



# ALC Connections

## February 2017

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

Pastor Dave

### *The Discipleship Chat*

#### **In the Word**

The Thursday afternoon Bible study is currently studying the prophet Isaiah. Just yesterday, we were reading in Isaiah 40; *“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ‘Speak tenderly to Jerusalem (God’s people – us) and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that **her sin has been paid for ...’**”*

The context is that the nation of Judah was defeated by Babylon and most of its people taken into captivity and resettled in Babylon, the walls of the city torn down, and the majestic temple razed. After 70 years, when Jerusalem had become a dim but vibrant memory, it is inferred that Israel’s sin(s) has been paid for. Israel/Judah was full of idolatry, and had turned away from her God. Yet there is nothing that we can do to fully pay for sin.

That is the nature of much prophecy. It has an immediate reference, and a later fulfillment. This is the Gospel of Isaiah, in the Old Testament. The sin of God’s people is indeed paid for – on the cross. The Calvary event is still hundreds of years away, but Isaiah speaks of it in the past tense. It is a done deal, since God has promised it.

A few chapters later (44:22), Isaiah speaks the Gospel of God again: *I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, **for I have redeemed you.***

I’d like to invite you to join us at any of our Bible Studies: Thurs, Sat morn, Mon night, Sun morn and evening. The insights we dig out of the study of Scripture are like prospectors digging out gems and jewels from the ground. And the excitement is similar.

**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 (no class Feb 5). You are all welcome to join us.

**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 February 4th from 10:30am until noon. For personal prayer time, and someone will be there to pray with you if you like.

**Women of Ascension** will meet on Saturday, February 4th at 10am

**Spaghetti dinner this Sunday after the service!**  
**Join us!**





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## Our Savior Lutheran School Open House

Searching for a place where the light and love of Jesus is shown daily through education? Located in Delta Township, Our Savior Lutheran offers a caring Christian environment with dedicated teachers and small class sizes for preschool through eighth grade. Families of children ages 2 to 5 are invited to attend the Early Childhood and Kindergarten Open House on Wednesday, February 8th from 5-7pm. Please contact us at 517-882-3550 or email [admissions@oursaviorlansing.org](mailto:admissions@oursaviorlansing.org) with any questions. Hope to see you there!

**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 Olive Garden by the Meridian Mall, February 16th at 6pm.

**Men's Venue** will be meeting at New Thai Kitchen in Okemos on February 21st 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.

At the January meeting of **Women of Ascension**, the decision was made to continue supporting **Helping Women Period**, as the need is ongoing. In 2016, that young organization, incorporated in February 2015, supported 490 girls and women. In gratitude for our support, the Women of Ascension and friends are invited to the Third Annual Helping Women Period Fundraising Breakfast at the University Club on Tuesday, March 7, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Co-directors Amy Stephenson and Lysne Tait look forward to acknowledging all the amazing people who helped them reach so many girls and women. The keynote speaker is Dr. Joan Jackson Johnson. Another speaker will be a student from the MSU College of Social Work. The cost is \$35.

If you are interested in attending, more information is available at

<http://www.eventbee.com/v/2017breakfast#/tickets>



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### **Seven Ways to Remember Your Favorite Ministry or Charity**

Have you ever considered including those ministries most important to you in your Estate Plan? There are many ways to remember ministries in your plan, only a few of which involve any expense

or professional fees. You may wish to consider one of the following options:

1. Amend an existing Insurance Policy to add Your Favorite Ministry or Charity as an additional beneficiary, or simply purchase a new one for their benefit.
2. Visit your personnel office and ask to amend your group life insurance policy or retirement plan to add Your Favorite Ministry or Charity as one of your beneficiaries.
3. Instruct your lawyer to prepare a simple, inexpensive codicil to your existing Will or Revocable Living Trust, creating a bequest for your favorite ministry or charity.
4. If you are over 65 and disappointed with the income you are receiving from your long-term stocks or your certificates of deposit, consider the benefits of placing some of your assets in the Charitable Gift Annuity. Most likely, your lifetime income would increase. In addition, you would avoid capital gain taxes and receive a current income tax deduction for a portion of the gift. After your death, the remaining principal would be given to the ministry or charity that you designate.
5. Deed your house to your favorite ministry or charity and continue to live in it. Your income tax savings from the gift may cover the legal costs.
6. Leave written or verbal instructions for your surviving spouse to include your favorite ministry or charity when redrawing his or her will.
7. If you have a sizable estate, you may consider

a Charitable Remainder Trust that will pay a lifetime annual income to both of you, provide an income stream for a period of years to your children or grandchildren, before providing a significant gift to your favorite ministry or charity. The Charitable Trust will create a current charitable tax deduction for you.

There are many ways to benefit your favorite ministry or charity through planned gifts, some of which will provide you with positive benefits during your lifetime, reduce the amount of taxes that may be paid, and support the institutions that are most important to you.

Bill Burmeister

Church Extension Fund – Michigan District  
800-242-3944 t [bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org](mailto:bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org)

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.