



ALC Connections November 2016

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

The Discipleship Chat

Ever Thanksgiving

We think of November as “Thanksgiving” month. We build towards that special Thanksgiving Day. Its good to have a National Day of Thanksgiving. But the concept is not anything new to us Christians. Psalm 100 was written about 3,000 years ago. It is one of the many Psalms that exalts the Thanksgiving theme:

(Ps 100:4-5) Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (5) For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

It is proper to give thanks and praise to God at all times in all places. But the Psalm also specifies a very proper place to do it – “...his gates ... his courts” ... his house. It also gives us the motivation: the Lord’s **love and faithfulness** (to us) continues forever. It never runs out.

One of our old standard Thanksgiving hymns was also written centuries before our National Day of Thanksgiving. (LSB 895) **Now Thank We All Our God** was written in the mid – 1600’s.

It is a hymn of Thanks and Praise. Let the verses speak for themselves:

(1) **Now thank we all our God** With hearts and hands and voices, **Who wondrous things has done**, In whom His world rejoices; Who from our mothers’ arms Has blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love and still is ours today. (Thanks)

(3) **All praise and thanks to God** the Father now be given, The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven, The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore; For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore. (Praise).

We praise and thank God every time we worship. Also, please join us Wed eve Nov 23 for a special time of Thanksgiving to God .. who wondrous things has done!

Pastor Dave

Don’t forget the TIME CHANGE this weekend (Sat night). **Fall back.** Set your clocks back one hour. And we’ll see you in the morning, well rested!

Join us Wednesday at 10:00am or 7:00pm for a discussion of how we can use our Spiritual Gifts at Ascension. For this Wednesday, don’t forget to read pages 123-139 in the book.

Organ Recital Sunday, November 6, 4:00 p.m. Plymouth Congregational, 2001 E. Grand River, Lansing. *Stephanie Gewirtz Organ, assisted by Jon Gewirtz, Alto and Soprano Saxophone.*

Program will include Sonata in F minor - Mendelssohn, Sonata Breve - Near, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Organ - Bedard and Elegy for Soprano Saxophone and Organ - Mollicone.

Join the men of the congregation for Men’s Venue on Tuesday, November 15th, 6pm, at Claddagh’s Irish Pub in the Eastwood Towne Center.

The next Women’s Venue will be on November 17th, 6pm at Spagnuolo’s Restaurant , 662 W. Grand River, Okemos. Come join the fun!

Next Sunday!-Harvest Festival and Ascension’s 60th Anniversary event– Sunday, November 13th Plan on it! Look for the Sign Up sheet on the kiosk in the Narthex. Come join us! **Ascension 60th** – We are celebrating our 60th Anniversary as a congregation this Fall. It will be centered around the Harvest Festival on November 13th. And thanks to Carolyn Boger for her monthly installments on the interesting historical background of Ascension.



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Put Sunday, November 20th, 4 p.m. on your calendar now to attend, and take part in, a hymn festival at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E. Broadbent Road, Lansing. John Behnke will be the guest artist, presenting his newly commissioned hymn setting of "I'm But a Stranger Here" for its inaugural performance. Other hymns of the day for congregation and mass choir featuring hymn settings by Behnke, will include "Beautiful Savior", "Thy Strong Word", "For All the Saints", and "Crown Him With Many Crowns".

Want to join the combined choir? Two Tuesday evening rehearsals remain on November 8 and 15, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Final dress rehearsal will be held Sunday the 20th at 2:00 p.m. See Alix for details on obtaining music.

Thanksgiving Eve worship-Wednesday, November 23rd at 7pm.

Plan to spend Wednesday evenings in worship during Advent, which begins Wednesday, November 30. We will be meeting in the Chapel.

Sunday morning Adult Bible Class – We are studying the Lutheran Hour Ministries DVD-based study on Islam. Join us at 9 am in the classroom Sunday.

News and Notes ... St Luke Lutheran Church in Haslett has moved to take on the responsibility of Christ Lutheran Church in downtown Lansing. Christ staff will be retained; it will be one congregation in two locations. The first service of the "new" congregation at Christ will be Nov 6. The desire is to support and energize inner city ministry in Lansing.

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.

November Church Council meets Sunday after the Worship Service in the classroom.

Fall Clean up Day Thursday, November 10th.

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 Cor. 15

NEW WINDOWS!

Donations specifying windows created a fund to upgrade our single pane windows. It grew to \$11,000, enabling the replacement of three sets of windows. Starting November 10, single pane windows will be replaced with thermo pane windows in the boiler room, Deacon/Stephen Ministry room, and kitchen. Some of the windows in the latter two rooms will have screens so they can be opened in seasonable weather. A big thank you goes out to those who made this upgrade possible.

LWML Rally a Success! Thanks to "Team Ascension," the October 22 LWML Fall Rally was well received. Starting from the outside and moving in, the church was sparkling, thanks to those who trimmed bushes, mowed the lawn, blew leaves off the sidewalks, cleaned key rooms such as chapel, classroom, hallways, etc., made signs, set up and decorated the dining tables. Add those who worked the registration table, contributed food, served and cleaned-up, over 20 members, men and women, were



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involved in one way or another to make the Rally a success. Our LWML guests let us know how much they enjoyed their visit to Ascension. Those from Ascension who were able to attend the Rally enjoyed the day also. THANKS, with a grateful heart, to all.

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Women of Ascension, Saturday, November 5, 10am to 12 noon. Special guest is Nabila Boctor of the Coptic congregation. She will tell us some about the history and teachings of the Coptics and her personal story of how they began holding services at Ascension. Please be prompt as our guest is available only from 10:00 to 11:00 am.

Ascension Celebrates 60th Anniversary Part Eight: The 1990s

The decade of 1990 began on a musical note. Because of the quality of Ascension's organ, Ascension sponsored the Fourth Annual Church Music Festival with organists' competition on January 7, 1990.

For a number of years, a mission of Ascension was to support one family from the church, Ruth and David Snyder, serving with the Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. This support continued throughout the decade.

A highlight in the history of the physical church occurred on May 17, 1992. The mortgage burning ceremony was held with one special workshop service at 10:30, rather than the normal early and late services. Brunch, a special tour, and slide presentation followed. The church was 36 years old. As a prelude, two weeks earlier, at both services on May 3, charter member Peg Powell gave a brief review of the formation and history of Ascension. She concluded her remarks with, "The thought I would like to leave with you this morning is to remember that this is God's church and He alone has given it to us for the worship of Him."

With more women in the congregation working outside the home, the Women's Guild found it necessary to restructure. Attendance dropped at the evening monthly meetings, so meetings were held quarterly in September, December, March and June. The name was changed to Women of Ascension to broaden its appeal. The October gathering of quilts and clothing for Lutheran World Relief continued. The December evening salad buffet was changed to an open invitation to the congregation for a "Brunch with the Angels" following the service the first Sunday in Advent. The monthly Monday afternoon bingo sessions at the Ingham County Medical Care Facility continued with support from former members and friends outside the congregation.



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In January 1995, Pastor Schroeder's Retirement Program was formulated, assuring him occupancy of the parsonage. In April 1995, a by-laws revision committee was formed; in November 1996, the amended by-laws were adopted.

In February and August of 1996, the church roof in certain areas failed.



Also during the early to mid-90s Ascension had the services of two vicars, former youth director Max Mons and Michael Boyd.

In 1999, Jim Goodheart and Sharon Perkins returned to the area and active membership at Ascension.

Pastor Schroeder retired in 1996. After serving the congregation for 25 years, the congregation held a reception for him at the MSU horticulture garden. As Peg Powell, his former Sunday School teacher when Roy was a youth at Trinity, remarked at the event, "Our beautiful church is a tribute to Roy and Joy, who talents, administrative abilities and handiwork are displayed everywhere. They leave a legacy to our church for which we are very proud. Thank you, Roy and Joy." Pastor Schroeder purchased the parsonage several years later, enjoying occupancy of it until the purchase.

Thus, in mid-1996, the congregation faced the process of selecting a new pastor. It was a long, involved process, but settled in December 1997 when a call was given to Patrick S. Fodor. He was installed January 25, 1998.

As part of the ongoing maintenance of the building, it was decided to remodel the kitchen in 1999. The work was completed in 2000 under the direction of properties chair Jake Wamhoff.

Debby Severance began her tenure as church secretary in June 1999 and continues to this day. [She is not related to the Severances who were charter members.]

During the 1990s, Ascension's membership declined from over 400 confirmed members to 200-300. The resulting strained budget was buffeted by the sale of a generous donation of stock in CBS from local businessman, Hal Gross.