



# ALC Connections October 2016

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

*The Discipleship Chat*

## Reformation Month

Late in October every year, our attention turns to the Reformation, that focal point in history where God turned an errant church back to His Word.

In the entrance by the Chapel is a beautiful wood carving of the Coat of Arms of Dr Martin Luther, also known as 'Luther's Seal.' It features a prominent cross over a heart. Although Luther's colors are not reflected in this beautiful carving, I think Luther's own explanation would make a great devotion for us today:

The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the red heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. "For with the heart man believes unto righteousness." Now, although the cross is black, shameful, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart, does not destroy nature. In other words, it does not kill but keeps alive. "For the just shall live by faith" – by faith in the Savior. But this heart is fixed on the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, comfort and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits. This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-colored background, to show that such joy of faith in the spirit is but a promise and beginning of heavenly joy to come. This joy, though not yet revealed, is looked forward to and held by the hope which we have. Around this background is a ring, to show that such bliss in heaven is endless. And since the ring is made of gold, the best and most precious metal, it also shows that the bliss of heaven is more precious than all other joys and treasures. (Dr Martin Luther)

The Reformation – it was all about Jesus.

Pastor Dave

**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.

**Ascension 60<sup>th</sup>** – We are celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a congregation this Fall. It will be centered around the Harvest Festival on November 13<sup>th</sup>. And thanks to Carolyn Boger for her monthly installments on the interesting historical background of Ascension.

**Voters mtg** Sun Oct 9 – Election of 2017 Officers

**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.



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**WOMEN OF ASCENSION** October meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 1 at 12 noon at church. Bring a salad to serve 6-8; the meeting will follow the luncheon. We will be finalizing details for the LWML [Lutheran Women's Missionary League] Fall Rally which we are hosting on October 22 at church. All women of the congregation are members of Women of Ascension.

**The LWML Capital Zone Board** will be meeting at Ascension from 10-12 that day and will be invited to join us for lunch. See you all there!



**Join us for a fun fall corn maze** and cider after church Oct 16th. Parish Activities will provide a hot dog and brats lunch and we will be off to Bestmaze in Williamston for cider, donuts and a corn maze. The corn maze is \$7 per person. Cash only. 4 and under are

free. Feel free to bring friends and family. Please see one of the parish activities ladies with any questions. Sign up on the kiosk.

**Women's venue** will be on Saturday, October 22 at Ascension in conjunction with the Fall Rally of the LWML.

**Men's Venue** is Tuesday, October 25th at Outback in Okemos.

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

**Please join us at the Voters Assembly** after the worship service on October 9 for elections and updates on the chapel restoration and Spiritual Gifts classes.



## Diaper Shower

Ascension would like to welcome Isaiah William Pyne to the church family! To help out the parents, Parish Activities is collecting diapers of all sizes this Sunday and next Sunday for the happy family. If you'd like to donate some diapers you can drop them off at the church office.

## Helping Women Period.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this worthwhile program. Two big boxes filled with feminine hygiene products were picked up late August and Amy Stephenson, the co-founder, had tears in her eyes when she saw how generous the congregation was. She was especially pleased with the Clinique bags which allow discreet distribution of the products. The organization plans to distribute the items to schools before Labor Day. Amy took a photo of church secretary Debby and the full boxes to put on Facebook, giving Ascension Lutheran credit. Check out [helpingwomenperiod.org](http://helpingwomenperiod.org) or Facebook.

This is an on-going project of Women of Ascension. Feel free to engage you family and neighbors in collecting items. Small drawstring bags are also acceptable and might be a good mother-daughter or quilting group sewing project. [see the website] There will be another pick-up date in early November, so let's get those boxes filled again. Thank you!



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## Ascension Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Part Seven: Mid to Late 1980s

1984 marked Ascension's involvement with the Lutheran Seminary in Pusan, South Korea. Ascension gave a scholarship for a student in the Master of Divinity program.

Pastor Schroeder assisted Zong Houa Yang in writing and publishing the *Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther* in both Hmong and English.

In June of 1984, a new organ was dedicated with Ben Baldus as organist. An organ recital was held later that day with Rick Krueger as organist. Another recital was held in September. The Zimmer pipe organ was built to a design of Dr. Paul Bunjes and consists of 29 ranks and 1,378 pipes. The church also has a Carillon with two octaves and is played from the organ console or through a programmable clock. A third organ recital with the world-famous Dr. Paul Manz Schulmerick was held April 14, 1985. Through the years many celebrity organists have given concerts and shared great music using Ascension's organ.



At this time, Jean Peterson lived directly behind the church in the Walnut Heights subdivision. She shared the following:

*Living directly behind the church does have its perks!*

*During football season our then organist Ben Baldus practiced on Saturday morning on the church organ. His routine was to play the "Spartan Fight Song" over the carillon bells on*

*home football weekends.*

*One Sunday after church, in conversation with Ben, I kiddingly suggested that he give me equal time being that I was a graduate of the University of Michigan. Never thinking it would ever happen, I was out working in my garden on Saturday morning when suddenly the strains of "Hail to the Victors" came chiming out over the neighborhood. Thank you, Ben!*

In 1986, Cindy Johnson, Mary Scherer, and Bonnie Trutt were all on the youth committee together. Coincidentally, all had babies that year, Jimmy Schwartz, Katelin Scherer, and Andrew Trutt.

Also in 1986, many families left Ascension to found St. Luke Lutheran Church in Haslett. Ken Patenge, nephew to Walter Patenge, headed the group.

Ben Baldus retired from serving as Music Director in June. Paul Dombroske, a music teacher in the Holt schools, was hired to continue the fine tradition of quality organ music and he led the choir.

A Church Music Festival was held in 1987 to celebrate Christian music. In 1988, 22 composers submitted entries and prizes were handed out by Dr. Gieschen of River Forest.

Ascension received a Certificate of Appreciation for its involvement in conducting Bingo at the Ingham County Medical Care Facility in February 1988. The Women of Ascension had continued over the years to conduct Bingo on the first Monday of the month, giving fresh fruit and cookies as prizes. Another Certificate of Appreciation came in February from the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services for helping refugees adjust to their life in the greater Lansing area.

The Social Services committee was formed in 1989.



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**Is God leading you** to become more involved in the life of our congregation? At the Voters Assembly Ascension will be electing several leaders

**Vice President:** VP in 2017 and President in 2018. Chairs the Finance Committee and is available to assist the President who establishes the agenda and presides at all Voters Assembly and Church Council meetings and is responsible for implementation of the directives and resolutions of the congregation.

**Financial Secretary:** This person is a member of the Finance Committee and the Church Council and responsible for the contribution records and coordinating the Offering Counters.

**Recording Secretary:** This person keeps the official records of the Church Council and Voters Assembly.

**Outreach/Assimilation Committee Chair:** This person provides leadership for the congregation's mission outreach, maintains the website, greets and follows up with visitors, promotes interaction between members and with other Church Council members helps provide coffee and snacks after worship services.

**Social Services Committee Chair:** This person helps to meet the physical needs of members and people in the community, solicits support for programs of world relief, and with other Church Council members helps provide coffee and snacks after worship services.

**Elders:** These men meet monthly and assist the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

**Properties Committee:** Members of this committee are responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, and improvement of the congregation's property. Women are welcome; it's not a gender specific position. The blessing for this Properties chair is that

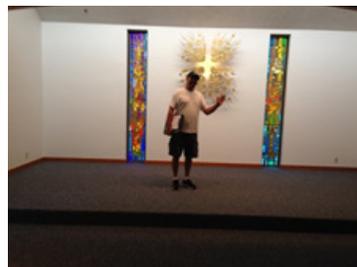
Paul Halbig and others not officially on the committee do the heavy-lifting work.

**Parish Activities Co-Chair:** This person assists in the coordination of special events within the congregation such as the Harvest Dinner.

Is God leading you to step out in faith and tackle one of these?

**The Properties report for the October 2 Council meeting follows for the Congregation's information.**

**The Coptic Church** has been worshipping in the Chapel for 30 years and thus were delighted to hear the Chapel is ready for their Saturday, October 1 worship service. This was accomplished by the diligent work of a pew crew set up by Paul Halbig. The **carpet** installation was completed Friday, Sept. 23. The following Sunday, after the service, the crew repositioned the organ and pews. (The organ will be tuned in November when the tuner comes to do the organ in the main sanctuary as well.) The pews had to be screwed in using hand tools as a power tool might snag the carpet threads and create a run. That work was completed Tuesday. The pews were quite dusty from the work done in the chapel before their removal. The pews were vacuumed and waxed by a few women of Ascension on Thursday and Friday.



new **windows** in the kitchen and Stephen Ministry rooms in late October. The new windows will have screens. That bid is \$8,928.00. The account for windows holds \$11,000+.

The bill for the carpeting is \$2,813.29. Volunteer hours are being tracked.

Davis Glass will install

The lead carpet installer is a Lutheran who grew up in Saginaw and now lives in Eagle. He said he'd like to show his wife the chapel carpet. Hopefully they will visit the church one Sunday.