

## 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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## Staff Directory

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"Receive the Holy Spirit!" These were words spoken to Jesus' disciples long ago. We heard that same message on the day of Pentecost, May 11, 2008. The season of Pentecost now provides the opportunities to respond to the stirring of the Spirit. Ministry does not take a summer vacation. The pattern of activities may change, but our commitment to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ remains.

Congregation newsletters present a challenge for those who contribute news. We look forward to the next month while in the midst of the previous month. During May, programs have been winding down for a summer break.

Confirmation, Sunday School, and the Bible Study, *Crossways*, are among those programs that break during the summer. In this issue of *The Witness*, we thank many who have provided leadership during the year.

We also look forward to some very special summer ministry opportunities.

The youth team is in the midst of fundraising for the Mission trip to Costa Rica and youth programs for the coming year. Watch for opportunities to support Ascension's youth ministry programs.

RAIN FOREST ADVENTURE is scheduled for evenings June 23rd - 27th. St. David's Episcopal Church in Glenview will be the site of this year's program, and we join with them and Holy Trinity, Glenview to present this year's program.

On May 25, we began our regular summer worship schedule with the liturgical service at 9:00 a.m. and Celebrate! at 10:30 a.m. A special message for the children will be included in worship. Worship as a family! On June 1 we welcome the Rev. Harvard Stevens, Dean of the Chapel at Carthage College, as our guest preacher. Carthage College is one of the many ministries in partnership with our ELCA.

I am confident God has a plan for the disciples who gather at LCA. Together let's continue to pray for discernment about a settled pastor and for direction the ministries of the congregation will take.

It is a privilege to serve in partnership with you.

Peace and joy to you,

*Pastor Carol Wasemiller*

## Focus on Health



My dear Ascension family,

Early in May, with the leadership of the church council and Staff Support Team, we celebrated 15 years of ministry in the Ascension community. I am deeply grateful to all of you for the opportunity you have given me to serve, initially as Ascension's Minister of Health, and more recently as Service Ministries Leader. Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your faithfulness. I look forward to all God has in mind for us as we share his love with others in the days ahead.

Peace, good health, and thank you,

*Gail Price*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Cancer Support Groups** are active at Ascension Church and open to all people in the community. They offer an opportunity for people who have had a cancer diagnosis to share common experiences and care for one another in the context of a shared faith.

Men's Cancer Support group meets quarterly, more often when needs dictate. The next meeting is **Saturday, May 31 at 10:30 a.m.** at church. The Women's Cancer Support group meets monthly, generally the second Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. at church. The next meeting is **Tuesday, June 10.**

\* \* \* \* \*

The need for donated blood is always critical in the summer and **YOU** are a potential blood donor if you

- are 16 years of age or older
- weigh at least 110 pounds
- have a regular heart rhythm,
- control your blood pressure with or without medication
- are free of fever
- have not given blood in the past eight weeks

Ascension's next blood drive is scheduled for Sunday morning, July 13. You may donate before or after either worship service. Please plan to give the gift of life to someone who needs blood! Invite your friends and neighbors.

# Reach Out Through God's Love

## Habitat for Humanity



I am happy to report that Ascension's Habitat for Humanity ministry is moving along again this year.

We have now completed two work trips, contributing over 100 hours of labor to building homes for the deserving families. This year Thrivent is sponsoring a home for the Ford family. Thrivent will donate 60% of the cost of this home, and the Lutheran congregations in northern Cook and Lake Counties along with Habitat for Humanity Lake County will contribute the other 40%.

Ascension has pledged \$4000.00. We have received approximately 12% of this amount so far. In these tough times your gifts are all the more appreciated. Please consider this ministry when contributing to worthy causes. Make your checks payable to Ascension with Habitat in the memo line. Thank you.

*Bob Reid*

## FernGully: The Last Rainforest

June Green Team film screening

Wednesday, June 18

7:00 –8:30 p.m.

Augustana Room

The whole family will want to see *FernGully!* The magical inhabitants of a rainforest called FernGully fight to save their home that is threatened by logging and a polluting force of destruction called Hexxus. This 76 minutes film is entertaining, and the discussion which follows is thought-provoking for all ages.

Bring pillows, sleeping bags, whatever helps you to enjoy this film. We'll provide the popcorn, healthy movie snacks and drinks. Questions? Please contact Kathy Weinstein at 847-498-5452.



Jeanette Larson was named Ascension's Super Senior of 2008 and honored along with other north suburban seniors at the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Super Senior Day held at the North Shore Senior Center on May 22. Jeanette and her late husband Lee joined Ascension in 1971. For the past 37 years Jeanette has been actively engaged in a variety of ministries and programs of the church. While she has retired from handbell ringing and financial counting, she willingly assists with mailings and telephone answering in the office and serving refreshments for special events. Esther Circle relies on her leadership, and she is a regular participant in Ascension's twice-weekly exercise program, Stretching and Toning. Ascension Church is blessed by the ministry and presence of Jeanette Larson. Thank you, Jeanette!

## Green Team

Ascension intentionally embraced creation care during April, in worship, education and action. Thank you for sharing your mug, reducing the use of disposables whenever possible, recycling what you can't reuse, and continuing to be good stewards of the earth. And thanks to members of the Worship Team and Green Team for their leadership and encouragement of these efforts!

What's next?

Green Team film screenings continue throughout the summer—keep learning

Northfield Farmers' Market opens June 7—shop locally, buy healthily

Gardens are everywhere—enjoy!

ChicoBags are available for purchase

Try some fair trade products at home

## Refugee Update

When Ee Mang, Cin San, and Gedion, Burmese refugees who had been living in Malaysia, arrived in Chicago in February, Ascension Church sponsored them through Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries (IRIM). Three months later, after English classes and cultural assimilation instruction with IRIM, Ee Mang has a job at Tyson Meat Processing and Gedion will enter kindergarten in the fall.

We are grateful to learn that the recent cyclone in Burma (Myanmar) has not affected their families who remain in that country nor the family of Biak Mang, the LSTC student who has been so helpful in getting them settled. As international relief agencies experienced great difficulty getting aid into the country, we have learned more about the isolation and repression faced by the people there.

\* \* \* \* \*

International Disaster Response of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) provided \$100,000 as an initial response to help meet the basic needs of survivors in Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis battered the Southeast Asian country May 3. Coordinated by ELCA Global Mission, International Disaster Response channels its funds through international church organizations and relief agencies. Funds provide for food, medicine, drinking water, emergency shelter and other materials for survivors of disasters. To designate giving to this disaster, write "Myanmar cyclone" on your check's memo line.

## Stewardship

Thank you for returning the brochure, *My Response to God's Amazing Grace*. Through your response you indicate your intent to share your gifts through ministries in this congregation. If you haven't had the opportunity to respond, please do so! Extra copies of the brochure are available in the church office and can be emailed at your request. Contact [Gail@Ascension-Church.org](mailto:Gail@Ascension-Church.org)

Many ministries with regular service opportunities utilize self scheduling; simply sign up on posters at church or call the church office to choose a time convenient for you to serve. Examples of those ministries include:

- Worship participants (greeters, ushers, readers, communion assistants, hospitality hosts)
- Habitat for Humanity and Good News Community Kitchen volunteers, blood drive donors

Thank you for sharing your unique gifts with your congregation.

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*  
*I Cor 12:4-7*



Our children have been studying some of Jesus' miracles this past year: *Wedding Wonders, Stormy Seas, Sharing Lunch, Healing 10 and Little Girl, Get up!* Special thanks to the volunteers who have shared their gifts this year:

Dave Barnas	Kelly Campbell	Janice Greenwald
Marci Hartley	Diane Iorio	Brianna Lindstrom
Brittany Lindstrom	Julie Oimoen	Tom Oimoen
Beth Peterson	Greg Peterson	Sue Peterson
Justyne Reeves	Caryl Scott	Nikki Stuart

Marci Hartley and Justyne Reeves have also served on the Children's Ministry team and contributed in countless ways to support Jeanne Schambach in her work as Children's Ministry Assistant. As we bid farewell to Jeanne, plans are underway for the 2008-09 session of Sunday School. If you would like to serve on the Children's Ministry Team, please contact Pastor Carol Wasemiller.



***Rainforest Adventure***  
**Monday, June 23 - Friday, June 27**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**St. David's Episcopal Church**  
**(Shermer & Glenview Rds.)**

**Contact the church for more information.**

## Church Council Notes

During April, the Church Council had two meetings. The first was a special meeting in conjunction with the Call Committee to meet with Bishop Miller. We discussed the call process, and the qualifications of our candidate for pastor, Patrick McGuire. Towards the end of the meeting, we also got a chance to meet Pastor McGuire.

At the Council's regular meeting the following week, we received more information about the Ascension Family Fund. This fund was the recipient of the gifts made in honor of Gail Price's 15 years of service as our Service Ministries Leader. Just prior to the luncheon that was given for Gail on May 4<sup>th</sup>, this fund had a zero balance. In the past, the Ascension Family Fund has helped five families who were facing extraordinary financial circumstances.

Other business included affirming an earlier email vote to replace our refrigerator/freezer with industrial ones. We also continued to review our priorities for the 2008-2009 Church Council. Two of these main priorities are worship and education. To get a more in-depth look at the congregation's preferences in this area, a seven-person task force has been assembled to gather more information. Please be ready to share your opinion about the service times and Sunday education schedules when asked over the course of the next month.

Blessings,

*Michaela Ward*

*Secretary*