

*The Witness*  
June 2010

# Lutheran Church of the Ascension

OUR VISION: To Worship the Lord, Live by His Example, and  
Reach out Through His Love

OUR MISSION: To Know and Share the Good News of Jesus Christ



**460 Sunset Ridge Road**

**Northfield, IL 60093-2797**

**Phone: 847-446-8335**

**Fax: 847-446-8308**

**E-mail: [info@Ascension-Church.org](mailto:info@Ascension-Church.org)**

**Web site: [www.Ascension-Church.org](http://www.Ascension-Church.org)**

## Staff Directory

Pastor Dennis Kelly	Pastor	<a href="mailto:PastorKelly@Ascension-Church.org">PastorKelly@Ascension-Church.org</a>
Diane Carlson	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:Diane@Ascension-Church.org">Diane@Ascension-Church.org</a>
Gail Price	Service Ministries Leader	<a href="mailto:Gail@Ascension-Church.org">Gail@Ascension-Church.org</a>
Mischa Zupko	Worship Leader	<a href="mailto:Mischa@Ascension-Church.org">Mischa@Ascension-Church.org</a>
Minkyoo Shin	Ass't Worship Leader	<a href="mailto:Minkyoo@Ascension-Church.org">Minkyoo@Ascension-Church.org</a>
Beth and Greg Peterson	Children's Ministries	Coordinators <a href="mailto:Beth@Ascension-Church.org">Beth@Ascension-Church.org</a>
Vanessa Young	Youth Leader	<a href="mailto:Vanessa@Ascension-Church.org">Vanessa@Ascension-Church.org</a>
Tom Winfield	Sexton	
Heather Piel	Nursery Attendant	

## In this Issue:

<i>From the Pastor</i>	2
<i>Worship Notes</i>	3
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	4
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	5
<i>Adult Spiritual Growth</i>	6
<i>Reach Out Through God's Love</i>	7-8
<i>Focus on Health</i>	9
<i>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift</i>	10



## GATHER US IN

I am a fan of contemporary composer and hymn writer Marty Haugen. Many of you may be familiar with the Holden Evening Prayer service which he wrote. While the musical settings he composes are usually simple and easy to sing, the texts are often profound.

One of my favorite Haugen hymns is "Gather Us In" (ELW #532). It provides a powerful vision of the people of God gathered together in a community of faith to be nourished by Word and Sacrament. To me it speaks of what it truly means to be the Church.

Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreaming brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry; we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away—  
but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Now that our year-long 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and time of "remembering" has drawn to a close, we look to the future. We begin to ask the question, "What is God's vision for this congregation for the next 50 years?" The answer to that question is yet to unfold. However, I suspect and hope that it will look a lot like the vision presented in Haugen's hymn: a community of diverse individuals gathered together in God's light, nourished by Word and Sacrament, empowered by the fire of the Holy Spirit, living lives that are holy and true. Guided by this vision, we can trust that the best of Lutheran Church of the Ascension is yet to be!

Thanks be to God,  
*Dennis Kelly*, pastor

## Worship Notes

Our Spring Musical this year, "All Nature Sings", was simply awesome. Thanks so much to Lisa Rude for all of her efforts in conceiving of the service, writing the drama, choreographing the dances, and directing the whole production. Thanks also to Debbie Schwabb for her brilliant playing on the flute and to all of the others who helped out with the art work, costumes and sets. Kids....it goes without saying that you were at the center of all of this and you each did such a wonderful job...everything from the singing, the playing (drums), the acting, to the art work on the walls was a delight to see and helped us all to admire God's creation all the more.

Another reminder that the 11 a.m. service utilizes Setting 8 of the liturgy from the ELW (same as 9 a.m.) in order to provide more continuity between our two services. We are also experimenting with some contemporary arrangements of hymns from the red book. Please take the time to come to that service and see what is taking shape. Your input would be most valuable as we continue to develop our plans for this service.

Our spring concert that was postponed, featuring cellist, Nicholas Photinos and pianist, Yasuko Oura, has now rescheduled for **Saturday, October 2 at 4:30 p.m.** Please mark your calendars and be sure to invite your friends and neighbors. Our event with the Danae Quartet that took place on May 15 was a great success. The week prior to this concert, the Danae Quartet received the gold medal in the Junior Division of the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition. This concert was their last concert together as they each head off to different universities to continue pursuing music. We wish the very best in their musical careers.

I apologize for the extreme delay in distributing the CD recordings of the Advent/Christmas concert. There were several technical difficulties with the mixing process that had to be resolved, but the CD's should be ready soon and you will be contacted when they are finished.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our musical groups—the Senior Choir, the Bell Choir and the Children's Choir—for their participation and dedication this past year. They contributed to many special events, including the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Advent/Christmas Concert, the Spring musical and the combined Choir event with St. Mark's. Additionally, they provided inspiring music in Sunday worship services. Thank you! It was a very full and very blessed year and your service is greatly appreciated.

Peace,

*Mischa & Minkyoo*



The final "class" for the Sunday School year was held on Sunday May 16th, Ascension Sunday. As Beth and I were cleaning up paintbrushes and potting soil, we began talking about and reflecting on the year that had just passed. There are so many amazing and talented kids (a few of whom we say "goodbye" to as they enter Confirmation classes next fall), and so many amazing memories in our hearts and minds. Beginning with our 50th Anniversary-themed Rally Day last September, our Sunday School children performed skits during worship services. There was everything from Simon and the Banquet and Queen Esther to our 4th and 5th graders' panel discussion about Baby Moses. *Voices from Heaven*, our Advent/Christmas program in December and our Spring production, *All Nature Sings*, featured the kids singing, dancing and wonderful acting! While those were some of the "big" highlights of our year, we did have some wonderful moments in the classrooms as well where the kids were able to develop their knowledge of God as well as develop friendships with their classmates.

Beth and I humbly thank those who helped make this past year special. Lisa Rude and Angela Erland ran our drama for the year. Ladies, thank you for your boundless energy and tireless work. Pam Carlson who was an absolute angel to run our Pre-School program, as well as an angel to her students. Also to Janice Greenwald and Justyne Reeves who showed up every Sunday as Shepherds for our 4th/5th graders and our 2nd/3rd graders, thank you both for your huge commitment to our church's youngest members. Lastly, to our "staff" of rotation teachers: Diane Carlson, Eleanor Pattie, Sue Peterson, Ruth Newman, Clare and Tim Engling, Jan and Moe Hincapie, Linda Althoff and Paula Mallicoat. These people helped bring our Sunday School alive with their dedication and commitment to our kids. We could never say "thank you" enough for all you've done! We will recognize these members during worship on Sunday June 6th, Teacher Appreciation Day.

As Sunday School comes to a close, VBS 2010 *High Seas Expedition!* lurks just around the corner. If you have not registered your child as of this writing, please do so as soon as you can. Space is extremely limited as we only accept 100 campers for the week, and last year we reached our capacity. It's a truly inspiring, energy-packed week filled with arts and crafts, drama, games and music. Please save the week of June 21st through June 25th and join us at St David's in Glenview. If you need additional information or have any questions please contact Beth or me. Registration forms can be picked up at church or you can register online at [glenviewvbs.org](http://glenviewvbs.org).

As I mentioned in the first paragraph, Beth and I are both sad to see them leave but excited to see them take their next steps in faith: our 5th graders Wynton, Olivia, Kayla, Ryan and Mason. We are so proud of you all for being our Sunday School "leaders". . .we will miss you. Enjoy your summer. We may not see you in class . . .but we will see you in church!

*Greg and Beth*

## YOUTH MINISTRY

During the month of May, Ascension's confirmation youth and families, as well as 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their families, gathered on the 18<sup>th</sup> for a cook-out to end the program year! We had a great time cooking hot dogs and smores over the bonfire and playing a bunch of fun games with all the youth and adults who attended. A b-i-g thanks to all the parents who helped with set-up and clean-up; this was a great event, so thank you for all you did to make it a success!

At the time this edition of *The Witness* goes to print, we haven't yet had the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Confirmation service, but we do want to recognize all the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who will affirm their baptism this year: Lindsey, Ben, Colin, Kyle, Wil, Richard, Caroline and Andrew. Congratulations, 2010 Confirmands!!

This summer there will be several opportunities for high school and junior high/middles school youth to get involved in both fellowship and service activities, and here are the events scheduled for the month of June:

> **Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Six Flags Great America & Hurricane Harbor!**

Meet at church @ 10:00 a.m. to drive up to Gurnee for a day of roller coasters and water rides! Bring swimwear if you're planning to head into the water park while we're there. We'll leave the park @ 9:00 p.m. and be home by no later than 10:00 p.m. If you have a season pass, bring it!! If you don't have one, cost is \$15 plus some extra cash for food in the park. Permission slip is available online at [www.ascension-church.org/youth](http://www.ascension-church.org/youth) or via the Ascension Youth Ministry Facebook page. **Respond to let me know if you're planning to join us for this activity by no later than Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>!**

> **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. worship services, High School Senior Recognition**

18 Ascension youth are graduating from high school this year, and we want to recognize all your hard work as you begin a new chapter in your life journey! Please join us at either service on this day, and stay/come early for a reception between services as we honor your achievements and support you in your plans for the future!

> **Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., volunteering @ Good News Community Kitchen! (ages 12+)**

Each month, 5 volunteers are needed to help with food prep and serving at this Rogers Park soup kitchen, and we'd love to have youth involved in this ministry during the summer months especially!! Please get involved with this awesome program by signing up to volunteer this month, or for July or August. Friends are welcome to volunteer with you!

> **Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., volunteering with Habitat for Humanity! (ages 16+)**

If you're able, please do join us for the full day of work, building a house for a family in need. If it would work better for your schedule, shifts from 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon or 12 noon - 4:00 p.m. are possible. RSVP to let me know what shift you're able to work, and find the necessary waiver forms on the Ascension Youth webpage. The more hands we have the better!

> **Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m., LYFE Sunset Cinema: *Where the Wild Things Are***

Outdoor cinema is back for its second summer, and we're excited to kick-off our season with this fun, new take on a classic book. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and join us for this *wild rumpus*, projected on the big screen with de-lish movie snacks to enjoy with friends! Bug spray IS provided... all you need to bring is YOU!

It's going to be a fantastic summer. . . . Can't wait to see you at some of these activities!

*Vanessa*

# Adult Spiritual Growth



We completed our program year with four sessions by Professor Gregory Athnos. He shared with us new ways of looking at both the cross and the resurrection.

The central focus of Christianity should be the resurrection, and the New Testament writers give us looks into different parts of the story. One part does not change—Jesus was raised from the dead and we base our faith upon it. As St. Paul says "If Christ be not raised your faith is in vain." There were between 25 - 30 people at each session and Professor Athnos stirred up so much interest, many people asked if he would be willing to lead a tour in Italy. He described the wonderful Christian art in the catacombs commenting that the early Christian symbol was the fish. The most common symbol today is the cross, but that symbol is not found in catacomb art. In fact, it did not become popular in Christian art until about 500 A.D. If you thought that Christians were killed in the coliseum, guess again. They were murdered in Nero's circus which is where St. Peter's in the Vatican stands today.

If you would be interested in possibly taking a tour of Italy and catacomb art and would like more information, please contact the church office.

Professor Athnos enjoyed being at Ascension and would like to hear your comments about the sessions he presented. Again, you can forward these to the church office.

Our Bible study in Acts of the Apostles continues on Thursday morning through August 26<sup>th</sup>. We will take a break from June 17<sup>th</sup> through July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The study is led by Pastor Kelly and meets on Thursdays from 10 - 11:00 a.m. All are welcome!



## Adult Library

We have several DVDs in our library, including **Bonhoeffer**, a 2003 documentary by Martin Doblmeier. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a leading teacher, writer, and theologian in Germany in the 1930's, was also ultimately a collaborator in the German resistance to Hitler, for which he was executed in 1945. This film contains much original footage from the 20's and 30's, as well as interviews with friends, students, and theologians who knew him. (English subtitles where appropriate.) Bonhoeffer searched soul, conscience, and Bible as he developed into a resister of Hitler's tyrannical rule and his oppression of the Jews. This is a good introduction to the life and theology of Bonhoeffer, and the necessity of active faith and responding to the will of God.

DVD's, CD's and Video tapes are located at the end of the book section of the library in the Augustana Room. Please fill out a card from the check out stand when you take a disk (some disks do not have card pockets yet).



## Spiritual Growth Retreat

Save the date—November 6—for our fall retreat! It will be held at Techny Towers Conference and Retreat Center at 2001 Waukegan Road from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We will begin in the chapel for a brief Holy Communion service, and then break out in two groups to hear our dynamic speakers. Invite a friend to come along!

# Reach Out Through God's Love

## Kafley Family Arrives in Chicago

Yadu Kafley, his wife Tika and their one-year old daughter Yoshika, are ethnic Nepali who were living in Bhutan during ethnic cleansing in the 90's. The Kafleys fled to Nepal in 1993. Once in Nepal, they were not deemed pure enough to be Nepali citizens and were placed in a refugee camp. They have lived in the camp for 17 years, cooking with charcoal and lighting with kerosene lamps. The house they shared with their family was made of bamboo with a plastic roof. The U.S. State Department recognized that they were persecuted for their ethnicity and granted them refugee status. Six members of the family (brother Indra and his family, a sister and their parents) arrived in Chicago four months ago. With Yadu and Tika's arrival, the family has been reunited.

Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries (IRIM) will provide English classes and job training, and Ascension will offer financial assistance for three months. Yadu and Tika speak English; he was a teacher in the refugee camp in Nepal and Tika paints on cloth. Both are educated, Yadu in college, his wife in secondary school.

The family is settling into a small studio apartment near Loyola University. Thank you to all who helped by contributing household goods to this family! Special thanks to Ruth and Liz Newman, Joan, Zane and Evan Smith, and Charlie Price for working diligently to set up the apartment prior to the family's arrival. We look forward to inviting and welcoming the Kafley family to church soon.

Until then, if you can assist the Kafleys by providing transportation to their appointments or introducing them to life in Chicago, i.e. public transportation, library, post office, please contact Pam Carlson at [pcarlson640@comcast.net](mailto:pcarlson640@comcast.net) or 847-650-2049, or contact Gail Price at church. If you are able to provide financial support as they assimilate, study English, and seek employment (first three months rent, food), please make your check payable to Ascension and mark "refugee resettlement" on the memo line. Thank you for crossing borders and oceans in order to reach out through God's love.

*Pam Carlson*



Next Blood Drive at Ascension:  
Sunday, July 25

What can you do in one hour? Mow the lawn, shop for groceries, attend a worship service, watch a Little League game? How about save someone's life? Lifesaving blood donations from generous volunteer blood donors enable lives to be brightened and saved in our local communities. Each blood donation can potentially save three lives.

LifeSource makes it convenient for us to donate blood right here at Ascension. Our donations will provide for those in need and ensure a safe and adequate blood supply in our community. LifeSource is the largest blood center in Illinois and distributes a half-million blood products annually to approximately 60 area hospitals and over 100 home healthcare agencies in meeting the need for patient transfusion therapy.

YOU are a potential blood donor if you are at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission), weigh at least 110 pounds, have a regular heart rhythm, control your blood pressure with or without medication, are free of fever, and have not given blood in the past eight weeks.

Please keep this date in mind as you begin making your summer plans.

*Fran Gustafson*

## Habitat for Humanity



Ascension has now had two work days at the Carter Crossing site. Dana and A.J. Guidice, John West, along with Jon Reid and several other non-members have participated. We are always looking for any willing volunteer to join us. Our June work date is Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>. Let Bob Reid know if you would like to join us, or sign up on the bulletin board.

We also need contributions to help fund this house. Building materials are costly even if a lot of the labor is free. Prayerfully consider all the worthwhile projects Ascension supports. If you would like to support this one make out a check to Ascension and put Habitat in the memo line. We will get it to the right place.

*Builder Bob*

---

## Greater Chicago Food Depository Hunger Walk

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food..." Matthew 25:35*

On Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> thousands will gather at Soldier Field to raise money and awareness for the 650 agencies that are part of the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Here at Ascension, we will be supporting The Northfield Food Pantry. There are two ways to support. Please consider joining this walk to fight hunger, and also consider donating to this meaningful cause. Or do both! There are three ways to learn more about the walk: visit the web site at <http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/site/PageServer>, ask me when I'm at church Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> or call me at 847.729.5177.

*Lynly Jarvis*

## Focus on Health



Ascension Church is committed to be a place of health and wholeness and healing for people in the congregation and community.

### Yoga continues

In summer we take delight in changes in our hectic schedules, and we renew our efforts to take better care of ourselves. This summer, begin your week with an hour of relaxation and gentle yoga. Meet Ascension friends and Hatha Yoga instructor Pat Constabileo in the Augustana Room at 9:00 a.m. each Monday morning. You will relish the benefits you receive—fitness, flexibility, and fellowship. Bring a mat or a beach towel, bring a friend, and wear comfortable clothing. Cost is \$10 per session. Please contact me for more information.



Ascension Church has been a Safe Sitter babysitting teaching site since 2004 and recently trained a class of six middle school students from our congregation and the community in these safe babysitting techniques. Congratulations, Safe Sitters!

Additional Safe Sitter instructors will be trained in two sessions at church, Tuesday, June 15 and Thursday, June 17, 5:30-8:30 p.m. with supper provided. Please contact me to hear more.

### Prayer Chain

Each week people in our congregation pray daily for those who ask on behalf of themselves or others. To request prayer, you may place a written request in the Prayer Chain box or offering plate, or email [PrayerChain@Ascension-Church.org](mailto:PrayerChain@Ascension-Church.org). To become part of the Prayer Chain and pray for people who ask, please contact me in the church office by phone or email [Gail@Ascension-Church.org](mailto:Gail@Ascension-Church.org).

Peace and good health to you,

*Gail Price*



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Celebration Concludes

Ascension Sunday, May 16, marked the conclusion of our congregation's year-long celebration of the first 50 years of ministry. Bishop Wayne Miller of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA invited the congregation to imagine the possibilities of the Church of today and tomorrow, then to be the church in our time. The choir sang a newly-commissioned work by student composer Justin Ehrman, which is based on the text of Psalm 93. Between services, Stephen Schwab presented Bishop Miller with an initial *Gift of Gratitude*. This gift will be used to "pay it forward" to support the redeveloping ministries of First Lutheran Church of the Trinity in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago. During the festive brunch, highlights of the year were seen on DVD and a new time capsule was prepared.

The entire congregation is grateful to the leadership of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team: Pastor Dennis Kelly, Pastor Dennis Bushkofsky, Jess Fagerberg, Nancy Ferguson, Ellen Kollmann, Bob Nagel, Nancy Nagel, Debby Schwab, Caryl Scott and Gail Price. Special thanks go to those who made Jubilee events so meaningful: Marlynn Anderson, Bob and Lila Borgstrom, Elaine Chester, Janice Greenwald, Alice Kosnik, Carol Mueller, Chris Rude, Minkyoo Shin, John and Joan West, Vanessa Young and Mischa Zupko. And to all who shared in any aspect of the celebration, thank you.

Contributions to the *Gift of Gratitude* continue to be accepted; please identify *Gift of Gratitude* on the memo line of your check.