

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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As we enter the month of October, our fall programs are in full swing, choirs are rehearsing, Sunday School and Confirmation have begun, youth groups are meeting, as are the adult classes....and not far from our heels are the four church festivals that mark the end of the Liturgical year: *Reformation Sunday, All Saint's Day, Thanksgiving Day* and *Christ the King Sunday*.

Reformation Sunday is an anniversary. All Saints' Day marks the re-dedication of the Pantheon in Rome to be used as a Christian Church dedicated to the memory of the saints and martyrs. Thanksgiving was appointed by the National Government and Christ the King was co-opted from another part of the Church Year to tie the themes of Last Judgment and Advent together. Yet, these four festivals, taken together, form a pastiche that beautifully articulates four major theological themes that Lutherans hold dear.

Reformation Sunday, which marks the anniversary of Luther's call to reform, is more than a day...it speaks of a daily dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ. The theological tenant: *Reformata, semper reformanda* (the church of reform is always reforming) speaks to our Lutheran conviction that sin permeates every aspect of life and creation; yet, God in Christ is ever-present and able to overcome sin, allowing for that which was corrupt to be re-formed.

All Saints' Day commemorates the rededication, in 609AD, of the Pantheon, a pagan temple in Rome, to be used as a church to honor the saints and martyrs. Over the centuries, this day has marked the remembrance of the faithful departed. For Lutherans, All Saints' Day is a day when we remember all who have gone before us in the faith from prophet and apostle to carpenter and Sunday School teacher. All Saints also reminds the living that we are to witness to the saving power of God while we have life and breath.

Thanksgiving Day originally was a commemoration of the Pilgrim thanksgiving celebration of 1621 held in Plymouth, Massachusetts. This holiday was instituted officially by Abraham Lincoln, but wasn't regularly observed on the fourth Thursday of November until 1941, when decreed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Though focused on the giving of thanks to God for the blessing of home and country, in relationship to Reformation Sunday, we in the Lutheran tradition approach the giving-of-thanks from the point of having our sins forgiven by God's grace, and in this grace that allows for the amendment of life, we are freed to give thanks, in the knowledge that we are forgiven. Such a gift this is! And our thanks and praise to God are not only voiced by us but by the faithful of every time and place.

Christ the King Sunday has its origins in the Roman Catholic Church under the pastoral care of Pope Pious XI, who established Christ the King as a festival to commemorate the sixteenth centenary of the Council of Nicea (325 A.D.). Held on the last Sunday of October, it also served as a counter to Protestant Reformation celebrations. In 1969, Lutherans in concert with other protestant traditions adopted Christ the King Sunday on the last Sunday of the Church year, which allowed for the themes of Last Judgment and Advent to be tied together by the Christ who is to come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

So, as we approach the four fall festivals, we will encounter the saving grace of God through the cross of Christ and in that new life, we are free to give praise and thanksgiving with the church militant and triumphant and in giving thanks we bow the knee before the one and only Lord of our life, Jesus who is the anointed of God.

Pastor McGuire

Focus on Health



Stephen Ministry began training September 25; classes will continue into the spring. Please keep trainees in your prayers as they grow in faith and learn effective caregiving skills which will be put to use in our congregation and community when needed. You are invited to share in some general interest training topics:

November 6, 7:00 p.m. The Art of Listening
December 11, 7:00 p.m. Process vs. Results

These programs will be held in the Augustana Room, will last one hour and will be followed by refreshments. Please come!

* * * * *

All Saints Sunday is November 2, and the church celebrates the lives of those people who have died and now live with the Lord. Please plan to gather with Stephen Ministers after worship at 12:15 p.m. for an intentional remembrance of loved ones. A light lunch will be served. You may contact me in the church office for more information.

* * * * *

Please mark your calendars for the fall Blood Drive administered by LifeSource at Ascension--the date is Sunday, November 9.

Peace and good health in Christ,
Gail Price

5 Easy Ways to Enjoy More Fruits & Vegetables

Adding fruits and vegetables to your eating plan is as easy as 1,2,3..plus 4 and 5!

Wake up to fruit. Make a habit of drinking juice or complementing cereal, yogurt or pancakes with sliced or dried fruit.

Try some "grate" ways. Add grated, shredded or chopped vegetables, such as zucchini, spinach and carrots to lasagna, meatloaf, mashed potatoes or pasta dishes.

"Sandwich" in fruits and vegetables. Add pizzazz to sandwiches by including sliced pineapple, apple, peppers, cucumbers or tomato as fillings.

Get creative with pizza. Order or make it "deluxe" with vegetable toppings: broccoli, carrot shreds, thinly sliced zucchini, chopped spinach, red and green bell pepper strips, chopped tomato or any other veggie.

Stuff an omelet with veggies. Turn your omelet into a hearty meal with crisp, tasty vegetables like broccoli, squash, carrots, peppers, tomatoes or onions.

For more information on how to enjoy your fruits and vegetables, go to :

<http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov>

Linda Clinton

Reach Out Through God's Love

Habitat for Humanity



Ascension's Habitat for Humanity is continuing our ongoing project of assisting in building a home for Angela Ford and her family. We have now completed 6 work days and contributed over 350 hours of labor. Thanks to all of you hard workers. It's been enjoyable and rewarding.

Our goal of contributing \$4,000 is within reach, and I am positive that we will make it. Thanks to all of you who have responded so far. Pat yourselves on the back and tell a friend about our ministry. Let's go over the goal if possible.

We have two more Saturdays scheduled this year, October 18th and November 15th. We need volunteers to get this house finished in time for the holidays enabling the Ford family to have Christmas in their new home. Check out Mathew 25:40.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or let me know and I will contact you closer to the date with particulars.

Builder Bob Reid



Do you remember those very meaningful Christmas gifts you selected at last year's Fair Trade Fair? Perhaps you purchased ornaments for the tree, or a creche, or a warm sweater or mittens. Do you recall the beautiful household items on display: candles and linens and bowls and baskets? There were also books and games and cards and notes, to say nothing of the jewelry!

All of these gifts, and so much more—created primarily by women who are paid a living wage for their handiwork and are therefore able to support their families—will be available at the 2008 Fair Trade Fair. Ten Thousand Villages of Evanston will offer them for sale on Sunday, October 19, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Don't come alone; invite family and friends to join you! A preview of the merchandise is available to anyone who is able to help set up the displays on Saturday afternoon, the 18th. Please let Gail Price know if you can come. Thanks!



On your mark, get set, and WALK! No it's not a marathon. It's the up-coming CROP hunger walk, a great way for families or individuals to get fresh air and exercise while contributing to those who are hungry. CROP stands for Communities Reaching Out to People. We'll start at Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St. just off Glenview Road at 1:30 p.m., Sunday October 19, 2008. You may choose a 1K (.62 mi), a 5K (4.1 mi) or a 10K (6.2 mi). The route is pre-determined and very easy to follow.

Rides can be arranged for those who prefer to meet at Ascension and proceed to Glenview Community Church. Donor packets will be available before the walk. Call Lois Giberson (847)967-9758 or Irm Claiborne (847)256-3302 if you have any questions. For further information, check out the CROP website: www.cropwalkonline.org

Refugee Resettlement

After spending the last 14 years in a Burmese refugee camp in Thailand, Ko Kyin, his wife (Ma Khin Ti), and his two step-daughters (Eh Pyu, 18 and Than Than Soe, 15) arrived safely in Chicago on August 29, 2008. They were met at the airport by Gail Price, Pam Carlson, Yussef Ali (IRIM caseworker) and Ta Kyi (translator). The travel-weary family was then transported to their new apartment at 6515 N. Francisco in Chicago, in West Rogers Park. Ko Kyin expressed his thanks to everyone at the church for all of the donated furniture and household items as well as for the financial support.

Yussef reports that the family is now learning how to use American currency and the bus system and will soon be ready to begin English language classes. Soon, hopefully, the family will be able to come with their translator to visit us at Ascension. Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed items, time and money to helping this family get a new start.

Please remember the family in your prayers as they make what is probably a very challenging adjustment to their new home and country.

Pam Carlson

Holy Family Lutheran School Book Campaign

Holy Family opened the doors to its new facility this fall. Many of us attended the Opening Ceremonies earlier this summer. If you took the tour you saw a well-organized library with modestly stacked shelves and a limited supply of library materials. Let's help fill those shelves with quality reading materials.

We will be collecting books at Ascension from October 5 through October 12. If you have a book(s) appropriate for a K-8 student that you no longer use or if you would like to buy a new book(s), please bring them to church and add them to the Holy Family bookcase in Fellowship Hall.

Some of us have been buying new books for the school and have found the "Half Price" or "Used Book" stores to be an excellent resource for quality hardbound books and many of them new. Also, we have donated books we used to share with our children or grandchildren.

There will be more information about this campaign at the church including a list of topics where there is a specific need, a specific list of titles they would enjoy receiving and a list of titles where they already have several duplicates.

So many of our members have given generously to Holy Family with their time and financial resources because it is an outstanding example of how we can support these inner city kids who want a quality education based on Christian values. Let's continue that support with a successful book campaign.

If you would like more information about this campaign for books, please contact Kurt Vining or Ruth Newman.



Worship Notes

A perfect day was enjoyed by all at our outdoor Rally Day service. With cool, sunny, beautiful weather, Ascension members relaxed and sprawled out across the lawn, music and dancing children and a message that helped us to understand how each one of us is truly good news in claiming whose we are. A big thanks to the senior choir, the praise team, the children of Ascension, Lisa Rude for choreographing the dance and working with the children, Andrew Price for leading liturgy, the team led by Gail Price, Helen Costello and Linda Clinton to bring together all the food, and to Beth and Greg Peterson for organizing rehearsals with the children and coordinating the games. It was truly a joyous event.

As I write this, we look forward to **Salsa Night**. By the time you receive this, it will be over, but I anticipate a wonderful evening and an opportunity for us all to reach out to others in our community who may be visiting us for the first time.

Make sure to save the date for our annual Christmas /Advent concert, which will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 13 at 4:30 p.m.** The title of this concert is "A Midnight Clear." We will be working with the senior choir, children's choir, Sunday school children and many other volunteers to present this intergenerational, musical narrative that is a powerful testament to the way in which the Christmas story becomes a part of our everyday lives. This will be a tremendously moving and uplifting event, and we would very much like to have your voice join the ranks of those who will be praising from the choir that evening. We have practice CD's available as well as musical scores for all who would like to participate. There are many other opportunities to be a part of this evening including, but not limited to, reading narration, decorating the church, stage managing and lighting. Please see Mischa or Minkyoo if you would like to be take part or simply write us an email (mzupko@sbcglobal.net, mishin@indianan.edu) and we would be more than happy to get you the necessary materials and give you the information you need to take part.

We continue to be thankful for the gifts our new pastor brings and we welcome Vanessa Young to the staff as our new Youth Leader. With her experience in ELCA Global Mission and as a youth director overseas in merry old England, I'm sure there is a breadth of knowledge and gifts that we are all going to learn about in the coming days. Praise be to God for all the new and exciting things happening here!

Peace,

Mischa & Minkyoo

Spiritual Growth



10:15 a.m.

October 5	Jim Stein, speaker	Martin Boucer, Reformer of Strassbourg
October 12	Jim Stein, speaker	John Knox, Reformer of Scotland
October 19	Jim Scherer, speaker	China, the 2008 Olympics and the church in China
October 26	Jim Scherer, speaker	The Post-Christendom Era and the Future of Christianity



So many hours of planning and so many volunteers stepping forward. The weather cooperating famously, although we all had our eyes on The Weather Channel the few days leading up to it. I think we can all agree that Rally Day 2008 was not only a perfect day but also a memorable one as well. Although it seemed like everything went so smoothly to the casual observer, it wasn't without great planning by a dedicated Ascension staff that Beth and I are so lucky to be a part of. We also could not have done it without the many volunteers who stepped forward (barely coerced I might add!) to assist Beth and me with the games and crafts for the kids. Thank you so much to Peter and Angela Erland, Jan and Mo Hincapie, Sue Peterson and Rich and Annie Iorio... you all inspired us with your boundless energy and enthusiasm! A special thanks goes out to Lisa Rude who dedicated three Saturday mornings to work with the kids (along with her assistants Hannah Weinstein and Annie Iorio) on their dance number that closed the Rally Day service and had us all on our feet! U R ALL GOOD NEWS!

Sunday September 14th was our first "official" day of Sunday School this year and we started it off with a few jokes, a new song (thanks to Pastor McGuire!) and learned about our service project for the coming year through a craft and a story. The children will be collecting donations and making offerings to be donated to Heifer Project International. So if you see one of our Sunday School kids walking the halls of Ascension and you have a few coins jingling in your pockets please feel free to make a donation and help them fill their Heifer banks...it goes to a wonderful cause...helps fight hunger and helps provide income to so many families that truly need it throughout the world. A BIG thank you to Caryl Scott, Pam Carlson and Lisa Rude for offering to stay and help in the classrooms...we had a great turnout and the kids seem excited to be back in the classrooms with their Ascension friends.

The mornings are a little cooler...the sun sets a little earlier...it's the beginning of fall again...and the dedicated volunteer teachers and shepherds along with Beth and I welcome back with great excitement the children of Ascension for what we know will be a fun and educational year!

Beth and Greg Peterson

Youth Ministry

Senior high youth group activities are off and running for the year! There are many new things in store for the youth group this year...one of them being me! Before I became Ascension's Youth Leader, I worked with ELCA Global Mission in Chicago, with the Young Adults in Global Mission program. I served from 2004-2006 in the YAGM program in England doing youth ministry, and I graduated from Augustana College (Rock Island) in 2004. I'm thrilled to be a part of the Ascension community and an amazing year of youth ministry activities!

There are sure to be familiar activities and events for the senior high youth this school year, but here are a few in particular worth highlighting for the coming months:

Sunday mornings from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

'The Breakfast Club'

A time to hang out in the Youth Room for breakfast, conversation, Bible study, fellowship and fun every Sunday morning!

Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

LYFE (Lutheran Youth Fellowship for Everyone)

A host of activities that will incorporate volunteer service projects, Bible study & worship, and fun fellowship opportunities!

And looking further ahead...

ELCA National Youth Gathering: Wednesday, July 22nd - Sunday, July 26th, 2009

The Youth Gathering only takes place every 3 years...so senior high youth aren't going to want to miss this! The 2009 event will be taking place in New Orleans, Louisiana and will have a major volunteer/service-learning component that we're looking forward to participating in while there. If you want to check out what's cooking with the Gathering so far, go to www.elca.org/youth/gathering.html If you're interested in attending the Gathering, stop by the Youth Office at church to pick-up a copy of the 'Youth Participant Registration Worksheet' to complete. Once we confirm how many youth are interested in attending the Gathering, we'll be back in touch with further details about costs and travel for the event. **Please return the completed 'registration worksheet' to me ASAP so that a spot will be reserved for you!**

As the year continues, we'll likely look to enlist the help of parents and others who would be willing to serve as adult volunteers with the youth group. Thank you in advance to all those Ascension adults who might be able to serve as a chaperone, driver, food provider, program planner or host during the coming year!

Again, I'm really excited about serving within the ministry of Ascension, and I look forward to continuing to get to know all of the youth themselves during the coming weeks and months!

Peace,

Vanessa Young



August Church Council Meeting

Our last council meeting was great as we were able to vote on extending offers to fill two of our staff positions. Also, we were able to approve the nomination of Steve Zaleski as the new trustee of the Celebration of Life Garden. We are happy to announce that Diane Carlson accepted the offer to become our Office Manager. As many of you know, Diane has worked in the office voluntarily in the past, but has most recently been serving as our Interim Office Administrator. Lastly, we approved the motion to extend an offer to Vanessa Young to be our new Youth Leader. Prior to this, Vanessa worked for the ELCA Global Mission in Chicago, and also as a Youth and Schools worker in England for the ELCA. Please help us welcome Vanessa to Ascension!

We also received an update from the Facilities Planning Committee. Since our July meeting, Serena Sturm Architects had hired a cost estimator to come in and look at our church and determine how much it would cost to implement their plans. Jan Funk and Jon Leverenz came to present the report entitled, "Statement of Probable Costs" for the office and sanctuary renovation projects. The projected cost for both spaces was more than we originally estimated. We decided that we would ask the Facilities Planning Committee to get more detailed drawings from Mr. Sturm, a breakdown on the costs of just completing our "needs," along with plans for a scaled-down project. We will be having a special council meeting in October to view and discuss the revised plans.

Blessings,

Michaela Ward

Secretary