have questions, call Julia Shreve, the Course Coordinator. Or e-mail [welcome@ascensionlutheran.net](mailto:welcome@ascensionlutheran.net) with "FPU" as the subject so the message can be forwarded for a reply.

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## Financial Peace University Class Enrollment Form

<b>Class Location:</b> Ascension Lutheran Church 4803 S. Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74105 918-743-5741	<b>Class date/time:</b> Saturday, January 30 thru May 2 10 AM till Noon No class April 3 (Easter weekend)	<b>Coordinator</b> Julia Shreve 918-913-1566 FPU Advisor: Steve Stubblefield
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First Name	<i>Please print</i>	Last Name	Spouse's Name if also registering
<input type="text"/>			
Primary Phone	Cell Phone	E-mail address	
<input type="text"/>			

- Indicate with an "x" all that apply:
- Registration with Check # \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed, payable to "Ascension Lutheran," with "FPU Kit" noted.
  - Already registered online
  - Need child care--information filled in below

<input type="text"/>	
Number of children	Names and ages

Register before January 20, 2010, to guarantee having your kit for the first session. Registrations after that date may delay kit delivery. Please send registrations to the church office.

**Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Value Survey**

Dear Ascenders, as we prayerfully approach the challenge of evaluating what, if any, steps Ascension will take toward restructuring our congregation, it is important to understand what we value. We would appreciate your thoughtful response to the questions below. Please feel free to add additional comments on the back of the form. Your signature is optional.

***Please rate these activities and their importance to you, where 1 is not important and 5 is critically important.***

**Helping Hands ministry:**

1    2    3    4    5

**Mid-week study groups (i.e. 5x5):**

1    2    3    4    5

**Seasonal weekly services (Advent, Lent):**

1    2    3    4    5

**Thanksgiving, Christmas & Easter meals and gifts for others:**

1    2    3    4    5

**To add additional ministry/outreach programs:**

1    2    3    4    5

**Women's Bible Study:**

1    2    3    4    5

**A traditional service:**

1    2    3    4    5

**A contemporary service:**

1    2    3    4    5

**Add youth to the congregation:**

1    2    3    4    5

**Additional music for our services:**

1    2    3    4    5

**The Church able to meet operating expenses without using savings:**

1    2    3    4    4

**The Church free of debt:**

1    2    3    4    5

**To retain our pastor:**

1    2    3    4    5

**To retain our church building:**

1    2    3    4    5

**MERGER COMMITTEE:** The Committee members are: Roberta Napier, Chair; Ed Dreyer, Sandy Isakson, D.B. Woods; Katherine Tooley. Our next meeting will be an open meeting on Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. in the adult classroom. You are encouraged to attend. If you have not filled out the informational survey, please do so at that time and turn it in. See you there!

### A Brief Biography of Bethany Lutheran Church

Bethany Lutheran Church began in Tulsa in 1954 as a mission congregation of the American Lutheran Church. It is located near Skelly Drive and East 46<sup>th</sup> Street off of Darlington.

Bethany's members are active in the local and Lutheran community, are known for their educational and musical activities, and participate in a variety of ways, such as:

- Elfriede Kennedy food pantry
- Study Club for Key Elementary (tutoring and dinner) [with other churches]
- Southside Meals on Wheels
- Oaks Indian Center
- WELCA
- Lutheran Youth Organization
- CROP Walk
- Habitat for Humanity
- Bach at Bethany concerts
- Organ recitals

Spiritual needs are addressed with weekly evening Bible study, Sunday school for children and an Adult Forum, and confirmation classes. They have a mid-week service and one service on Sunday morning.

Bethany is in good financial standing with no large outstanding debts and no capital projects needed. Their primary objective is to have a mission focused, self-sustaining congregation.

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## Where in the World Is Ascension Giving?

### Giving in the Community

Ascension responds to God's love by helping others. Continued growth in this area shows in our members' generosity with these projects:

- **Helping Hands Food Pantry:** The October dessert auction yielded a record amount and with matching Thrivent funds will fund the Pantry in the coming year, feeding four families per week.
- **Adopt-a-Family:** Those who bought pies and food jars in November helped this fund, which buys Christmas gifts and essentials for the poor. This project yielded over \$1600, providing enough to help 28 people in all. If planning to add a contribution for this Christmas, please let Carol Anwar know by December 13.
- **Holiday Dinners:** About 23 families had Thanksgiving dinner because of donations from members. In the coming weeks, you will have another opportunity to feed the poor by contributing for Christmas dinners.
- **Time and Talent:** Ascension is lucky to have people who keep these projects going. Eileen Imwalle, Barbara James, and Catherine Gausvik buy and deliver food weekly for Helping Hands. This group also delivers the holiday dinners. A crew of about 20 people came together for a workday for Adopt-a-Family—baking pies, and putting food jars together. The Gausviks, Imwalles, Anwars and Engelkes do the shopping, wrap the presents, and deliver them.

A big thanks to everyone who supports these important ministries!

### Giving in a Special Way

Many of you gave gifts of appreciation last month to celebrate Mary Faulkner and her 10th Anniversary as Ascension's Secretary. One gift, a donation for a sheep honoring Mary, came from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Mary's sheep will provide wool and nutritious milk to a family living in poverty. The wool can be used to make clothing and bedding, and the family can sell what is not needed to earn money for other necessities.

If you want ideas for honoring someone else in a way that spreads God's word and healing, find ELCA's Good Gifts catalog in the narthex or visit [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts).

your gift was hard to wrap

Animals provide families living in poverty with food, funds, and fertilizer—all for a better future. A donation to support animal-related projects of ELCA World Hunger has been given in your name.

Learn more about your gift at [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts)

ELCA World Hunger  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



Our special thanks to Mary Faulkner for her ten years of dedicated service to Ascension Lutheran Church. What would we do without her smiles, her organizational skills, and most of all, her caring heart!

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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.

**TRINITY MINISTRIES:** Tuesday, Dec 8: Bus trip with the Sand Springs Area Senior Citizens Assoc. for Christmas shopping. RSVP by calling 794-5041.

**OAKS INDIAN MISSION:** You are invited to attend a kitchen-warming party for the Oaks Indian Mission cafeteria on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm. They are registered with Kohl's, Wal-Mart, and Target. Registrant's name in Arlene Brown. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling (918) 868-2196.

**"MESSIAH"** 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>** at First Lutheran Church at 13<sup>th</sup> and Utica.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** There will be no Bible study in November. Please mark your calendars for our Holly Berry luncheon on **December 12 at 11:30 AM**. Look for your invitation in the mail.

**DAYTIME 5X5:** Our next meetings will be on Wednesday, **December 2 and 16**, at 10:00 AM in the adult classroom. We are studying the book of Romans. Led by Pastor Norm. All are welcome.

**EVENING 5X5:** Those who would like to join us, talk with Blaine Frierson (695-5979) or Keith Khoo (633-4732).

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*To all my friends at Ascension:*

*Thank you so much for the fantastic anniversary celebration! I am overwhelmed by your generosity. The sheep for ELCA World Hunger was such a good idea and the money that you presented me with will be put to good use to purchase a new home computer. I'm so excited about that! I appreciate you all!*

*~Mary Faulkner*

**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**