



ALC Connections

February 2016

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

The Discipleship Chat

PEOPLE of the PASSION – LENT 2016

The Passion account of Scripture – the account of Jesus' arrest, trial, suffering and death – contains many interesting characters, each of whom carries some interesting life lessons of their own. The main character, of course, is Jesus. He died and rose to pay the penalty of our sin. That's not just the main "thing" of the account – it's the *only thing* that really matters. And He is the central figure in our Lenten Worship. However, we are also going to look at a different figure each week, who impacted the story in a different way (i.e. Judas, Peter, Herod, Pontius Pilate, thief on the cross, etc).

The Wed eve Lenten services will be held in the Chapel at 7 pm. There will be Lenten Soup Suppers, beginning at 6 pm in the Parish Activities Hall. Plan accordingly; the folks start putting things away before 7 pm so they can come to worship, so don't just show up at 6:50 or 6:55 (you might be gnawing on the bulletin!)

The first Wed – Ash Wednesday – the 6 pm supper will feature a Blue Gill fish fry. The Neumann's know all the great spots, and have to clear out the freezer for next year's great season! So join us for blue gill. And remember – next Wed, for Ash Wed, there will be two services: 1 pm in the Chapel and 7 pm in the Sanctuary. All the Wed eve services after that will be in the Chapel.

Pastor Dave

A Closer Walk – Sun eve 7 pm, in the classroom. A Closer Walk is an instruction in the basics of the Christian faith, according to our Lutheran understanding. It serves as an adult instruction class for membership at Ascension. It also serves as a great review for all those who just want to brush up. There are 8 lessons/weeks left. You are welcome to join us. We're breaking for Super Bowl Sunday, and we'll pick up again on Feb 14th.

LENTEN Worship

6 pm Soup Supper (Fish Fry this Wednesday)
7 pm Lenten Worship in Chapel
(Ash Wed: 1 pm Chapel, 7 pm Sanctuary)



Thurs Bible Study, studying 2 Kings, will have a special guest Thur Feb 18 – Rev Steve Malburg will be moving to the island of Macao as a LCMS missionary. He will be sharing info about the mission. Starts at 2 pm. All are welcome.

You can go directly to Lutheran Hour Ministries and sign up for the LHM Daily Lenten Devotions, direct to your inbox.

Lutheran Hour Daily Lenten Devotions

<http://www.lhm.org/lent/>

Special Voters' Meeting this Sunday Feb 7
Feb Council meeting Sun Feb 21 after Worship

Special Meeting: The Church Council will host a special informational meeting after worship service on February 7 to discuss Ascension's new mission statement, GROWING DISCIPLES OF JESUS, and how we plan to implement it in 2016. Our focus is on Outreach, Worship, Study, Service, and Fellowship. Each member of Ascension is needed to use their gifts to carry out Jesus' command to make disciples of all people, beginning within our congregation and immediate community. Please join us as we continue our individual and collective journeys of faith in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.



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Please visit Ascension's website

(www.ascensioneastlansing.org) for all the latest news, activities, and schedules for the church! If you are a Facebook user then you will be pleased to know we have a Facebook page as well. Just type in Ascension Lutheran Church and "like us" to receive updates. Please see Laura Osminski, or contact the church office, if you would like to see something added to either the website or the Facebook page.

Special thanks to Pat Baughan and Paul Halbig for insulating windows around the fellowship area with plastic sheeting. We noticed the difference at the Parish Planning meeting.

Want to Get Involved? The Properties Committee needs another member. Interested? Contact Carolyn Boger or Phil Peterson.

Men's Venue for February is at Max and Erma's on February 16th at 6pm.

Women's Venue will be February 18 (Thursday) at Tannin, 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos, at 6 pm.

Flower chart for 2016 is on the kiosk in the Narthex.

The **Men's Bible Fellowship** meets every Saturday at 8am (around coffee and donuts). Enter through the side furnace room/kitchen door. You are invited to join us as we study the Gospel of Matthew.

We welcome you to the **Thursday afternoon Bible Study**, 2pm in the classroom. We've been studying the great spiritual life lessons in I and II Samuel and I-11 Kings. We're currently at I King 15. Join us!

Water for Flint-Ascension is joining neighboring St Luke Lutheran and other sister congregations in gathering bottled water for the people of Flint. New Life Lutheran Church in Swartz Creek sponsors the inner-city Franklin Avenue Ministry, through which the water will be distributed. We are going to focus on the large gallon containers. You may bring your 'gifts' to the Narthex on Sundays, or the lounge outside the office during the week.

We will regularly
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use this
touch many
His saving



We will regularly
what is
May God
effort to
lives with
grace.

Hope is on the Way (from CEF)

Winter can drag on, especially for those of us living in northern states. We've dealt with snow, cold winds, slippery roads and very little sunlight. Some of us may even struggle with "Seasonal Affective Disorder", a medical condition due partly from a lack of sunshine.

People may feel depressed or melancholy.

We can't wait for the temperatures to rise, the robins to sing and the first flowers to burst through the soil. Spring brings with it hope, new life and anticipation of things to come.

Farmers look forward to tilling the fields, planting the crops and starting the cycle of life again. We wait with anticipation of planting the garden or tending our flower beds.

The Jews of 2000 years ago must have longed for a new glimpse of God's favor. No word had come from the Lord for some time. They lived under powerful Roman rule and no doubt hoped for more, something better. The Old Testament prophecies were well known, familiar to the masses. But when would they be fulfilled? Patience may have been growing thin.

We started the winter season celebrating the fulfillment of the prophesy, the birth of Christ. That excitement gave way to the constant routine of winter, trying to stay warm and just get by. But now as spring draws close, we experience the many emotions of Good Friday and Easter. Watching Jesus suffer the cold reality of sin and death is a sober reminder to us. Then Easter Sunday breaks the frigid chains of death, leaps forward with Christ's resurrection and reminds us of the eternal Spring we know with the promise of Heaven.

All of us have been greatly blessed and we can be a wonderful blessing to those closest to us. As we anticipate the time we get to go home, we can work to complete our Estate Plans, share our faith, care for our families and leave a gift to support our favorite ministries. Let's be sure to communicate the things that are most important to us. Talk about our faith and why the gifts to ministry are an important part of our plans. Our gifts may be the ray of Hope that encourages others to keep telling the Message of Jesus to the world.

-Bill Burmeister

Church Extension Fund – Michigan District

800-242-3944 t bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org

Also go to the CEF website, www.mi-cef.org to Gift Planning. Scroll down to the bottom of the section to find several PDF files that you and your members may find helpful to communicate your desires to your family.



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Gardening friends!

Have you registered for our Community Garden event planned for Saturday February 13th at St Luke Lutheran Church in Haslett, 9am-noon? All are very welcome, so please invite your friends! Im attaching a flier in case you would like to forward it to others.

To register: just send Carolyn a quick email: cfabro@stlukehas.com - thanks!

We have some great speakers at this event:

- John Biernbaum from MSU will talk on "Community Gardens for Health: Gardening with Nature and Planning for Success" and

- Julie Lehman from the Greater Lansing Food Bank's Garden Project will also be there to talk to us about their Garden Leaders Training and answer any questions. If you have an interest in doing their garden leaders program you can find more information below.

- Haslett Beautification Association will also be present to talk about their work.

Looking forward to seeing you there,
Jude Barry

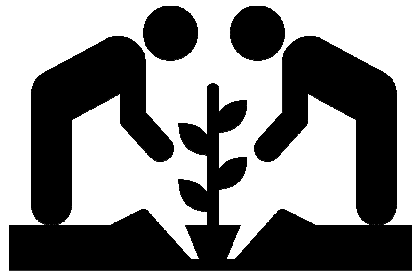
February 20th, 27th & March 12th 2016

If you are thinking about starting a new community garden project or improving an existing community garden, [Garden Leaders Training](#) may be just what you need to get growing! Join the Greater Lansing Food Bank's, [GARDEN PROJECT](#), for a series of educational courses that provide information and technical guidance on how to engage community, identify resources, set up successful growing spaces & more! This is not a gardening class— it is crucial skill training for successful community (gardening) projects. With attendance, there will be opportunities to network, gain new leadership skills and apply for GP garden resources. Suggested cost per session is \$5-\$30 sliding scale to cover learning materials and will take place over 3 Saturday mornings, 9:00am-12:30pm at the [Foster Community Center](#) near downtown Lansing. To RSVP, email gardenproject@glfoodbank.org or call [\(517\) 853-7809](tel:517-853-7809). Check out our [GLT 2016 Promo Flyer](#) and view a video of last year's training [here](#).

Feb. 20: Virtual Tour of Community Gardens & Developing Shared Vision

Feb. 27: Volunteer Management, Outreach & Organizing

March 12: Garden Leadership Summit & Technical Trade Show



Look Beyond the Numbers. While Church Extension Fund interest rates have always been competitive—and we encourage you to compare them—we believe that the other side of the equation is at least as important. If you want your investment dollar used to support the causes you believe in—paying dividends that go beyond dollars for generations to come—our investment products represent a unique stewardship opportunity. As John Haubenstricker at 351-4514 to share the story of CEF. Or for more information call 800.242.3944 or visit www.mi-cef.org.