



ALC Connections

March 2017

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

The Discipleship Chat

Ashes to Ashes

During our Ash Wednesday services, we offer the imposition of ashes (placement of ashes in the form of a small cross) on the forehead, as a reminder of our mortality and sinfulness. Often, these words are used: *"You are dust, and to dust you shall return"* (Gen 3:19). This is to remind us of our complete sinfulness, and fallen sinful nature that separates us from God. The ashes are a sign of our humility (humbling ourselves before God), and repentance of our sin.

Receiving ashes, even celebrating Ash Wednesday is not required in the Scriptures. It's something we do out of reverence and worship. We remind ourselves that we can do nothing to save ourselves and change our sinful condition. But we are also reminded that God took care of that.

Here at Ascension, we receive the ashes in the form of the cross on the forehead, with the words, ***"receive the cross of Christ."***

It is the cross upon which our sins and sinfulness was punished and paid for. It is the cross which means life for us. And it is the cross of Christ that Baptism has joined us to. The cross of ashes on our forehead symbolized the reality of the Holy Spirit (and God's forgiveness) who lives within us. It shows the reality that this body and soul has been redeemed by the cross of Christ. It shows what is inside (the cross is our label). In the Old Testament, wearing sackcloth and putting ashes on oneself was a sign of repentance. Ashes, and Ash Wednesday still signify our repentance. Repentance and complete forgiveness. Forgiveness ... through the Cross of Christ.

-Pastor Dave

A Closer Walk is an adult instruction class for non-members (and members), for those joining Ascension, and for those who just want to review some of the basics of the Christian faith. It meets Sunday evenings at 7:30 in the classroom, at the end of the hallway across from the office. You are all welcome to join us.

In the Word

The Thursday afternoon Bible study is currently finishing the prophet Isaiah. In two weeks we will begin the Lutheran Hour Ministries DVD series on Islam (that the Sun Morn Bible Study studied).

Raising Men

A post that has been widely circulated around the internet regards a man who sends his ex-wife flowers, and does kind deeds for her still. His post is worth reading (by Billy Flynn):

"It's my ex-wife's birthday today so I got up early and brought flowers and cards and a gift over for the kids to give her and helped them make her breakfast. Per usual someone asked me why the (heck) I still do things for her all the time. This annoys me. So I'ma break it down for you all.

*I'm raising two little men. The example I set for how I treat their mom is going to significantly shape how they see and treat women and affect their perception of relationships. I think even more so in my case because we are divorced. So if you aren't modeling good relationship behavior for your kids, get your **** together. Rise above it and be an example. This is bigger than you. Raise good men. Raise strong women. Please. The world needs them, now more than ever."*

Women of Ascension Info Regarding Friendship House

Plan to gather with your fellow congregants, men and women, on Saturday April 1 to learn about the mission of **Friendship House MSU**. Located on Sever Drive in East Lansing, Friendship House is a haven for international students, scholars and their families offering classes for learning and improving English in a loving compassionate setting.

Mr Rich Bearup, Executive Director, will share his story and that of Friendship House. We may learn where we as individuals and as a congregation can apply our spiritual gifts.

A light brunch will be offered at 9:15am with the program to begin at 10am. Brought to you by the Women of Ascension, we'll see you there on April 1st.

Join the Women of Ascension at their meeting tomorrow, Saturday March 4th at 10am.



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Men and Women of Ascension – mark your calendar for Saturday, March 4 at 10 am.

Mr. Rich Bearup, Executive Director of Friendship House at MSU will speak at Ascension. He will provide some history and bring us up to date on the work of Friendship House with the International community of MSU. Learn how you can put your Spiritual gifts to work in this outreach ministry. Stay tuned for further information.

The Chapel will be open Saturday March 4th from 10:30am until noon. For personal prayer time, and someone will be there to pray with you if you like.

Flower Chart for 2017 is up. Please sign up for your special dates.

Ride to Ascension (RTA): We are in need of volunteers to pick up persons (mostly elderly) and bring them to church, either on a regular basis, or even just occasionally. Let's work together to help those who want to come to church but need a ride! There is a sign up sheet on the kiosk for those willing to help others get to church. Please provide your name, phone number, and e-mail and Parish Activities will compile a list of drivers to distribute so no one is ever in need. Thank you! . Contact Pastor Dave. Join the RTA!

The Mission Statement of Ascension is: Growing Disciples of Jesus. How may we help you grow as a disciple of Jesus?

Women's Venue will be meeting at Claddaghs in the Eastwood Town Center on Thursday, March 16th at 6pm.

Men's Venue will be meeting at Outback in Okemos at 6pm.

Looking ahead ... now is the time to plan for next summer. Could a Mission Trip be in scope of things for Ascension? There are great opportunities with MOST (Mission Opportunity Short Term) and LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots). MOST makes trips to many countries. LAMP-Canada takes church groups into northern Canada communities to run VBS and related activities. Perhaps take the time to Google these, and dream. There are two versions of LAMP. *LAMP Canada* carries the original vision of reaching northern, remote communities.

During the season of lent, Social Services will be participating in the Lutheran World Relief program Baskets of Promise. Each week will feature an item to bring the following Sunday. After Easter we will assemble them into Personal Care Kits. If every person brings the items for one kit we would be able to send LWR at least 60 kits. Bring items based on the following schedule:

March 12--New bath towel no larger than 52" x 27", medium to light weight and darker colored
March 19--Nail Clippers
March 26--Comb
April 2--Toothbrush, adult size (multi packs are okay)
April 9--Two bars of bath soap

Hello Ascension! William and I (Bridgette) are so thankful for your generous gift! We were quite surprised but are so grateful to have your love and support. I have been working at a new Staples store for about a month now. Everyone is really glad to have me at the store given that half of the staff is new or only working once a week. William's work is doing well. He's being trained in a particular area of his team that'll increase his value to the company since very few people are familiar in this area. We've found a new church, Renaissance Vineyard Church, and we really like their community. I've just been asked to join their worship team. We've been able to take a chunk out of William's student loans, have a nice portion put away to begin savings on a house and are about to adopt our very first cat! Thanks again for your support and prayers. God Bless!"
Thank you! God Bless, Bridgette

Handbell Rehearsal on Sunday nights at 6:15pm.

The church is bugged! If you see this pest, have no sympathy! This stink bug is an invasive species that damages fruit crops, among other things. The good news is that it is easy to catch; however, it is called a stink bug because an obnoxious odor is given off when squished. Take a napkin, tissue, or paper towel, double it over, then grab and squish. The bug is easy to catch. These bugs lay 1,000 eggs, so have no mercy.





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What Happens to my Kids?

You can't possibly imagine! Life is great. Your spouse loves you; the children bring energy to the family just like you always dreamed. Work is going well and the bills are being paid. Your family and home are the start of the life you both planned.

Take a peek at the family just like yours, when suddenly their world is turned upside down.

The kids are with your parents and you are on your way home from that special night that's been planned for weeks, when tragedy strikes. You never saw the truck until the impact.

Neither of you survive but in those final moments the kids are who you think about. What happens to them?

They were baptized with close friends serving as God Parents. But you never took the time to complete the paperwork to appoint Guardians for the kids. The Will was never written that could also have specified who would take care of the children if you were gone.

Now the Probate Court has to decide what is "best" for your children. They will consider who is most suited to provide housing, food, education and healthcare needs until they reach age 18. Your brother is well respected in the community and doing well financially.

The Court appoints him as Legal Guardian for your children. Are you OK with that?

His lifestyle isn't the same as yours. You know his child rearing ideas are much different from yours. He doesn't go to church or practice his faith. But he should be able to take care of the physical needs of your children.

You could have made your preferences known. Prepare a list of possible Guardians.

Prayerfully consider the things important to you. Do they share your faith? Will they help your children grow spiritually? Do they share similar styles of raising children? How do your kids feel about them? Prioritize your criteria and select the person you feel is the best option.

Meet with the people you are considering to determine their willingness and their viewpoints on issues that are critical to you as parents. Then make your voice heard.

Complete your Will, nominating the Guardian you feel most comfortable taking care of your children. Do it now so your wishes can be followed!

Bill Burmeister

Church Extension Fund – Michigan District
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This document is provided to assist you in your estate planning process and is not meant to offer financial or legal advice.

Please contact your Attorney or Financial Advisor to obtain appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances.



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The University Chorale

The University Chorale, conducted by Dr. Kent Walters, is a select choral ensemble that performs a variety of choral literature from Renaissance to contemporary genres, including gospel and spirituals. The Chorale focuses on the expression of beauty in choral artistry, combining musicianship and servant hearts for the glory of God and the consequent joy of both singer and audience.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 ■ 7 P.M.
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
2780 HASLETT ROAD ■ EAST LANSING, MI



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