

## 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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Spring is coming! It is wonderful to see the changes that come. The spring flowers and budding trees point to beautiful things to come during the summer. Spring also brings changes at Ascension.

Sunday School celebrates the end of this year on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to the teachers, children and families for their involvement in the program this year. Special thanks to Jeanne Schambach for sharing her gifts with our children over the years. Jeanne has resigned effective May 4<sup>th</sup>. We wish Jeanne well!

May 11<sup>th</sup> marks our celebration of Pentecost. Our eighth grade confirmation students are completing preparations for Affirmation of Baptism at the 9:45 a.m. service. We pray the Spirit continues to stir in these young people as they take this next step in their faith journey.

May 18<sup>th</sup> our summer worship schedule begins with liturgical worship at 9:00 a.m. and Celebrate at 10:30 a.m. There are special plans to recognize high school graduates and celebrate the birthday of CELEBRATE! Watch for details of events that day.

Opportunities to participate in worship leadership and hospitality are available. Be sure to sign up to serve where you are able.

Continue to pray for your leaders, the call committee and pastoral candidates and congregation as the discernment process continues. May we be open to God's spirit as this vital decision is being made.

Peace and joy to you,

*Pastor Carol Wasemiller*

## Focus on Health



Are you finding it difficult to get started on an exercise routine? Here is a wonderful website that can provide guidance and support to your exercise routine without hiring a personal trainer. Go to: [www.americaonthemove.org](http://www.americaonthemove.org) and sign up. Everyday you will receive a short e-mail providing inspirational information on exercise and diet to help keep you moving.

Here is some information from the web page about the organization:

### About America On the Move Foundation

America On the Move Foundation (AOM) is a national non-profit organization. Our mission is to improve health and quality of life by promoting healthful eating and active living among individuals, families, communities and society.

We do this by:

- Bringing scientists and non-scientists together from multiple disciplines in order to synthesize and stimulate new knowledge.
- Translating cutting-edge science into accessible information for easy use by individuals, groups and communities that can positively affect health behavior.
- Empowering individuals to take control of their health by making and sustaining small measurable changes to their daily eating and activity routines
- Encouraging public and private partnerships at the national, state and local level to build programs that reach individual and communities and support sustainable behavioral change.

Our research shows that small, specific changes in food and physical activity behaviors can have a positive effect on health and effectively stop weight gain. AOM provides free web-based programs, tools, and resources to individuals, families, groups and communities of all types and sizes.

SO TRY IT! SMALL STEPS CAN IMPACT HEALTH IN A BIG WAY!

Linda Clinton, RD/LD

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### Men's Cancer Support Group

Did you know that Ascension Church has a men's Cancer Support Group? Well, we do and it meets quarterly. The next meeting will be held Saturday, May 31st at 10:30 a.m., in the Youth Room. All men who have been diagnosed with, are being treated for or are survivors of cancer are welcome to come to provide support for one another. Future meetings will be held August 23rd and November 22nd. For more information, please call John Rowley (847 272-1172) or John West (847-729-0609).

# Reach Out Through God's Love

## Habitat for Humanity



Our Habitat for Humanity mission got off to a great start on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Ascension joined with other Lutheran congregations and Thrivent Builds to dedicate a home for the Ford family that Saturday. Check out the pictures of the event on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall right next to the kitchen door. While you're there, sign up for a work crew.

In this uncertain time for home building and financing, Habitat for Humanity continues to extend a helping hand to families like the Fords. Ascension wants to be a part of this effort. We need volunteers to help in construction, as well as financial backing for this project. If you can not join a work crew, but want to support this effort, contribute a check made out to Ascension with Habitat in the memo line. We will be sure to get it to the correct place. For more information, please contact Builder Bob Reid at [rhreid1351@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhreid1351@sbcglobal.net).

*Bob Reid*

## The Chicago Green Festival

The Chicago Green Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18 at Navy Pier. Show hours are 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Sunday. You will want to be present for the premier of *Renewal*, a new independent documentary that tells the story of eight organizations working at the intersection of faith and care for the Earth. It will be shown on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Interested in sharing a ride? Please contact Gail Price at church.

## Good News Community Kitchen

Good News Community Kitchen, located in Rogers Park, welcomes people to supper every night of the year. Each evening the kitchen staff and volunteer partners from local congregations including Ascension Church serve about 150 meals to men, women and children. Many guests are working hard to make ends meet; for them a meal at the kitchen helps to stretch the value of a paycheck. Some guests welcome the opportunity to connect with local social services through the Kitchen; these connections enhance the quality of their lives. The meal is the vehicle to show God's love and the volunteers who serve and fund this ministry are "Jesus with skin on." Ascension's participation in this ministry is dependent on your over-and-above financial support. Contributions are gratefully received at any time; make a check payable to Ascension and mark the memo line "Good News Community Kitchen." Thank you.



## Stephen Ministry Corner

**Q.** Can someone who is receiving professional counseling have a Stephen Minister?

**A.** Yes. However, the Pastor or Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator must first contact the counselor to make sure that they approve, before a Stephen Minister will be assigned. To date at Ascension, approval has always been granted.

# Worship Notes

We want to start by thanking all those who participated in the April worship services focusing on stewardship of the earth. It has been a revelatory journey and the message was made all the more powerful through your participation. Now that this month is over, we take this message and continue to find ways we can care for God's creation so that our children and grandchildren may truly inherit the gift that God had intended for all the ages.

Now the summer is upon us and please note that worship times will change on Sunday, May 18 to 9:00 a.m. liturgical and 10:30 a.m. Celebrate!. There will be plenty of exciting worship opportunities this summer, not the least of which is the Celebrate! service "Birthday Party" worship and fellowship planned for **Sunday, May 18** to kick it off. This will be an important day where we look at all of the positive strides this service has made since its inception just 6 years ago and how it has become a vital part of the congregational life here at Ascension. We will be joined by praise team leaders and members of Celebrate's past and will rejoice in all the gifts they have brought as well as those gifts of the current team. If you have not worshipped at this service, we invite you to attend and see what it's all about. If you have attended in the past, come see how things have grown. As always, your prayers of support are appreciated.

As we continue into summer, there will be more exciting worship opportunities in the form of guest musicians during services. One of these guests will be a young lady by the name of Dana Kaufman, whom I met at an awards ceremony for a composition competition I adjudicated in 2006. Dana was the first place winner and has since gone on to win several other competitions, one of which was for a choral work she had written. We have commissioned her to write a new piece for the choir, which will have its world premiere in the Fall at one of our worship services (hopefully on Rally Day). Stay tuned as we track the exciting progress of this new creation! In addition to her gifts as a composer, Dana is a talented singer and pianist and has graciously offered to play and sing in the services. We will also be joined by Oliver Colbentson, our virtuoso violinist friend from Germany that graced us with his music at the Christmas Eve services. Oliver maintains a rigorous performing schedule here and in Nürnberg, Germany where he resides half of the year, and yet still finds a way to offer his gifts here at Ascension. Please come and welcome these folks this summer and enjoy all they have to offer. We would also like to involve more of you out there who have musical gifts to share. We have identified some of you already and will work out opportunities for you to come play and sing, but if we do not know of your special gift, please share it with us so that we might find ways to help you utilize your talent (no matter how big or small you might perceive it) in service of God here at Ascension. We appreciate you all immensely and look forward to a great summer in worship together.

Blessings and peace,

*Mischa & Minkyoo*

## Spiritual Growth

### Israel and the Old Testament Prophets: An overview

Join us for six **Wednesday** mornings from **10:00-11:00 a.m.** beginning **May 7th - June 11th**. We will explore the history of Israel from the beginning of the monarchy to its split into two separate Kingdoms, and then to the defeat and exile of both. We will meet some of the prophets who, sent by God, played a major role during this period of Israel's history. The Old Testament prophets take up significant space in the Bible. Come and learn about their message (no homework required). Ruth Willason will serve as facilitator.

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| <p>Confirmation Family Fellowship</p> <p>May 6 at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>For 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and families</p> <p>Come for supper, fun, games and surprises</p> <p>Register for 2008-2009 Confirmation program</p> | <p>Save the date!</p> <p>Vacation Bible School</p> <p>June 23 - 27, 2008</p> <p>6:00 - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>St. David's Episcopal Church</p> <p>This year our Vacation Bible School program will be held in conjunction with Holy Trinity Lutheran and St. David's Episcopal Churches. Please watch for details in the Friendship Book or contact Pastor Wasemiller if you have a questions.</p> |
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## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee identified a candidate to become our Senior Pastor and unanimously recommended him to the Council. After interviewing him twice, numerous phone conversations, watching him preach, contacting references and conducting a national background check, the Committee presented the candidate and his qualifications to the Council at their meeting on April 17th. The Council voted unanimously to ratify the recommendation and present the candidate to the congregation. Chris Rude and Kurt Vining are working with the Bishop's office to coordinate this next step in the process. There are two parts to the next step, an introduction of the candidate to the congregation, giving everyone an opportunity to meet and interact with him and secondly the Bishop conducts a meeting of our congregation to vote.

The Holy Spirit was with us on the 17th in a big way. The Call Committee presentation was full of energy and meaningful information. The Council patiently listened and processed everything and asked important questions. The "main event" of the evening was the Council getting to meet the candidate. His style is engaging and full of energy and always with a focus on the Gospel. After a few minutes of questions, answers and conversation, they connected. The Council and the candidate were definitely "on the same page".

You will be notified about the next step as promptly as possible. Thank you for your prayers.

*Kurt Vining*

## Stewardship

### Stewardship of Our Gifts

Recently the brochure entitled *My Response to God's Amazing Grace* was mailed to your home. If you have not yet returned your copy to church, please prayerfully consider how you will respond to the gifts God has given to you. Completed brochures may be returned to church by mail or dropped off in the basket in the church office. Would you prefer to respond electronically? Please email [Gail@Ascension-Church.org](mailto:Gail@Ascension-Church.org) and a copy will be forwarded to you. Thank you for sharing your gifts.

## Fellowship

### Celebration of Gail Price's 15 Years of Ministry Sunday, May 4, 2008

Please join us on Sunday, May 4, 2008, as we celebrate Gail Price's 15 years of ministry!

We invite you to participate by:

Joining us for our 8:30 liturgical service, 9:45 liturgical service or 11:15 Celebrate praise service;

Sharing a celebratory luncheon at 12:30 on May 4<sup>th</sup>;

Contributing to the Ascension Family Fund in honor of Gail's service. The Ascension Family Fund was established many years ago to provide financial assistance to people in our congregation who are facing unexpected or extraordinary circumstances. The Ascension Family Fund is administered confidentially by the Senior Pastor and the Service Ministries Leader.

Please let the Church office know if you will be attending. The suggested contribution to defray the cost of the lunch is \$12.00 per person/\$30 max for family.

If you would like to help with the celebration, please contact Patty Cain (312-269-8032, 847-729-4690 or [pscain@gmail.com](mailto:pscain@gmail.com)).

### Ascension Women's Luncheon May 15th

The Women of Ascension will meet for a festive May Luncheon on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon at the home of member, Jan Funk, 1082 Cherry Street, Winnetka.

All women are invited. Please bring a friend. In support of Holy Family's summer program, you are asked to bring donations of arts and crafts supplies, such as sequins, beads, yarn and felt (no crayons or markers please!)

A free will offering will be taken. Please reserve your place by calling the church office (847-335-8335).