

# The Church Mouse

Ascension Lutheran Church Newsletter



October 2011



## Table of Contents

### Page 1

- Pastor's Report

### Page 2

- President's Report
- Mission Report
- Finance Report

### Page 3

- Youth and Family

### Page 4

- Worship
- Participants
- Celebrations

### Page 5

- Calendar

## Ascension's Vision

Ascension Lutheran Church celebrates faith and trusts in God's grace and salvation through Jesus Christ.

## Our Mission

We worship in word and sacrament, care for God's creation, serve people in need, and respect differences.

Dear Ascension Friends,

For many centuries, Christians have described the church as a "school in love." As our children and youth return to school, let's remember that we are all students of the school in love.

"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them....There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear;... We love because God first loved us....the commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also." (1 John 3:16-21, *passim*).

October 2 is Commitment Sunday. Our commitment is to learn to love. Of the many terms and phrases for God (the ground of being, our ultimate concern, the Beloved, God is a circle whose center is everywhere and circumference nowhere), the summary word for them all is love.

Now, we have many loves in our lives, most especially our families, friends, community, nature, beauty, and deep sense of meaning. But at bottom our great need is for God, who is love.

I would suggest that the sole purpose for church is to come to sense God's love for ourselves and for the world. For ourselves, first, because we can't love others unless we feel loved ourselves. And, for many of us, feeling loved takes work (school!).

Church brings God's word of love through scripture, sacrament, community, faith sharing, and service.

In a sense our contributions (financial, time, and talent) to the church and its work are symbols of our commitment to being nourished by God's love so as to become people of love.

The Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard famously spoke of the "leap of faith." Faith is a leap because we believe in a love that we cannot see. How strange this is in our contemporary world.

Remember Jesus' conversation with the rich man (Matt. 19:16-26)? Jesus spoke here and so often about the danger of materialism, because we focus on what we think we can count on (our bank account balance, the value of our home), rather than on God, who alone is truly trustworthy. Remember how Jesus saw through the crowds in the temple to the poor widow who put in two small copper coins (Mark 12:41-44)? He cares about what our commitment is: "out of her poverty she has put in everything she had."

Martin Luther said we are beggars. "We are beggars. This is true." He scribbled on scrap paper, reportedly the last words he wrote before his death on February 18, 1546.

We are beggars, as needy for God's grace and love as for food. It is because we know this that we choose to participate in the body of Christ, the church, and contribute to it, both our needs and woundedness and vulnerability and our gifts.

We come to Commitment Sunday remembering the six steps to joyful giving, developed by Dr. Robert B. Gronlund:

- Recognize Your Need to Give
- Seek in Prayer God's Will for Your Giving
- Place God First in Your Budgeting and Spending
- Have Faith and Assume Sufficiency Not Scarcity
- Decide to Give Sacrificially
- Continue Growing in Giving.

Thank you for your faithfulness. I am blessed to serve you as congregation.

Pr. Nancy



Pr. Nancy Wright

**G**reetings!

I hope you all had a good summer and are ready to plunge into the new church year. Sunday October 2 is Commitment Sunday. This is the day that your church not only asks you to make a financial commitment, but a time and talent commitment also. Find something that interests you and join in.

I am very pleased with the way the summer went. Attendance was up and there seemed to be great energy in the congregation. Pastor has been approached by several families about joining our church.

I am so grateful for the number of people who take time out of their busy schedules to volunteer in the church. Thanks to all

who have stepped forward to lead their respective committee's.

The Rally Day Bar-B-Q and campfire went well. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to the fire starters.

I am looking forward to the fall and winter months in great expectation of the wonderful things that we have in store for us.

God's Peace,

Tom



Mission Report

**CALLING ALL ELVES!**

Believe it or not, the holidays are upon us soon. Ascension has a long tradition helping local families in need to have a special Christmas with our Giving Tree ministry. Many members contribute by choosing tags from the Giving Tree and buying gifts for family members. Beth Dreibelbis has volunteered to coordinate this year but she can use elves to help in advance with the many tasks involved in making this ministry happen each year. Please be in touch with Beth if you can assist with coordinating this event.



Thank you

Finance News—Summary Statement of Operations—Eight months ended August 31, 2011

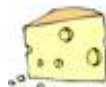
*All amounts are in Dollars*

Description	Budget	Actual	Variance
	2011	2011	Favorable (Unfav.)
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions received	127,256	113,652	(13,604)
Yard sale receipts	3,000	2,709	(291)
Childcare rental receipts	19,408	19,640	232
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>149,664</b>	<b>136,001</b>	<b>(13,663)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Pastoral Services	64,512	62,908	1,604
Administration	21,232	18,250	2,982
Worship & Music	8,176	6,156	2,020
Christian Education	752	388	364
Benevolence and Outreach	14,088	9,742	4,346
Youth Program	11,808	11,380	428
Church Property	20,832	15,761	5,071
Mortgage & Insurance	12,417	13,583	(1,166)
Budget Adjustment	(2,529)		(2,529)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>151,288</b>	<b>138,168</b>	<b>13,120</b>
<b>NET OPERATING GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>(1,624)</b>	<b>(2,167)</b>	<b>(543)</b>



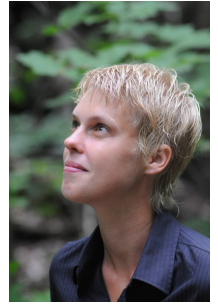
*Thank You!*

Financial Report Submitted by Walter Grant, Treasurer



### October Calendar

Tuesday, October 4	5:00 Ripple Current (5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> graders) 6:30 Shared Meal 7:00 Ripple Immersion (8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> graders)
Tuesday, October 11 –	6:30 Leadership Teams Meet
Tuesday, October 18	5:00 Ripple Current (5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> graders) 6:30 Shared Meal 7:00 Ripple Immersion (8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> graders)
Tuesday, October 25 –	6:30 Leadership Teams Meet
Friday, October 28 – Saturday, October 29	Ripple Lock-In



Rachel Stampul

**Please come out and donate food or a dish for the shared dinners on October 4 and 18. The kids will appreciate it. Contact Rachel at [rachelstampul@gmail.com](mailto:rachelstampul@gmail.com) if you can help.**

*Just a note to let everyone to know how much I enjoyed being a part of the Ripple event on September 20. It's great to see so many kids out for these occasions and even better to watch their enthusiasm of, not only the food you bring, but the interactions with others and the program of the evening. Plus they all eat like vultures – adorable vultures! Which does a cook's heart good! - Sandy Short*

### Christian Spiritual Growth

#### Pastor Nancy's steps in the school for love (aka church)

Grade 1 (Monday) I am good (Gen. 1:26) and growing (Eph. 2:21).

Grade 2 (Tuesday) I have hurt someone and someone has hurt me; can we forgive (Matt. 18:21-23)?

Grade 3 (Wednesday) "Seek first the kingdom of God [Matt. 6:33; also Matt. 6:25-34]."

Grade 4 (Thursday) Be peacemakers (Matt. 5:9).

Grade 5 (Friday) Be thankful, because each day is a gift; and be generous (kind, helpful, loyal, positive). "We love because God first loved us [1 John 4:10]."

Grade 6 (Saturday) REST (Gen. 2:2), but "pray always" (Eph. 6:18).

Grade 7 (Sunday) Go to church today to be in a loving community (school). Be happy, rejoice (don't be negative or critical [Phil. 4:4])! We can't do it all, and God is taking care of it (Matt. 10:29).

Grade 8 (Monday) BEGIN AGAIN

**Question: Who are these grades for?**

*Answer: For elementary school, junior and high school, college, graduate, and life-time learners (in other words, Christians of all ages).*

**Question: Can I go back a grade to learn again?**

*Answer: Yes, that is what each week in life is for.*

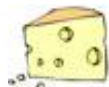
**Question: Shouldn't others go back and learn some steps again?**

*Answer: Yes, probably so, but it is enough for each of us to focus on ourselves, and we can leave something for God to do.*

#### Upcoming Sermon Topics

Because God is far beyond our images and concepts, the Bible gives symbols, parables, and ways of speaking about God. I will preach on various important ideas about God each week, based on the lectionary readings. What other images do you have for God or favorite Biblical passages that speak to you deeply about God? Please let me know. For the future, I am very interested in preaching on topics or ideas that parishioners suggest!~Pr. Nancy

October 2	<b>COMMITMENT SUNDAY WITH GUEST PREACHER</b>
October 9	<b>God as Refuge</b> (Isaiah 25:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14)
October 16	<b>God as Teacher</b> (Matthew 22:15-22)
October 23	<b>God as Love</b> (Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Matthew 22:34-46)
October 30	(Reformation Sunday) <b>God as Word</b> (John 8:31-36)
November 6	(All Saints Sunday) <b>The Father</b> (1 John 3:1-3)
November 13	<b>The Manager</b> (Matthew 25:14-30)
November 20	(Christ the King Sunday) <b>The Stranger</b> (Matthew 25:31-46)



	October 2 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion	October 9 8:00 a.m.- Word 10:30 a.m. Communion	October 16 8:00 a.m.- Word 10:30 a.m. Communion	October 23 8:00 a.m.- Word 10:30 a.m. Communion	October 30 8:00 a.m.- Word 10:30 a.m. Communion
Celebrant Preacher	Pr. Nancy Wright Rev Linn Opderbecke	Pr. Nancy Wright	Pr. Nancy Wright	Pr. Nancy Wright	Pr. Nancy Wright
Altar Guild	Jo White/Kathe Bruno	Suzanne Furst	Cheryl Couillard	Cathy Gottschalk	Barbara Sponem
Communion Assistant	Marcia Gustafson	Harriet Richards	Bob Furst	Julie Valliere	Barbara Sponem
Lector	Paul Farrar	Sam Swanson/ Lydia Wisloski	Joyce Gallimore/ Kathy Kemp	Red Martin/ Herb Tilley	Walter Grant/ Hubie Norton
Liturgical Assistant.	Kathe Bruno	Leah Burke	Bill Valliere	Andrea Messier	Bill Valliere
Organist	Denise Puisto	Charles Child	Charles Child	Charles Child	Charles Child
Coffee Hosts	Catered Luncheon	Swanson	Carter	Lombardi	Dreibelbis
Greeters *	Greta Krag Doug Dreibelbis	Kristin Peterson-Ishaq Mousa Ishaq	Sarah Sturm Jake Hansen	Suzanne Furst Marcia Gustafson	Sarah Sturm Jake Hansen
Ushers: Team 2:	Bob Furst, Charlie Cutting, Jake Hansen, Mark Schroeter, Sam Schroeter, France Hansen				

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed.



Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said, "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

Submitted by Beth Dreibelbis

## October Celebrations

### Birthdays

Oct 3 Susan Williford  
 Oct 6 Daryll Kemp  
 Oct 9 Jamie Wilhite  
 Oct 11 Gary Pittman  
 Lauren Dreibelbis  
 Oct 14 Eunice Lemkul  
 Susan Agne  
 Jake Hansen  
 Oct 16 Jean Fahrenbach  
 Richard Norton  
 Oct 18 Robert Furst  
 Oct 20 Rachel Bruno  
 Oct 22 Nesreen Qubrosi  
 Diane Menze (Clark)  
 Jeremy Hanson  
 Oct 25 Katie Antos  
 Oct 27 Betsy Jenkins  
 Oct 31 Jeff Kelly



### Baptisms

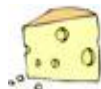
Oct 3 Isabella Mae Brackett  
 Paul Farrar, Sr.  
 Judy Trower  
 Oct 8 Madeline Tylenda  
 Heidi Western  
 Oct 11 Katherine Hill  
 Oct 15 Carol Blakely  
 Oct 18 Rachel Valliere  
 Oct 23 Margaret Madden  
 Oct 24 Brian Dreibelbis  
 Oct 25 Tawnya Kiernan  
 Sarah Norton  
 Oct 27 Jacob Gottschalk  
 Oct 28 Arlene Krapcho  
 Oct 29 Katherine Kemp



"Welcome, Child of God"

### Anniversaries

Oct 8 Paul & Michelle Hobbs  
 Oct 12 Hubert & Sharon Norton  
 Oct 15 David & Leah Burke  
 Oct 18 Robert & Amanda Cushing  
 Oct 27 Jennifer & Todd Archambault







**WORSHIP SERVICES SCHEDULE**

October 9 begins the return of Ascension’s winter worship schedule.

**8:00 a.m. Service of the Word**

**10:30 a.m. Holy Communion**

(except for the first Sunday of each month when Holy Communion is celebrated at both services. And the 10:30 service celebrates with Contemporary Praise.)

This publication can be viewed on our website at [www.alcvt.org](http://www.alcvt.org). If you DO NOT wish to receive a hard copy please contact us via phone or email at 802/324-0659 or [Church.office@alcvt.org](mailto:Church.office@alcvt.org) so that we might cut down on paper and cost. Thank you.

**The Church Mouse**  
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Staff

Rev. Nancy Wright	Pastor
Rachel Stampul	Director of Youth & Family Ministry
Sandra Short	Administrative Assistant
Charles Child	Organist
Denise Puisto	Organist
Jeri Bergdahl	Director of Bell Choir
Kathy Kemp	Custodian

Officers

Tom Bruno (802) 598-1519	<a href="mailto:tbru7765@aol.com">tbru7765@aol.com</a>	President
Joyce Gallimore		Vice President
Michael Johnson/ Heidi Western		Secretary
Steve Peake		Financial Secretary
Walter Grant		Treasurer

Congregation Council Members

Tom Bruno	Joyce Gallimore	Walter Grant
Elias Carter	Michael Johnson	Sherry Norton
Steve Peake	Steve Snook	Sharon Sturm
Valerie Rittershausen	Heidi Western	Pr. Nancy Wright



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LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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