



ALC Connections May 2016

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

-The Discipleship Chat Ascended

May is "Ascension" month. Our church bears the name of the event whereby after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven, to sit at the right hand of the Father. As He promised, He will return one day to raise us up, to take us to Himself, and to put an end to this sinful world.

That beautiful section from Romans 8 refers to Jesus' seat at the right hand of the Father,

*"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against **those whom God has chosen**? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? **Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**"*

We see Jesus in many divine roles – savior, judge, etc. These verses remind us that Jesus sits with the Father in heaven to **represent us**, and to plead our case as we pray through him (*"is also interceding for us."*) Jesus Intercedes – pleads with the Father for His own sake – to hear us, and to grant to us what the Father by His love and grace wants to do.

What an invitation! What is holding us back? May our prayers increase, and may our trust in Him increase.

Heb 4:16 *"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

Pastor Dave

Activities ...Meetings.... and Opportunities

May Elders' meeting Tuesday, May 3rd.

Women of Ascension meeting Saturday, May 6th at 10am.

Quilt Group meets Monday, May 9th at 1pm.

Men's Venue Tuesday May 10th at Olive Garden, Marsh Road

Council meeting May 15th after church.

Women's Venue will be on Tuesday, May 17th at the Spartan Hall of Fame, 1601 W. Lake Lansing Road, at 6 pm. We hope you can join us.

Ascension Art Exhibition



Join us opening night, **Friday May 20th from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm** for a special presentation from Jamie Treadwell and our official kickoff to the start of the event (ticket required). The exhibition will continue **Saturday, May 21st from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm** with the doors open to everyone from start to finish. We need volunteers to help make the exhibition possible. A sign up sheet is posted! Please contact Bridgette H. or Evelynne P. with any questions.

Education Department...

Vacation Bible School is planned for June 20-24th. Start thinking of those children you can tell about this exciting event! More info to follow.

Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts is the title of the 8 hour course that is being offered to all Ascension members and friends in September and October. More information will be coming. The time and length of each session will be determined based on a survey of members. For growing disciples of Jesus this is a great opportunity to learn how He has equipped you to be of service to Him. Ephesians 2:10.



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Church History...

Ascension Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Part Two: Cornerstone

After the successful first service in the gymnasium of Bailey School, held on Easter Sunday, April 15, 1956, the next step was calling a pastor. The Rev. George W. E. Nickelsburg, Sr. [Priscilla Martin's father] accepted the call and was installed on October 7, 1956. Pastor Fiege, who conducted the first service, preached the installation sermon and Pastor Philip Schroeder was the liturgist. At that time, having a pastor required the purchase of a parsonage, and the congregation bought a house on Park Lake Road.

Finding land and building a church became the next priority. The Patenge family donated the land on which Ascension Lutheran Church now stands. Charter member Wilmar Nuechterlein, an architect by profession, designed the building. Groundbreaking took place November 11, 1956.

On December 2, 1956, the cornerstone was laid. It contained: a brief history of Ascension; the Holy Bible, a hymnal, and Luther's Small Catechism (personal property of Elvera Raby Patenge); the watch of John Henry Raby (great-grandfather of the donor to whom this land was originally sold); a tract of the original land grant to Michigan Agricultural College (now MSU); a copy of the "Michigan Lutheran"; copy of the first Order of Service of Ascension; a copy of the dedication service of the Park Lake Road parsonage; church groundbreaking; announcement of the church cornerstone laying; the first Thanksgiving service order; the Order of the Cornerstone laying; the installation of Pastor Nicklesburg; a button from the first Sunday School Rally and Missionary Day Session; and pictures of the first confirmation class and the Park Lake Road parsonage. Assisting in the laying of the cornerstone were Misses Katherine Raylene Raby and Lois Dorothea Patenge, great-granddaughters of John Henry Raby.



The Women's Guild organized with Peg Powell as chairman. The first major project was purchasing an organ for the new church. The group conducted a door-to-door fund raising drive to purchase a second-hand organ. [The present storage room next to the boiler room was the "organ pipe room" and called that long after the organ was gone.] Collecting trading stamps, the ladies secured kitchen equipment.

The building committee, chaired by Alton Powell with assistance from Rolland Patenge and Wilmar Nuechterlein, had the church ready for dedication by May 12, 1957. The cost of the building was \$107,000, paid for with a loan from the Church Extension Fund.

Under the leadership of Pastor Nicklesburg, the church stressed outreach. The Evangelism Committee conducted door-to-door canvasses. The new organ was installed and dedicated April 5, 1959. Over the next few years members worked on the church grounds and improved the property with landscaping and parking areas. Coincidentally, the roadside sign closely resembled those of Michigan State University at that time.

To be continued....



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Business of the Church...

Voters' Assembly adopted **Growing Disciples of Jesus** as Ascension's Vision Statement and voted to fund the parking lot surface and lighting changes by special member contributions and the 2016 payments from the driving school.

Properties Committee News.....



SPRING CLEANING: According to the calendar, it is spring and with spring comes Spring Clean-up! **May 14** is the big day; come and, if you wish, bring your favorite tools for yard work or indoor cleaning.

Hours are 9:00-12:30, rain or shine. Of course there will be coffee--and there will be pizza for lunch!

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).

Parking lot resurfacing: The work will take about three days and will be done sometime between July 6-21 when the weather is optimum. To indicate your financial contribution to this project, please write "parking lot" on the envelope or memo line of your check.

Kitchen floor installation has been scheduled!

According to plan it will be installed the week of May 9th. Good job Linda and Beth for all your hard work!

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



Women of Ascension News....

The Women of Ascension are undertaking the project, **Helping Women Period**. The need for feminine hygiene products is expensive. Sadly, these products cannot be purchased using the primary assistance programs SNAP or WIC. Homeless women and girls are experiencing their periods without the dignity of feminine hygiene products. Helping Women Period supplies shelters, food banks, and homeless organizations with pads, tampons and personal wipes. Please bring your donation of a feminine hygiene product to church and put it in the collection bin by the coat racks in the hall. This drive will end May 8.

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. We're currently at I Corinthians . Join us!



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Local Events To Take Notice of...

“Recycle! East Lansing to Take Place June 4”

Recycle! East Lansing, East Lansing’s annual spring recycling event, will take place on Saturday, June 4 from 8 am -3 pm at the Abbott Center, 1400-1500 Abbott Road. Over 30 tons of material were collected at last year’s event to be recycled or reused.

Note this important change to this year’s event:

Due to escalating costs to recycle electronics, there will be a charge of \$20.00 **each** to recycle all TV’s and computer monitors-cash or checks only. Other electronics can be recycled for free. Numerous household items will be accepted for reuse, recycling, and proper disposal: small appliances, clothing, shoes, textiles, books, scrap metal, scrap wood, polystyrene, bicycles, medication, cell phones and more. BWL customers that recycle a working room air conditioner or dehumidifier will receive a \$25.00 rebate per working unit.

Pick-up for Seniors/Disabled Residents

Curbside pick-up of recyclable items is available. Call the EL Prime Time Seniors Program at 517-337-1113, by June 1st to schedule a pick up. All items for collection should be at the curb for pick-up by 8 am. There is no fee for this service thanks to a generous contribution from Friends of East Lansing Prime Time.

Volunteers needed

Interested in volunteering for this event? Contact Sarah Plantrich at splantr@cityofeastlansing.com or sign up at <http://vols.pt/X8AFsL>.

Miscellaneous Information and News....

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.

Check out the really cute ‘thank you’ notes on the Kiosk.

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

The Chapel is open for Prayer Saturday May 7th from 10:30 am until noon, staffed with a Church Elder. Feel free to drop in and spend some time in prayer, either by yourself, or someone will be glad to pray with you.

Learn more about your church, through these sites:www.michigandistrict.org www.lcms.org