

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



Lutheran Church of the Ascension

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In This Issue

From the Pastor	Page 2-3
Focus on Health	Page 4
Reach Out Through God's Love	Page 5-6
Children's Ministry	Page 7
Spiritual Growth	Page 8
Fellowship	Page 9



From our Interim Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with joy and gratitude that I write this final word to you in the Witness. We share the joy and anticipation at the arrival of Pastor Patrick McGuire. I commend the call committee, council, staff and members of Ascension for the work that was done during Ascension's interim period. You continued vital ministries while preparing for the future. I am confident that Ascension's ministries will thrive with Pastor McGuire's dedication and enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity too serve with you. We faced changes and challenges together. Thank you for your openness to me in our work together. Thank you for the many ways you reached out to Reini and me during our time with you. We will not forget you.

Intentional interims are trained to *really leave!* We do so because we care. We care about each of you and the ministry of the congregation. Remember, Ascension is a part of a larger church in which we are all partners in ministry. I continue to pray for you and expect to hear wonderful things about Ascension's ministry over the years.

A special thank you for the wonderful celebration of the 20th Anniversary of my Ordination and farewell on July 13th. I cherish the gifts, notes and remembrances you shared. Thank you for all you have done.

Peace and joy to you,

Pastor Carol Wasemiller



From our new Senior Pastor

As I mark my first Sunday with you, I'd like to share some reflections and thanksgivings.

Sunday, July 20 2008, had many of the trappings of previous Sundays at Ascension-- liturgy, song, fellowship--but it was also pregnant with anticipation. Questions like "What is he really like?" and "Are they going to be accepting of me as their pastor" whirred in our minds. I sweat a liter before the end of the first Service.

For me, the anxiety that accompanied my anticipation was put to rest as we celebrated Holy Communion. In that moment when you, the members of Ascension, came to the table to receive God's means of grace, I saw in you a community seeking the Kingdom of God; a community that has been served by faithful pastors and now asks me to do the same; a community that, though not all the members were present, through the mystery that is communion, was with us.

In this holy moment I saw in you, the community of Ascension, the ones I am called to love, nurture, and partner with in mission and ministry as pastor. For this I say "Thanks be to God, who has provided me this opportunity to serve." I pray that God will bless us with many holy moments in the days to come, where we will see more clearly our call to love one another and to serve in Jesus' name.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Patrick McGuire

Focus on Health



Learn life saving skills this summer and be better able to care for the people you love when they need help. Ascension's Health Ministry Team is offering American Red Cross training in **CPR** (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) and the use of **AED** (automated external defibrillator) at Ascension Church on **Wednesday, August 20, 6:00-10:00 p.m.** Training will be conducted by Jeromy Lopez, Senior Manager of Training at Glenkirk, the organization serving people with developmental disabilities. Youth and adults are encouraged to attend; invite a friend to join you. Advance registration is needed and class size is limited. To register, sign the poster in Fellowship Hall, use the Friendship Book insert or contact Gail in the church office. Cost for instruction in adult, infant and child CPR with AED is \$50. Scholarships are available.

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Young at Heart is a supportive group for people over 60 that focuses on issues related to aging including family and other relationships, work and retirement, and life transitions. The group meets Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 p.m. at The Josselyn Center, 405 Central Avenue, Northfield. For more information please call 847-441-5600.

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If you or someone you love has ever been the recipient of a transfusion of blood or platelets, you can appreciate the selflessness of an anonymous donor. Heartfelt thanks go to Ascension's faithful blood donors Allan Alvarez, Patty Cain, Bob Frost, Tiley Frost, Alice Kosnik, Jan Lumpp, Carol Mueller, Jeanne Peterson, Margaret Price, Jill Reid, Lynne Rine, Joan Stevenson and David Ward; to eight donors from the community; and to Terry Willason for his energetic leadership of Ascension's July blood drive. LifeSource received 15 units of donated blood, enough to care for as many as 45 people. Thank you.

Peace and good health to all!

Gail Price

Stephen Ministry Corner

- Q. How can I be a Stephen Minister when I'm uncomfortable praying in public?
- A. Public prayer is not a requirement for being a Stephen Minister! To become a Stephen Minister you need to:
1. be a Christian
 2. have the ability to keep confidences
 3. be able to relate to others non-judgmentally
 4. be committed to giving the time necessary for training and service
 5. be willing and able to participate in supervision

It's that simple! To learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister or to take part in Stephen Ministry Training at Ascension beginning in late September, please see one of the Stephen Leaders: Joan West, John West, Caryl Scott or Gail Price, or contact the church office.

Reach Out Through God's Love

Habitat for Humanity



Ascension continues its commitment to Habitat for Humanity with monthly work trips to the Waukegan site. Our work crews are usually 6 or 7 people, so there is always room for additional volunteers. It helps to get the Ford family house finished sooner, and the work load is lighter when we have a bigger crew. Consider joining us on one of our remaining work trips on Saturdays, August 16, September 20, October 18, or November 15. Just sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or email Bob Reid at rhreid1351@sbcglobal.net, and Builder Bob will get in touch with you.

On the financial side we are doing well. Thanks to the generous donations made by many at Ascension. A great BIG thanks to those who have donated so far. We are 75% of the way to our goal of \$4000 for this year. Please consider joining with the others and put us over the top again this year by making your donation now.

Builder Bob

**** Save the Date ****

Sunday afternoon, September 21

Heifer Hoe Down

Wagner Farm in Glenview

There will be fun for the entire family and an opportunity to learn about the great work of Heifer International. Details will follow in the September issue of *The Witness*.

Imagine entering school this year without supplies. For students to be well equipped they'll need pencils, lined paper, crayons, rulers, scissors, and spiral notebooks. (Backpacks will be supplied by an independent donor.)

Please place your donations for Northfield Township Pantry in the basket beneath the bulletin board. Thanks for helping make it a great school year!

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Kudos for all who supported the Greater Chicago Food Depository Walk this June. A total of five hundred dollars was collected. Food may be purchased by pantries in the Chicago area for seven cents per pound! Do the math! That's 7,143 pounds of food to feed the hungry. Hurray!

Irm Claiborne

Hunger continues to plague our world and is causing a crisis in many areas. Over 850 million people around the world don't have enough to eat. Nearly one in three children worldwide are hungry. While most live in the so-called "developing world," hunger also haunts us here at home. There are solutions, however, and Church World Service is supporting creative initiatives developed by impoverished people with funds raised through "CROP Walks."

That's why Ascension Church is participating in this year's CROP Walk on Sunday, October 19. Show your concern by walking with us and/or supporting a walker with a generous donation. Please see Irm Claiborne for details.

Refugee Resettlement

IRIM (Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries) has informed Ascension's Service Ministries Team that, since spring, there has been a significant increase in the number of refugee families cleared by the State Department and assigned to them for resettlement. Families are now arriving in Chicago every day; sometimes IRIM receives only a five or six day advance notice of their arrival. They come from Bhutan and Burma in South Asia and also from Iraq. (It is estimated that 12,000 Iraqis will be resettled in the U.S. by the end of this year).

Ascension Church is committed to partnering with IRIM in these resettlement efforts. IRIM has requested that we begin to gather the furnishings, supplies, and funds needed to help set up an apartment for an individual or a family. The financial requirement for this effort, which will cover three months rent, is approximately \$4,000.

A poster in Fellowship Hall details specific needs of incoming refugees. Please indicate on the poster those items you are able to contribute, but please do not bring items to church at this time. You will be notified when arrival information is available, and pick up or drop off arrangements will be made at that time. Monetary contributions can accompany your regular offering; please specify "refugee resettlement" on your check.

When we have more details, teams will be formed to assist the refugee(s) with resettlement. Interested people are invited to:

- meet and greet at the airport
- set up the apartment and assist with move-in
- stock the pantry
- help the refugees acclimate to the culture and Chicago area
- drive to and from church
- provide Christian fellowship.

Please indicate your interest in serving in one of these areas by using the Friendship Book insert, or by contacting Pam Carlson at 847-433-1578 or 847-650-2049 or Gail Price in the church office.

Farmer's Market	Fair Trade Fair
<p>Ascension people will be at the Northfield Farmers' Market on Saturday, September 6, from 7:30 a.m. till noon. Mark your calendar and plan to be there to share a cup of fair trade coffee and to invite the community to join us in worship, learning and service.</p>	<p>Ascension's Service Ministry Team invites you to save Sunday, October 19, before and after worship, for the second annual Fair Trade Fair. Ten Thousand Villages will display beautiful merchandise created by artisans around the world. Details will be included in the September issue of <i>The Witness</i>.</p>



As summer winds down and we look forward to the excitement of a new school year starting, we have a lot to be grateful for as we look back on the summer. During the last week in June, the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, along with St. David's Episcopal and Holy Trinity sponsored the "Rain Forest Adventure" vacation bible school. In fact, per our children's request, we listen to the Rain Forest CD regularly. While VBS was held at St. David's, there were volunteers and children participating from not only the churches that sponsored, but also from Glenview Community Church and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. In total there were approximately 100 children from the surrounding communities and almost as many volunteers helping it run smoothly while providing incredibly fun and meaningful activities.

Though I had the honor of shepherding a group of 2nd and 3rd graders, we need to send out a special thanks to Marci Hartley, Caitlin Guidice, and Diane Iorio. Marci with Caitlin's assistance organized and taught the arts and crafts every night. They were able to plan activities that helped design the set for the final night's program and allowed the kids to create art that could be a keepsake. Diane along with the help from her husband, Rich, and the talents of her children, Ben and Annie, organized, performed during and led the drama activities each night. With their set design, costumes and acting, the Iorio family made the Bible stories come to life and drew rave reviews from the VBS committee. It became one of the favorite activities that the children and staff looked forward to each night. We are so blessed to have such talented members of our congregation be willing to share their talents, gifts and time with the children. The community feel of having 100 children from different denominations coming together to learn about Jesus and celebrate God's Word was truly inspiring. We hope to be able to continue to build this relationship and look to host this vibrant Vacation Bible School program in coming years.

On the way home from VBS, Maddie and Spencer looked a bit forlorn. When asked what was troubling them, Spencer asked, "Why can't vacation Bible school last 8 weeks?" My thought was, why can't we, (parents, staff and volunteers) work to make our Sunday School program as much fun and memorable for the children as VBS generally seems to be? So we organized our first official Children's Ministry meeting on July 10th. Greg and I would like to thank Angela Erland, Nina McCune, Ruth Newman, Elizabeth Rude, Lisa Rude, and Pastor Carol for sharing their ideas and helping to build the foundation of a new era of Children's Ministry at Ascension. According to Greg's calculations, at least 252 volunteer hours are needed to make this Sunday School year meaningful for children. So we need your help! Teenagers and adults interested in being a shepherd, rotation teacher or helping out with special events, please contact us at beth@ascension-church.org. Look for the sign up sheet for Sunday School volunteers in the Spiritual Growth area of the bulletin board.

We would also like to thank Mischa for his boundless energy and enthusiasm in working with the children's choir, as we see music as having an essential role in helping children grow in faith. Rally Day is set for September 7th and Sunday School starts September 14th (volunteers needed for both). We look forward to a fun and meaningful Sunday School year for both students and volunteers. Please call the church office to obtain Sunday School registration form, or look for the forms on the bulletin board table.

Grace and Peace,
Beth and Greg Peterson

Spiritual Growth

JUMP

Music Festival '08

Saturday, August 23, 2008

10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Oregon, Illinois

Featuring musical guests:

Agape, Peder Eide & Band, Lightswitch, Shawn Smith,

Bethany Youth Choir, Two Cent Offering and more

Check bulletin board for more details.

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JESUS

JUSTICE

JAZZ

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

July 22-26, 2009

New Orleans, LA

This event is for young people entering high school by September 2009, those already in high school, and those who will graduate in 2009. Adult members of ELCA congregations must be 21 by July 2009. There is a recommended youth-to-adult ratio of 5 to 1. Registration opens September 15th.

Fellowship

Ascension Women's Luncheon

September 4

12:00 p.m.

The first meeting of the fall season for the Ascension Women's Group will be held on Thursday, September 4th, at noon, at Hackney's on Lake in Glenview. Ascension member, Alice Lee, will be the guest speaker. She will speak about her recent trip to China as a member of the Majestic Chorale. The chorale participated in a pre-Olympic festival.

The luncheon is open to ALL of Ascension's women. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. Feel free to bring a friend!