

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



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Eileen and I thank you for the many cards and emails we have received. Thanks for the party on Sunday, February 25. Thanks for the songs that were written and sung; thanks for the food that was prepared; thanks for the pictures that have been shared; thanks for the luncheon that was served; thanks for the gift of money that you gave us; and thanks for your friendship and memories.

Personally, thanks for all the bike equipment that I received. If you see someone wearing a yellow biking jacket and riding a new bike in front of you ... it might be me!

Since we'll continue to live in the Glen, our paths may cross in the Jewel or on the bike bath. After a year or so, we may be a visiting family on Sunday morning. Until then, let's stay in the middle of what God is up to!

Curt and Eileen Gerald

Pastor Curt

Focus on Health



Rescheduled! Seasoned Saints Luncheon April 22

Ascension's Health Ministry Team invites you to come together for fellowship and food on Sunday, April 22, 12:00 noon at church. Linda Clinton, our very own dietician, will share tips on healthy lifestyle for prevention and care of diabetes including menu planning. Sign up on the bulletin board, in the Friendship Book, or call the church office. Why not invite your friends and neighbors to come with you? Just walk across the room.



Thanks to all who donated blood through Ascension's spring blood drive on March 18th. Your gift is life-giving! If you were unable to donate here, please contact LifeSource at 847-298-9660 and arrange to donate at your convenience in the near future.

A Cup of Comfort for Parents of Children with Autism has recently been placed in Ascension's library. Included in this collection is an essay entitled "Good Marching," written by our own Kristen Scott. Kristen leads a support group for parents of children with special needs. She can be reached at kscott1127@comcast.net

Emergency Phone Numbers

When in sorrow, call John 14
 When men fail you, call Psalm 27
 If you want to be fruitful, call John 15
 When you have sinned, call Psalm 51
 When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34
 When you are in danger, call Psalm 91
 When God seems far away, call Psalm 139
 When your faith needs stirring, . . . call Hebrews 11
 When you are lonely and fearful, . . . call Psalm 23
 When you grow bitter, call I Corinthians 13
 Paul's secret to happiness. . . call Colossians 3:12-17
 When you feel down and out, . . . call Romans 8:31
 When you want peace and rest, call Matt. 11:25-30
 When you want Christian assurance, . . call Romans

8:1-30

When you travel, call Ps. 121
 When your prayers grow narrow, call Ps. 67
 For a great invention/opportunity, . . call Isaiah 55
 When you want courage for a task, . . call Joshua 1
 If you are depressed, call Psalm 27
 If your pocketbook is empty, call Psalm 37
 If you are losing confidence in people, call

I Corinthians 13

If people seem unkind, call John 15
 If discouraged about your work, . . . call Psalm 126
 If you find the world growing small and yourself great, call Psalm 19

Alternate numbers

For dealing with fear, call Psalm 34:7
 For security, call Psalm 121:3
 For reassurance, call Psalm 145:18

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct. No operator assistance is necessary.

Reach Out Through God's Love

Northfield Garden Clubs

Invite Your Help to Pick Up Trash
on

Earth Day, Sunday, April 22

You are invited to help clean up throughout the Northfield community on Earth Day, April 22 beginning at noon. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Call Susan at 847-446-5683 to volunteer or for more information.

Earth Day activities and events are scheduled throughout our hometowns. See your local village newsletter for details and participate!

Good News Community Kitchen

Ascension serves supper at the Good News Community Kitchen on the north side of Chicago on the third Tuesday of each month. **The next date is April 17.** Volunteer service is appreciated in a variety of ways—please choose what works best for you, your gifts and your schedule.

You may shop for groceries locally in advance. Please use the poster on the bulletin board to indicate the portion of the meal you are able to provide, then bring the food to church by 12:00 noon on the date.

Would you like to help serve? Meet at church at 3:45 p.m. on that Tuesday and travel together to the Good News Community Kitchen in Chicago, returning to Ascension by 7:00 p.m.

Financial contributions to the work of Good News make our participation possible and are always welcome.

Habitat for Humanity



Ascension is planning to continue our participation with the Thrivent Builds-Habitat for Humanity program in 2007.

Work trips are planned for the **fourth Saturday each month April thru October**, as well as the **third Saturday in November**. Volunteers will work on the construction of three homes at the Carter Crossing site in Waukegan. Minimum age requirement is 16, and each work crew is limited to 12 members. Please consider joining a work team. Participate as a family if you can. Young people enjoy working alongside adults and learn the spirit of giving that can last a lifetime. Bring friends along.

Financially our goal is to donate \$4,000.00 to support this years project. Ascension has met this goal for the last two years, and we hope to continue in this ministry.

Consider how **you** can support Ascension's vision to "Reach out through His love". Christ said in Matthew 25:40, **"I tell you the truth, whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me"**.

For more details contact Bob Reid or the church office.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2007

Join Lutherans from across Illinois on April 25, 2007 for the third annual Lutheran Day in Springfield. Sponsored by a coalition of Lutheran service organizations affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and/or the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Lutheran Day is an opportunity to:

Study connections between Christian faith and service in God's world

Learn about specific public policy issues that impact people in need in Illinois

Harmonize our Lutheran voices to speak out for a strong public-private partnership to serve disadvantaged neighbors

Pray for our government leaders

Celebrate our identity as Lutherans in the "Prairie State"

Recognize an outstanding public servant with the Paul Simon Courage in Public Service Award

Current plans call for Lutheran Day 2007 to begin with lunch near the Illinois Statehouse and end with a private reception at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield

For more information, contact Gail Price in the Ascension Church office or Barbara Tokarski, the Lutheran Day Coordinator, at Barbara.Tokarski@LSSI.org or 847/635-4653.

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Discipline Saturday

"Growing Spiritually Through 'Rest'"

April 14th

8:30 a.m. - Noon

Divine Word Conference Center at Techny

2001 Waukegan Road

Worship, Speakers, Break-out Sessions

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the
church office at 446-8335.

Spiritual Growth Team Contact: Diane Carlson

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. " Matthew 11:28, 29

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Got Group?

What is a small group? A small group within the church is a voluntary, intentional gathering of three to twelve people regularly meeting together with the shared goal of mutual Christian edification and fellowship.

What are small groups at Ascension about? We hope to help people connect in regular small groups so that they will grow spiritually through *learning, caring for one another, praying and fellowship*. The vision is that as we do this, our small group ministry will be continually expanding to help everyone feel connected and live in faith.

When and where do small groups meet?

Monday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Glenview. For further information, contact Dave Barnas, 847-729-8840.

Tuesday, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at church. For further information, contact Pam Carlson, 847-433-1578.

Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Wilmette. For further information, contact Kriss Beebe at 847-256-6490.



Your help is NEEDED!!! Right now there is a great need regarding Vacation Bible School this upcoming summer! As many of you know, the dates for Vacation Bible School have been set. Vacation Bible School is June 18-21 from 5:45-8:15 p.m. Please mark your calendars!

Though many different people have been contacted about Vacation Bible School, we still have many different places we need help with. I understand that schedules are full and often very busy; however, VBS is a wonderful ministry opportunity. I, along with many others, believe that God wants to impact our kids and our community through VBS this year. It is a wonderful program where kids can come and grow in their love and understanding of God. The theme for VBS is Avalanche Ranch!

If you would be interested in helping, or you know anyone who would be interested in helping, please let me know. Here are the ways in which we need help:

Elementary Chadder's Desert Drive-In Theater Teacher: This is a good teaching role for someone who likes watching movies, acting or drama, leading discussions and operating electronic equipment. All you need to be is someone who loves God and children, have an interest in Bible study skills, knows how to operate a DVD player and ask questions to help kids connect the Bible point to their everyday lives.

Preschool/Kindergarten Craft and Play Leader: This is a good teaching role for someone who loves to watch preschoolers have fun, arts, crafts, and working with your hands. All you need to be is a person who loves God and children (preschoolers are so cute), are creative and fun-loving, can give directions to children and show patience.

Preschool/Kindergarten Bible Adventures and Missions Leader: This is a good teaching role for someone who likes storytelling, missions and outreach, acting or drama, leading discussions and surprising others. All you need to be is someone who loves God and children, have a flair for drama or can play a role convincingly, and like fast-paced atmosphere.

Crew Leaders: Crew Leaders are like shepherds in our Sunday School program. This is a role with no extra preparation. You come and have a group of five kids that you will be building a relationship with throughout the four days. You help to facilitate discussion and get them excited about being at VBS and learning about how much Jesus loves them. You also do all the fun activities with them.

The entire curriculum is really easy to follow.

I know that many of you have already volunteered to help and I am so extremely grateful. I also know that many of you are very busy and I truly understand that. Either way, your prayers regarding VBS would be much appreciated!

Jeanne Schambach

Worship Notes

First, a note of thanks to the children's choir and other youth (Briana Lindstrom and Alex Barnas) for providing us with a wonderful and spirit-filled worship on March 11. Great work guys! Also heart-felt thanks to Jonathan's leading in the sermon....(do we really need to do a pastoral search)? We felt God's presence on that day.

Secondly, I want to remind you that our focus during Lent relates to being good stewards of the earth and taking definitive action in our own lives to ensure we are doing our part. Those of you in worship on Sunday learned about the green sheets of paper included in the bulletins during Lent that will provide helpful tips on preserving our natural resources. In addition, I would also encourage you to check out our website as there will be links to more resources there.

Finally, we wanted to let you know that the Easter theme this year will focus on the pomegranate. Tiley Frost, wife of our Celebrate service leader, has written a short description of the significance of the pomegranate in Christianity which continues below.

The pomegranate is a symbol of the resurrection and the hope of eternal life. Because of its abundance of seeds, it can also symbolize royalty and the church, where the seeds represent the many believers who make up the one universal church. The pomegranate symbol derives from the ancient myth of Proserpina and her annual return to earth in the spring. Christianity adopted this theme, with the pomegranate associated with the Resurrection of Christ and of believers instead of the annual resurrection of crops. The seeds bursting forth from the pomegranate are also likened to Christ bursting forth from the tomb. In Christian art, the pomegranate is often held by the Christ Child in depictions of the Madonna and Child, such as the famous example by Botticelli. Pomegranates are often used in church decorations on the Sundays after Pentecost.

Mischa & Minkyoo

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Piano For Sale

Ascension owns a spinet-sized, blond wood Baldwin-Hamilton piano, serial #209123, manufactured in 1963. Currently located in the Augustana Room on the north wall, this piano has sat unused for more than four years. I have spoken with Mrs. Tenny Patterson and former pastor Don Fagerberg, but neither has a recollection of how the piano was acquired. Ascension's worship leader, Mischa Zupko, says it has gone unused since he arrived and suggests that a new home be found for it.

We are requesting a minimum bid of \$300 for the piano and stool. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please submit your sealed bid to Janeen Ross at Ascension **no later than** May 1, 2007. The piano must be removed, at the owner's expense, by May 15, 2007. The funds generated by the sale will be used in the music department.

Glen Anderson
Property Team Chair

Facilities Planning Project Team

What's on Our Horizon?

In February we invited your input to help us analyze the church's building and grounds and visualize the future of Ascension's facilities. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey and contributed additional comments. Your expression of opinions and ideas will help us to figure out the best use of our resources: support traditional worship and fellowship; nurture blossoming ministries and contemporary events, and make room - literally! - for all that goes on here within our walls.

For the past three years, the property team has been busy "putting out fires" as building issues have surfaced. Last summer it became apparent with proposal costs (\$250,000-\$400,000 for the parking lot, office and pew refurbishing) that the church needed to consider aspects of our current and projected needs thoughtfully and wisely. Each and every member of Ascension is a part of that plan and we hope you will feel free to share thoughts and opinions with any of the following team members: Glen Anderson, Wayne Brunzell, Harry Carlson, Jan Funk, Grant Krafft, Richard Kreutzfeldt, Dave Krone, Keith Lee, Dave Otis, Michaela Ward, Kathy Weinstein and John West.

At our last meeting, the architectural firm Jaeger, Nickola & Associates, Ltd. reported on interviews they recently conducted with Ascension's staff. Hot topics ranged from the parking lot, kitchen, keys and entrances; the pews, the choir loft, drums and acoustics to offices, storage and the nursery; to lighting, safety and restrooms!

This month JNA will continue to gather information from ministry groups, the property team and the congregation as they begin to formulate a design for our best use of the building, and offer suggestions for updating the facility. Their final report will include an evaluation of our mechanical heating and ventilation systems.

Our next step: distill all of this information and present it through a short series of "Town Hall" meetings where the congregation will have the chance to view the architects' recommendations and make additional comments. We welcome your attendance at this point and look forward to a great turn-out, hoping everyone will join in the discussion. Check the weekly announcements and our information board by the front doors for scheduled meeting dates and times.

Finally, mark your calendars for Sunday, May 20th when the Facilities Planning Project Team will present the final results of this audit to the congregation. Look for further updates in the weeks to come.

Facilities Planning Project Team

*You can go to the website of Jaeger, Nickola & Associates, Ltd and see examples of their architectural work at www.jaeger-nickola.com

Stewardship

Faithful Stewards of Creation

Many of you were among the first to screen the Academy Award winning film *An Inconvenient Truth* at Ascension in October. We aired the film here prior to its release in the theaters because we believe that communities of faith, including our congregation, must take leadership in being faithful stewards of creation, of all that God has entrusted to our care. Issues raised in the film are spiritual concerns for us and for generations to follow us.

Since the film's release you have probably noticed the increasing attention given to the greening of America in the media and Congress and the White House. I hope you have begun to make changes at home and in your place of work. I'd like to encourage you to carry that stewardship forward at Ascension.

We're recycling. . .

Worship bulletins - deposit in the boxes provided at the sanctuary doors

Office paper, newspaper, catalogues - recycle in marked recycling baskets throughout the building

Please use garbage cans for waste products only—don't mix with recyclables

Printer and toner cartridges - place them in the box under the bulletin board; Habitat for Humanity Lake County benefits

Cardboard, boxes, plastic packaging - break down and place in recycling area in kitchen

In the kitchen

Choose to use china and silverware in place of disposable products. Wash and store when finished using, please.

If you must use disposables, choose paper cups/plates over plastic or Styrofoam

Thoroughly rinse and recycle all aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles, foil pans, plastic packaging materials, tin cans

Fair Trade

In the last year, with the encouragement of Mitch Mitchell and the Service Team, Ascension has transitioned to serving fair trade coffees and teas exclusively. When you purchase fair trade products, whether at church or in the community, you know that consumables have been grown in an environmentally sound manner, caring for the earth. Look for the Fair Trade Certified label on coffees, teas, chocolates, bananas, olive oil, also clothing and housewares. Stop by the fair trade display in Fellowship Hall to learn more.

Gail Price



Ascension Women's Luncheon
Thursday, April 5
12:00 noon



Join us Thursday, April 5th at 12:00 p.m. at Hackney's on Lake. An excellent program is planned. Linda Rockwell, MPA, from Midwest Palliative and Hospice CareCenter, will speak on *Managing Stress to Avoid Burnout*. She will examine the negative and positive impact of stress in our lives. All women are invited.

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LSSI Women's Network
Fashion Show

For a delightful afternoon and for the benefit of at-risk children, you are invited to the 23rd Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show, "Showers and Flowers," on **Saturday, May 12th** at the Westin-O'Hare, 6100 N. River Road, in Rosemont. At 10:30 a.m. enjoy special gift boutiques, and a silent auction. A delicious luncheon is served at 12:00 p.m. Tickets are \$70. The proceeds support LSSI's new Head Start program, "Bonding with Books" which will enable inner-city preschoolers to shower their lives with books and family reading experiences. For more information, please contact Jan Leverenz, Teri Colmar, or Marlynn Anderson.