



ALC Connections January 2015

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

January 2015 Newsletter *In My Father's House*

The only thing that is recorded of Jesus' childhood is when he turned twelve, and his parents took him to the temple in Jerusalem for the Passover. After they left with him, and searched (for three days), they found him in the temple, sitting with the teachers. His response to Mary and Joseph was, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

My Father's house. Jesus had/has a love for His Father's house, in this case, the temple, even though it would be the temple leaders who would one day crucify him, perhaps even one of those who sat teaching him on this occasion. Jesus' attitude was that of the Psalmist in Ps 122:1:

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, *"Let us go to the house of the Lord,"* and in Ps 69:9, *"Zeal for your house consumes me..."*

It is our Father's house, too. Worship is a natural response for a Christian; you might say it is our 'Job Description.' It is what God has called us for – to praise, honor and glorify Him. It is what we will be doing in heaven for all eternity.

"Church" might seem like an ordinary thing, even an option to some. But it is our Father's house, because He is our Heavenly Father by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. By faith, we become His children. He invites us to call Him Father, and to follow His Son.

Let us make that a high priority this year – **to be in our Father's house**, loving Him and His people, serving Him and furthering His Kingdom.

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, *"Let us go to the house of the Lord."*

May the blessings of our faithful God carry you into the New Year ... 2015.

Pastor Dave

Thank you!

Thank you to the people of Ascension for the special Christmas gifts, cards and wishes. We appreciate your kindness, encouragement, love and fellowship.

Pastor Dave
Debby (church secretary)
Deacon John H
Alix J (Music Director)
Keith and Robin (Custodians)

Theological Conference on Life in the Spirit

Sponsored by the Michigan District (LCMS)

Feb 21, Faith Luth Ch, Grand Blanc

Mar 21 Holy Cross Luth Ch, Jenison

Event Description:

Laity, pastors, neighbors, family, and friends are invited to attend the 2015 Theological Conference, *"Life in the Spirit: Watered, Fed, and Armed."* Three models of life in the Spirit will be presented by expert guest speakers to help you gain a more intimate relationship with God the Holy Spirit and understand how He works in your life.

<http://www.michigandistrict.org/events/theological-conference-life-in-the-spirit-grand-blanc> (cut 'n paste)

We've had Ascension people attend the two previous Conferences sponsored by the Michigan District. In the past, we went to Jenison, near Grand Rapids. Now we have the Grand Blanc option.

A Closer Walk

Beginning in February! A Closer Walk – a class designed for Church membership, Adult Confirmation, a refresher class for members, and/or general information of what Lutheran Christians believe. Coming in February 2015.

Daily Bible Reading Guide

Did you know that on pp.299-304, our hymnal (Lutheran Service Book) lists a Daily Bible Reading schedule? Daily Bible Reading is a great way for Christians to stay in contact with God's Word, and grow in Discipleship. Here are a few other websites that list different Daily Bible readings; some take you through the complete Bible in a year, some are a little bit shorter. There will be one to fit you! (You may have to cut and paste the links below.)

<http://about.esvbible.org/resources/reading/>

<http://www.esv.org/assets/pdfs/rp.through.the.bible.pdf>

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/>

<http://www.ewordtoday.com/year/>

<http://www.ewordtoday.com/year/niv1984/bjan01.htm>



ALC Connections January 2015

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

Several of our area congregations will be installing new pastors in January:

Sun Jan 18, Calvary in Carson City installs Rev Bob Riggs

Sun Jan 25, Messiah installs Rev Tom Vanderbilt @ 3 pm The people of Ascension are invited to these services.

Elders' Retreat Sat Jan 17, 9 – noon

Parish Planning Workshop Sat Jan 24, 9 – 1

We usually look forward to a new year. Hopefully with prayerful anticipation we seek God's will and direction for our lives. In December the Voters' Assembly approved a budget of \$215,823 for 2015 which represents an increase from our expenses in 2014. With God's blessing we can achieve that and more. On Saturday morning, January 24th, we meet for our annual Parish Planning meeting. All are invited to come and participate. Note it on your calendar. Details will follow. We gather to discuss and plan for the life of our congregation in 2015 and beyond. This is an opportunity for each of us to share in developing and implementing Ascension's vision of serving Christ by serving each other and our community.

ARFF thanks all who baked and all who bought and especially those who did both to make the Dec. 21 bake sale the huge success it was! Over \$350 was raised to apply to the principal of the roof and furnace loan! The loan will be paid off in advance, thanks to the congregation's enthusiastic support of ARFF's fundraising endeavors. It seemed as though the congregation had as much fun participating as the ARFF committee had in planning the various events. Thank you so much for your support over the past few years. Not as many events will be held in 2015 (as we hope the loan will be erased soon), but we'll do our best to make whatever we do fun for you and profitable for ARFF at the same time. Thanks again!

Your appreciative committee,

Kathy, Ron and Carol, Carolyn, [Derek, chair emeritus]



Stephen Ministry

2014 has proven to be a year of new and exciting opportunity at our church. Ascension Lutheran Church is moving forward in developing our Stephen Ministry program. This one-to-one lay caregiving ministry is named for Stephen, one of the first seven lay-people called by the church to assist the apostles in caring for others. (You can read Stephen's story in Acts 6 and 7.) Stephen Ministry is truly "ministry," that is, service to others, caring for others in Jesus' name, doing the work that God has both called and gifted his children to do.

The class for Ascension's Stephen Ministers is currently underway. Seven members of our congregation are working diligently toward obtaining their required 50 hours of training. Your prayers in support of the program are important. Please keep our Stephen Minister trainees and our Stephen Minister Leader, in your prayers.