

The *Ascent*

January 2010

Ascension Lutheran Church
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A Note from Pastor Norm

As a youngster I never appreciated getting clothes for Christmas. Why waste a good Christmas present on something to wear when there are toys and games and books that would be a lot more fun?

I have to admit that my attitude has changed over the years. While I'm not really in need of more clothes (or at least I don't think I am), I can't say that I'm in need of toys and games, either. It is interesting, therefore, to receive a new shirt and to reflect on the choice of style and color that family members have made on my behalf. Were they truly thinking of me, or did they have themselves in mind when they made their selection?

If God were to pick out clothes for us, what would they look like? Would they be different from what we might choose for ourselves? No need to imagine. St. Paul describes God's shopping list in Colossians 3:12-17, the Second Reading for the First Sunday of Christmas:

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

God was truly thinking of us when God picked out our spiritual clothes. How beautiful and handsome we will look throughout the new year as we are clothed with **compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, love, peace, and thankfulness!** And wonder of wonders: one size fits all!

Epiphany Peace!
Let the Light Shine!

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

December 13, 2009

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

Council Members Present: Ed Dreyer, Jim Harris

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

Jean DeVoll Donaldson is leading a renewal event on January 23, 2010 at St. Andrew in Sand Springs.

New members Eric Pfaff and Elaine and H.I. Aston were received into the church on December 13, 2009.

Treasurer's report

Motion by Ed Dreyer to approve the Treasurer's report. Second: Sandy Isakson. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Treasurer's report approved.

Sandy Isakson made a motion to authorize funding the remaining amount of our Benevolence pledge to the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod in the amount of \$2,500 (total pledge was \$4,000; \$1,500 previously submitted). Jim Harris seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Worship and Music

We have secured fill-in or temporary organists for all upcoming services except the service planned for Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. We are still looking for a permanent organist.

Property

Jim Harris reported that it will cost \$200 to have our telephone system rewired to be compatible with most telephones. If we have the system rewired, we could purchase new phones separately. Discussion followed. Jim Harris moved to authorize expenditure of an amount up to \$750 to have system rewired and to purchase phones.

Additional discussion of property issues followed.

New Business

Merger/Renewal Committee will lead communication and discussions with other congregations. We have had discussions with Joy and we have sent documents to Bethany.

Jim Harris made a motion to authorize Lifeline Screening to hold an event in Jordan Hall on March 3, 2010, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sandy Isakson seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Discussion followed regarding standardizing fees for use of Jordan Hall by non-members.

Jim Harris made a motion to establish a set price of \$200 for the use of Jordan Hall to non-members. Ed Dreyer seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Request by K-Life to use Jordan Hall. K-Life plans to show a movie and they anticipate 120 kids will attend. Pastor Norm Dake made a motion to authorize K-Life to use Jordan Hall on January 20, 2010 with the requirement that K-Life agree that one adult be present for every ten kids who attend the event. Ed Dreyer seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is January 10, 2010. Keith Khoo will provide lunch.

Motion by Kelly Knopp to adjourn meeting. Second: Keith Khoo. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Pastor Norm closed the meeting with a blessing.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Knopp

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.

COMING EVENTS: January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday School: 9:45					1	2 <i>Beth Coleman</i>
3 Evang. Mtg 12:15 <i>Katie Williams</i>	4	5	6 Daytime 5x5 10:00 <i>Annette Hillstrom</i>	7 Wor/Music mtg 6:30 <i>Gary Collins</i>	8	9
10 Council mtg. 12:15 <i>David Hillsrom Elizabeth Balman</i>	11 MLK, Jr. Day <i>Karol Wagar</i>	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Mary Faulkner</i>
17 <i>Doris Williams</i>	18	19	20 Daytime 5x5 10:00	21 <i>Jim Harris</i>	22 <i>Betty Collins</i>	23 Congregational Renewal Event, St. Andrew LC 9:30-11:45
24 Congregational Mtg, 9:45, Jordan Hall	25 <i>Brendan Gausvik</i>	26	27 <i>Sara Anwar Eric Pfaff</i>	28	29	30 Financial Peace Univ. 10:00-12:00, Jordan Hall
31						

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.

JANUARY READINGS:

Jan. 3 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Jer 31:7-14
 Psalm 147:12-20
 Eph. 1:3-14
 John 1: (1-9) 10-18

Jan. 10 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 43:1-7
 Psalm 29
 Acts 8:14-17
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 17 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5
 Psalm 36:5-10
 1 Cor. 12:1-11
 John 2:2:1-11

Jan. 24 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Psalm 19
 1 Cor 12:12-31a
 Luke 4:14-21

Jan. 31 – 4th Sunday After Epiphany

Jer. 1:4-10
 Psalm 71:1-6
 1 Cor. 13:1-13
 Luke 4:21-30

Serving our Lord, January 2010

11:00 am	Ushers	Lectors	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Lay Assistant	Greeters	Counters
3	Ed & Norma Dreyer	Chris Gausvik		Lynn Jacobsen Sandy Isakson	Linda Christy	Helen Allen Dorothy Burgess	Merl Lindburg Mary Faulkner
10	Doug & Roberta Napier	Carroll Werling	Nathan Napier	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Sandy Isakson	Ardith Andrist Lillian Cantrell	Stan Lewis Bonnie Peters
17	Bill & Shirley Bryant	Karol Wagar		Doris Elliott/ Donna Glocker	Ron Peters	Doris Elliott Katherine Tooley	Denise Khoo Kelsey Khoo
24	Donna Glocker DB Woods	Lillian Cantrell		Lillian Cantrell Linda Christy	Jerry Peterson	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Gerry Oltrogge Jerry Peterson
31	Gerry Oltrogge Mary Peterson	Sandy Isakson		Ron & Bonnie Peters	Linda Christy	Randi Clark Karol Wagar	Mary Faulkner Barbara Shelby

8:30 a.m.	Lectors	Communion Assistants	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Altar Guild</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shirley Bryant</i> <i>Eileen Imwalle</i> <i>Sandy Isakson</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you for volunteering at Ascension!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please mark your calendars for the dates you are assigned to serve.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If you cannot volunteer on your assigned date, please find a substitute and notify the church office (743-5741).</i></p>		
3	Ellen Harris	Denise Khoo					
10	Linda Christy	Linda Christy					
17	Cathy Newsome	Cathy Newsome					
24	Keith Khoo	Eileen Imwalle					
31	Jim Harris	Denise Khoo					

Altar Flowers Provided by:

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10	
17	
24	
31	

Financial Peace University

With 70% of Americans living paycheck to paycheck, an unexpected change in finances can create great distress. Helping individuals and couples master their finances is the goal of Financial Peace University (FPU), an upcoming class offered at Ascension.

Class Information	FPU's Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturdays. 10 AM till noon • Jan. 30-May 2 (except Easter weekend) • Free child care (with notice) • Open to the community • Cost: \$99 for course materials, which registering couples may share 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build \$1,000 Emergency Fund. 2. Pay off all debt. 3. Save 3-6 months' expenses. 4. Invest 15% of income into retirement funds. 5. Provide for college funding. 6. Pay off mortgage early. 7. Build wealth and give.

Participants work through "baby" steps to achieve these goals. Of course, not all can be completed in a short time, but those following the program see results early, which leads to greater success. Participants are often surprised at the progress made in 13 weeks.

More Information:

- January 10 Preview in Adult Sunday School by Julia Shreve, the Course Facilitator.
- News sites with independent reporters' perspective on the program:
 - [Finance Guru Teaches Debt Control](#) (Kansas City's *Fox4 News*)
 - [Dave Ramsey: America's Most Relevant Christian](#) (Carroll, Iowa's *Daily Times Herald*).
- FPU Website <http://www.daveramsey.com/church>
- Julia Shreve, the Course Coordinator at 918-913-1566.

Financial Peace University Class Enrollment Form

Class Location: Ascension Lutheran Church 4803 S. Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74105 918-743-5741	Class date/time: Saturday, Jan. 30 thru May 2 10 AM till Noon No class April 3 (Easter weekend)	Coordinator: 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

Primary Phone	Cell Phone	E-mail address

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

Number of children	Names and ages

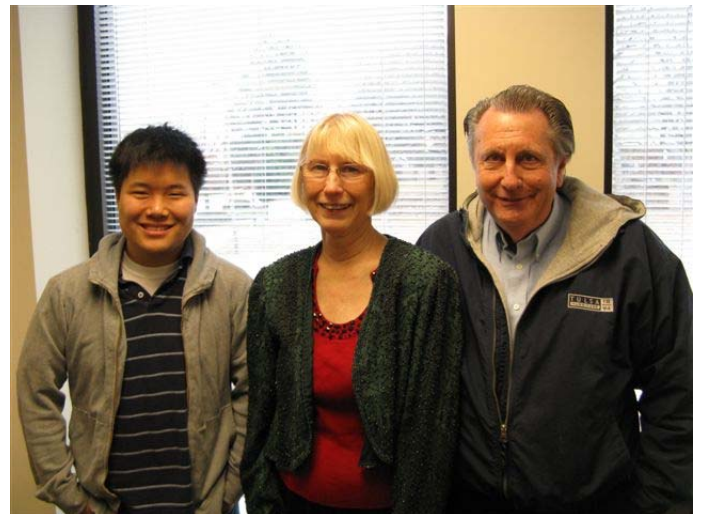
Register before January 20, 2010, to guarantee having your kit for the first session. Registrations after that date may delay kit delivery. Please send registrations to the church office.

Holly Berry Luncheon, 2009



New Members

We are delighted to welcome to
our Ascension family
Eric Pfaff
and
H.I. and Elaine Aston



Church Restructuring

Recently members of Ascension were provided with a questionnaire containing a number of items designed to determine what we value about Ascension as we embark on the task of restructuring our church. Some 30-plus responses were received and tabulated.

On December 13 the Merger Committee evaluated and interpreted the data in terms of what the mean rating for each item was as compared to what the modal – or typical evaluation was. Mean and mode are two different measures of what is typical about a set of numerical data – in this case the “rating values” which ranged from 1-2 (low value) to 3(uncertain value) to 4-5 (high value).

Overall, our analysis found no statistically significant difference between average and typical rating indicating that we collectively share a common set of values.

We rate highly the need to retain our church building; maintaining a church free of debt and able to meet operating expenses; adding youth to the congregation; retaining a traditional service Continuing Helping Hand ministry, weekly Advent and Lenten services and holiday meals and gifts for others also rated highly.

The importance of retaining our pastor ranged from “uncertain” to “high.” Greater uncertainty was associated with retaining the following: a contemporary service, Women’s Bible Study, mid-week study groups (i.e 5x5) and adding additional ministry/outreach programs.

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ORGANIST: If anyone knows of an organist or pianist who might be interested in our organist position, please contact DB Woods at 743-4946 or the church office at 743-5741.

WILL THE SOUTH RISE AGAIN? The Southern Kingdom of Judah was exiled in Babylon during the 6th century B.C. Why? For how long? What happened then? Find out what the prophet Isaiah has to say about these questions. Sundays, 9:45, in the adult classroom. Led by Pastor Norm.

TRINITY MINISTRIES: Please join us for our program on Luther Place on Utica on Tuesday, January 26th at 10:00 AM at Bethany Lutheran Church.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Military Bible Sticks are personal listening devices preloaded with an audio New Testament. Offered through military chaplains, these Bible Sticks are to be made available in every branch of the U.S. armed forces. \$25 provides free MP3 Bibles for one soldier, spouse, and family. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to Faith Comes By Hearing, 2421 Aztec Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107-9987.

DAYTIME 5X5: Our January meetings will be on Wednesdays, **January 6 and 20**, 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).

THANK YOU! Pastor Norm and Mary would like to thank you all for your Christmas cards and gifts. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated.

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

We will hold our annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2010, at 9:45 AM in Jordan Hall. Items on the agenda for this meeting include the budget for 2010, amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations, and electing new council members and officers.

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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*



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4803 S. Lewis Avenue
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