



# ALC Connections

## July 2016

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

### Ascension Celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Part Four: The early 1970s

During the decade of the 1970s, the Women's Guild [Women of Ascension] collected layettes for new mothers and made quilts for Lutheran World Relief while continuing the monthly bingo sessions at the Extended Care Facility on Dobie Road in Okemos.

In March 1971, Pastor Reinhardt accepted a call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Wyandotte, Mich.

In May 1971, the voters changed the By-laws to grant women the right to vote and to lower the voting age to 16. When the revised constitution was reviewed by Synod, objections were raised to the enfranchisement of the women. Ascension remained true to its decision and considered switching synods. Missouri Synod then allowed Ascension the right for women to vote, but asked Ascension not to broadcast it.

The congregation called the Rev. Roy Schroeder of Sparta, Michigan, as pastor. He accepted Ascension's call and was installed on August 29, 1971. He was the son of the pastor at Trinity, Lansing; Peg Powell has been one of his Sunday School teachers. A graduate of Concordia, he continued his studies and was conferred the degree Doctor of Theology in 1967. His family moved into the parsonage on Park Lake Road, freshly redecorated by the Women's Guild. Ascension welcomed his wife, Joy, and their children, Paul, Stephanie, Deborah, Suzanne, and John.

Under Pastor Schroeder, weekday school was established. Children of grades 2-8 were invited for in-depth Christian education on Tuesdays after school. Staff was recruited from the congregation, as many were teachers by training.

In October 1971, Voters Assembly committed to building a new church, cost estimated between \$350,000 and \$400,000. Congregational president Jake Wamhoff appointed a Building Committee comprised of Ron Heck, Bob Pangman, Emil Ellis, Greg Sober, Mary Borchard, Ruthmary Coohon, and Paul Allen. A professionally organized fund-raising campaign brought pledges surpassing \$150,000.

Pastor Schroeder and Joy had been holding an Annual Christian Art Show at Peace Lutheran in Sparta and brought it to Ascension. The Eleventh Annual Christian Art Show was held March 26 to April 2, 1972 at Ascension. It was such a success it was expanded an extra week for the succeeding years. Doug DeLind of Mason was the first recipient of the Best of Show award for his work in wood, St Francis of Assisi. Under Joy's direction, the Women's Guild hosted the Tuesday morning coffee at which the community was invited to hear an artist talk about his or her work. The Lansing community was impressed with the quality and professional tone of the show. As Peg Powell, who voluntarily worked many art shows, later remarked at Pastor Schroeder's retirement party, "It was a learning experience for me. At this time I ceased being Roy's teacher and became the student."

April 8, 1972, may have been Pastor Schroeder's first wedding at Ascension as Rebecca Chappell and Patrick Baughan were married.

As the congregation grew, it was able to burn the mortgage on May 14, 1972. Pastor Nickelsburg returned for this event. The first phase of Ascension's history came to a successful conclusion.



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**The Women's Venue** for July will be at the Red Lobster, 3130 E. Saginaw, on Thursday, July 21, at 6 pm.

**Men's Venue** will be July 26th at Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza in the Eastwood Town Center at 6pm

## Education Department

*Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts* class will begin Wednesday, September 7. There will be a morning and evening session. You will learn what the Bible says about God. God's gift of Spiritual Gifts to each us and what gifts are uniquely yours. You will receive a letter with more information and how to enroll. Prayerfully consider how this experience could enhance your walk with your Savior.

## Bible Studies

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 Luke.

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. Join Us!

## Activities ...Meetings..... and Opportunities

**Quilt Group** meets Monday, July 13th at i:00pm..

## Business of the Church

**Parking lot should be redone this week!**



## Properties Committee News

**Lawn mowing** slots are going fast! Sign up now to have your turn on the riding lawn mower. Sign up sheet is on the kiosk.

**Gardening** opportunities abound. See the sign up sheet on the kiosk. Let's control our grounds and eliminate weeds. Pick a plot you'll oversee. Team up with someone to share the pleasure. You may add flowers or plants (please remember to water them when you come to church).

**Want to Get Involved?** The Properties Committee needs two additional members. Interested? Contact Carolyn Boger.

## Miscellaneous Information and News

**Please visit Ascension's** website ([www.ascensioneastlansing.org](http://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.

**Flower chart** for 2016 is on the kiosk in the Narthex. Be sure to sign up for your special date.

**The Church office** will be closed the week following the 4th of July. If you have an emergency please call Deacon John Haubenstricker or Alan Durkee. Thank you!