



ALC Connections May 2015

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

Easter Lilies: A big thanks to those who underwrote the cost of a lily or two for the altar Easter Sunday. Your contribution helps fund Women of Ascension's works. Another big thanks to the new "Bath" Meijer on Saginaw Highway for their generous donation of a gift certificate toward the purchase of the lilies. Meijer has long been a supporter of various projects at Ascension.

The altar service is for anyone interested in a quiet, behind-the-scenes way to serve God at Ascension. Individuals are currently scheduled for a month about three times a year. During a monthly assignment, an altar servant is responsible for worship preparations of the altar for services during that month, which may include Christmas, Lenten, etc., services in addition to regular Sunday services. Tasks involve typical house-keeping chores for the altar and its surrounding dais in the main sanctuary, and in the chapel. These include dusting, candle maintenance, linen management, flower oversight, and minor attention to altar furnishings. It also includes washing and setup of Holy Communion vessels for the Lord's Supper. Contact Charles, an elder, or the church office if you are interested in serving this way, or have questions. Thanks.



Women of Ascension Update

With the passing of Wanda, the heart and soul of the Women of Ascension, we women are faced with the challenge of carrying on. An informal meeting was held after church May 3 with a follow-up meeting Monday, May 4, 12:30 at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in Brookfield Plaza. Twelve women were able to attend on Monday. The consensus of both groups was to continue the organization.

Funerals have been the busiest activity for W of A and we hope that trend does not continue! If you have ideas or suggestions for activities, please contact Carolyn Linda, Beth, or Kenda. Women of Ascension is open to all women who are members of Ascension. There is no membership fee!

Stephen Ministry



Sunday, April 19, 2015 was a significant date for members of Ascension Lutheran Church. We celebrated the commissioning of seven newly trained Stephen Ministers. The occasion marks the official launching of Stephen Ministry at our church. It is a time to be joyous as we expand our Christian Ministries to strengthen our congregation and extend God's grace to our community.

For those unfamiliar with Stephen Ministry, a few may ask; why would we need Stephen Ministry? The answer is really quite simple. In every person's life four things are certain to occur. 1.) As human beings, we now know or will know someone who is in need of care. Life has its challenges that are better managed with a caring person by one's side. 2.) We will encounter someone who is in the role of being a care giver. The demands of being a care giver may wear down the very person who is the provider of care. Just ask anyone in the role of being a 24/7 helper. 3.) We may find ourselves providing care for others in need with the grace God has given us. Children, young and old, as well as parents, need us throughout their lives. 4.) The time may come or already has presented itself, when we are burdened and need help ourselves.

None of us live in a vacuum, to be of help or to receive help is to be human. The skills Stephen Ministers are equipped to provide are unique. The minimum 50 hour training, allows our Stephen Ministers to share a grace filled need in walking beside someone struggling spiritually or emotionally. Stephen Ministers learn how to recognize particular needs. Through their confidential caring relationship, they bring the strength of God to comfort and strengthen their care receiver. The talents and skills of Stephen Ministers can not be summarized in an article. Feel free to ask any of our Stephen Ministers or our Stephen Leader to learn more. If you want to explore information about Stephen Ministry on your own, check out the Stephen Ministry website by simply typing in Stephen Ministry. Pamphlets explaining Stephen Ministry are also available in the information rack at our church.



Clean Up Day: May 16th Plan on bringing your outside tools and help us prepare the church for the Spring and Summer Season! There is plenty to do if you don't work outside too. Come join us at 9:00am, Coffee and such will be available to get you started!