

# The **T** *scent*

April 2010

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## **A Note from Pastor Norm**

We live in the midst of uncertainties. If only we knew what the future has in store.

For example, as I'm writing this, it is a beautiful, sunny, 70° day outside. But the weather forecast is for 4"-8" of snow by Sunday morning. Will we be able to gather for worship this weekend? Will I have the opportunity to preach the homily I spent all morning writing? By the time you read this, my questions will have been answered. But right now it is too soon to tell what Saturday and Sunday might bring. So I prepare for Sunday with uncertainty.

If we were to cancel another set of worship services (like we did in December) because of inclement weather, what impact might a missed offering have on our annual budget? As the days and weeks go by, we will have a better idea of where we stand in terms of our finances. But right now we live with the uncertainties.

(Note: Our "Simply Giving" electronic contribution program is one way to make certain your offerings arrive in a timely fashion, even if you don't.)  
(Another Note: If you or your offering miss a Sunday, you can always double up on your offering the following week.) But I digress!

When I finish writing this article and have it emailed to the editor of the Ascent, I'll be heading out the door to make a hospital call. What will I find in that hospital room? What does the future hold for those

who deal with illness, injury, or hospitalization? What tests or medical procedures? What medication or treatment? Will there be surgery, prolonged illness, recovery, or death? What does the future hold for loved ones who are also touched by the capriciousness of health and wholeness? In time we will know, but at the moment there are more uncertainties.

If only God would give us a glimpse into the future and remove the question marks. That would certainly make life a lot easier, wouldn't it? In a sense, God has. That's what we will celebrate again on Easter. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is God's promise of our resurrection. Jesus' triumph over death and the grave is God's down payment on our victory over sin and death. Our faith in the promises of God removes the uncertainties of our eternal futures.

Oh, we still have to deal with the unpredictability of weather, finances, and health—among other things. But in Jesus Christ, who "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), God's promises of forgiveness and salvation are true and sure. That is what we celebrate not only on Easter, but every Lord's Day. That is what we cling to every day and every hour in the midst of life's uncertainties.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

## March 14, 2010

Officers Present: Pastor Norman P. Dake, President  
Keith Khoo, Vice President Jim Harris, Treasurer Cathy Newsome  
Council Members Present: Ed Dreyer, Barbara James, Bonnie Peters

Call to Order: Keith Khoo

### Approval of Minutes

Motion by Barbara James to approve Minutes of January 10, 2010 meeting. Second: Jim Harris. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

### Pastor's report

Opened with Scripture  
Reported on Arkansas-OK Synod Assembly to be held April 30 through May 2. Will plan on putting announcement in the Bulletin to invite possible attendees (Including pastor and three other delegates). Clyde Glandon to preach that Sunday. Pastor Dake will provide report to council post Assembly

### Treasurer's report

Motion by Jim Harris to approve the Treasurer's report as amended pursuant to discussion. Second: Ed Dreyer. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

### Evangelism

Cathy Newsome reported Welcome Brochure drafted and ready for publication. Website being updated. Postcards sent to less active members inviting them to Lent and Easter activities.

### Worship and Music

Open ended contract signed with David Dillon, Organist. Contract can be terminated by either party with 30 days notice.

### OLD BUSINESS

Merger update: Bethany choosing Ascension to continue conversation regarding merger.

### NEW BUSINESS

Motion to add \$110.00 self-employment allowance to cover Mary Faulkner's pay increase through the Staff Salary Support Fund. Motion by Jim Harris, Pastor Dake seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to designate free will offerings from Lenten soup suppers for the latest Thrivent Builds Habitat House. Motion by Ed Dreyer. Jim Harris seconded. Bonnie Peters opposed. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to set aside 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June for sprucing up the Fellowship Hall in recognition of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Motion by Pastor Dake. Jim Harris seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is April 11th, 2010. Kelly Knopp will provide lunch. Bonnie Peters will provide lunch for May. Cathy Newsome will provide lunch for June.

Motion by Jim Harris to adjourn meeting. Second: Bonnie Peters. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Pastor Norm closed the meeting with a blessing.

Respectfully submitted by Keith Khoo

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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.

**TRINITY MINISTRIES:** Antique Show presented by accredited appraisers Allen Hynes and Marcia Kelley. You may bring an item for their review by submitting a photo and short story about the item by the end of March; a limited number of items will be chosen. For more information, call Trinity Ministries at 794-5041. Coffee and cookies will follow the program.

## COMING EVENTS: April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship: 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b> <b>Sunday School: 9:45</b>				<b>1 MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:00 pm</b>	<b>2 GOOD FRIDAY, 7:00 pm</b>	<b>3</b>  <i>Bill Rasbold</i>
<b>4 EASTER</b>			<b>7 Daytime 5X5, 10 a.m.</b> <b>Evang. Mtg, 7pm</b> <b>Confirmation at Joy 7pm</b> <i>Warren Werling</i> <i>David Bruce</i> <i>Tyler Gausvik</i>	<b>8 Worship &amp; Music, 6:30</b>  <i>Andy Christy</i>	<b>9</b>  <i>Don Robertson</i>	<b>10 Thrivent Builds "Walls Up" 9 am</b> <b>Financial Peace, 2-4</b>  <i>Stan Lewis</i>
<b>11 Council Mtg. 12:15</b>  <i>Mary Malsam</i> <i>Doug Napier</i>	<b>12</b>  <i>Gerald Peterson</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Confirmation at Joy 7pm</b> <i>Brian Malsam</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <i>Devin Blust</i> <i>Shelby Helm</i>	<b>17</b> <b>Financial Peace, 2-4</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Confirmation at Joy 7pm</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Trinity Min @ Ascension, 7 pm</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Financial Peace, 2-4</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Women's Bible Study, 10 am</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Confirmation at Joy 7pm</b>  <i>Merl Lindburg</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Synod Assembly</b>	<b>Synod Assembly</b>
<b>Synod Assembly</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.*



## APRIL READINGS:

### April 1 – Maundy Thursday

Exod 12:1-4(5-10)11:14  
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
 1 Cor 11:23-26  
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### April 2 – Good Friday

Isa 52:13 – 53:12  
 Psalm 22  
 Heb 10:16-25  
 John 18:1-19:42

### April 4 – Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
 1 Cor 15:19-26  
 Luke 24:1-12

### April 11 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32  
 Psalm 118:14-29 or Ps 150  
 Rev 1:4-8  
 John 20:19-31

### April 18 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)  
 Psalm 30  
 Rev 5:11-14  
 John 21:1-19

### April 25 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43  
 Psalm 23  
 Rev 7:9-17  
 John 10:22-30

## Serving our Lord, April 2010

11:00 am	Ushers	Lectors	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Lay Assistant	Greeters	Counters
1 Maundy Thurs	Ed & Norma Dreyer	Katherine Tooley			Sandy Isakson		
2 Good Friday	DB Woods	Mary Peterson				DB Woods	
4 Easter	Ed & Norma Dreyer	Linda Christy		Lillian Cantrell Linda Christy	Jerry Peterson	Doris Elliott	Merl Lindburg Mary Faulkner
11	Stan Lewis Mary Peterson	Carroll Werling		Barbara James Karol Wagar	Ed Dreyer	Ed & Norma Dreyer	Stan Lewis Bonnie Peters
18	Doug & Roberta Napier	Karol Wagar	Nathan Napier	Lynn Jacobsen Sandy Isakson	Ron Peters	Ron & Bonnie Peters	Denise Khoo Kelsey Khoo
25	Donna Glocker DB Woods	Lillian Cantrell		Ron & Bonnie Peters	Sandy Isakson	Chris & Catherine Gausvik	Jerry Peterson Barbara Shelby
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>  <b>Ardith Andrist</b> <b>Lillian Cantrell</b> <b>Randi Clark</b> <b>Donna Glocker</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>		
4	Cathy Newsome	Cathy Newsome					
11	Linda Christy	Linda Christy					
18	Ellen Harris	Denise Khoo					
25	Cathy Newsome	Cathy Newsome					

### Altar Flowers Provided by:

4	The Gausvik family in honor of Tyler's 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday
11	The Napier family in memory of Fred Preston
18	
25	

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## Don't delay: Saving today is one of the best ways to secure your retirement

Most people nearing retirement have an important piece of advice for those in their 20s and 30s: Start saving for your retirement now.

According to a fall 2006 survey of 2,500 U.S. adults age 45 to 64 by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, many baby boomers want others to learn from their mistakes. For example, 86% of those surveyed urged younger generations to start saving as soon as possible. And 71% worry about not having enough money in retirement.

There may never be a better time to get serious about preparing for what lies ahead.

To learn more, contact Ed Meyer, FIC, Robert Morgenthaler, FIC, or Tim Veldstra, FIC at (918) 392-7130 or [greencountryassociates@thrivent.com](mailto:greencountryassociates@thrivent.com) today, or visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).

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## Habitat for Humanity Update

GREETINGS EVERYONE: The weather is starting to get nice, hope you are all ready for spring.

Two (2) major changes concerning the building of the #6 Habitat home.

1. The new building site is located at 2815 N. St. Louis Ave. The new location is west of last year's building site between Peoria and Lewis, just 2 blocks north of Apache and on the east side of the street.
2. The starting date has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 10th. We will start at 9:00am, and assume the Walls Up Day ceremony will be about 10:00-10:15am, like in the past.

We will work each Wednesday and Saturday, from 9:00am-3:00pm. A new schedule has been set, and we assume each congregational champion has posted the new building schedule. The new schedule shows us to be done on Wednesday, June 2nd, but would not be surprised if we are not done by May 26th or May 29th.

Our share of the building costs is \$8,415.00 like last year. We have received several checks, and have some leftover funds from 2009, but still need more funds to complete our share of the costs.

We hope you will sign up to work several days on the project; you will enjoy construction and the fellowship with other Lutheran members in the Tulsa metro area.

Steve Parker & Howard Seigfreid

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**THRIVENT BUILDS:** The next Thrivent Builds Habitat house will be built at 2815 North St. Louis Ave. "Walls Up" date is Saturday, April 10 at 9:00 a.m. Volunteer labor is requested on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monetary donations should be made out to "Thrivent Builds." Thank you for your support.



**“I was in prison and you came to me.”** (Matthew 25:36)

### **How does Ascension reach out to those in prison?**

During the past four years, Ascension has supported the **Basic Needs** program of the Operation Hope Prison Ministry, an organization that offers support, counseling, tutoring and mentoring services to men, women, and children impacted by incarceration. The goal is to decrease recidivism of released inmates and reduce first-time offenders among their children, thereby breaking the cycle of generational incarceration.

**Our members contribute toiletry items** for individuals who are newly released from prison. You can help by saving items such as soap, shampoo, and lotion from overnight lodging stays or by purchasing travel-size hygiene items while grocery shopping. Bring items to the church office, or give them to Pastor for pickup by Operation Hope. The Basic Needs program also supplies backpacks, new underwear, and, for newly-released women, “freedom” clothes, most of them collected by community churches and organizations.

In the past, Ascension has also supported Operation Hope’s Angel Tree program by providing Christmas gifts for children on behalf of an incarcerated parent. This worthy project needs someone to spearhead our efforts.

### **Why are these efforts important? Consider these facts:**

- Nearly 1 in every 9 people in Oklahoma today has a family member incarcerated in a state prison.
- Approximately 96% of all offenders will be released back into the community.
- Of over 8,000 prisoners released back into Oklahoma communities last year, 40% left prison without any community supervision.
- Nearly 60% of offenders are incarcerated on non-violent crimes.

### **How else can we help?**

- **Provide** toiletries and new underwear for Operation Hope.
- **Learn more about Operation Hope** Prison Ministry at <http://www.ohpm.org>. Besides projects listed above, this organization sponsors Play Days when children visit incarcerated mothers or grandmothers, Access to Recovery and Aftercare programs, and In Prison Bible Studies, as well as connections with the Kairos Prison Ministry support network. Operation Hope also collects gently used furniture and appliances, as well as cars in good running condition.
- **Volunteer to organize the Angel Tree** project for 2010 by contacting Pastor or someone on the Evangelism Committee.
- **Consider corresponding with someone in prison.** Pastor, who has several “pen pals” from his ministry at the St. Louis County Jail, can explain what’s involved along with the “do’s and don’ts” and also make arrangements.

## ***HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!***

Bethany Lutheran Church is involved in a tutoring program for elementary students. We work with Key Elementary two afternoons a week from October through May. The students come to our church after school on Tuesday and Thursdays.

There are several needs for volunteers. The students have snacks when they first arrive. The snacks are primarily healthy and prepared and served by "snack ladies". This is the first area for one to volunteer.

After snacks, the students separate and go to their own class grouping. Each class group has at least one tutor who helps with homework and other needs that might present itself. The students come from the neighborhood around our church. Many of them are Spanish and still have parents that speak Spanish. One of the earlier needs with the students was reading. We have hundreds of donated books from our congregation and we have encouraged the students to spend some time reading. The books also are available for the students to take home to read and keep. Some of them do not have books for them to read in their homes.

Key Elementary is very grateful for the tutoring program. Teachers have told us they can tell when students have been coming to Bethany's program. The Key teachers stop in occasionally and acknowledge their students and express appreciation to the staff.

Bethany would love to have volunteers from our sister congregations to assist with the tutoring program. You would be welcomed with "open arms". If you have questions or need more information, please call Edna Jackson at 747-9624 or Betty Cooper at 492-1542.

P.S. From Pastor Norm: “What a marvelous opportunity for Ascension and Bethany to foster working relationships as we discuss merger/consolidation!!!”



## Jerry and Mary Peterson celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

Congratulations to Jerry and Mary.  
Their big day was celebrated on  
March 7, 2010, at Ascension,  
with Jordan Hall packed with friends and  
family. Guests were treated to great food  
and drink, and a wonderful slide show  
that chronicled Jerry and Mary's 50 years  
of marriage and family life.



Jerry and Mary with their four children (from left to  
right) Diane Stroud, Jay Peterson, David Peterson,  
and Joan Gooden.



Jerry and Mary with their children and  
grandchildren, minus two grandchildren living in  
California.

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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)**

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***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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