

The Ascension Dimension

News and information for members and friends of Ascension Lutheran Church

The Pastor's Pen



MARCH 2018

Beloved of Ascension,

It is a relief when March arrives. The dreary days of winter are nearly past us, we will soon spring our clocks forward, and the official start of Spring is just around the corner. A singer-songwriter named Mark Erelli has a song named "Seasons Pass." A line in the song says, "We made it through the winter once . . . and we'll make it through the winter once again." He's from New England so I imagine his winters are a little longer than ours. Here, however, daffodils and crocuses are emerging from the soil and the grass seems to be greening with every sunny day.

It reminds me of Psalm 104, which I happened to read this morning during my devotion time. Verse 14 goes, "You (God) cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart." If you have a chance to read it, please do. It's a celebration of life and creation, and it gives thanks to our Creator for calling all of it into existence. It's a good one to read this time of the year. I imagine the Psalmist writing with grateful tears, as she or he takes in the enormity and wonder of creation.

We are in the thick of Lent and by the end of this month we will be in the middle of Holy Week. I hope that you will be able to observe the Great Three Days of Holy Week with us. Worship will be at 7 pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and we will celebrate the resurrection with brass, flowers, and plenty of alleluias on Sunday morning!

In case you missed the announcement, Church Council authorized another significant payment toward the principal on our mortgage. In addition to the \$100,000 that we were able to pay toward the principal last year, we have been able to pay an additional \$75,000+ toward the principal this year. Not only does this reduce the principal it also reduces our monthly payment. Our mortgage holder, Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, is not your average lender. They adjust our monthly payment when we make significant paydowns. This frees up funds for other ministry priorities. All I can say is, wow! Do I see a light at the end of the tunnel? We are making significant strides toward paying off the mortgage once and for all! Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the mortgage pay-down and for those who are facilitating it, namely the Stewardship Committee, the Finance Committee, and Church Council.

I continue to work on my Certificate in Spiritual Formation from Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Presently, I am taking an online class called "Prayer: Deepening Your Experience of God." Not only do these classes deepen my experience of God, but I hope to use what I learn to offer more opportunities for you to do the same. I plan on offering the summer meditation again as I did last year, and I have a few more ideas in the works. More to come...

Blessed Lent,

Pastor Josh



**N.E.E.D.S.
March
Canned fruit**

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Contact Information

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Rev. Josh Miller, Pastor

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30-12:30

**Lent and Holy Week
Worship Opportunities**

Lent Mid-week Worship:

Wednesday, March 14

5:30 pm Light Supper in Fellowship Hall (please sign up on the bulletin board)

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

Holy Week Worship:

Sunday, March 25, Passion/Palm Sunday

8:00 and 10:15 am Worship with Procession with Palms and The Passion According to Mark

Thursday, March 29, Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with music by the Harp Choir

Friday, March 30, Good Friday

7:00 pm Tenebrae worship service with music by Chancel Choir

Sunday, April 1, Easter Sunday

8:00 and 10:15 am Easter celebration worship with brass and music by the Chancel Choir

DONATIONS

The Wheel of Friendship: collects pop tabs, pill bottles, wrapped soap, eye glasses, and soup labels (Campbell's, Swanson, Prego, V8) .

Women of the Red Eye: collects pennies and loose change.

First Lutheran: collects pants, jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts, underwear, and socks for men and women; wash cloths, towels, and deodorant. Please send these items only, as storage is a problem.

Matthew 25: collects empty pill bottles to send to third world countries to help distribute medications.

Aluminum cans: We collect aluminum cans to raise money for Ascension's ministries.

Hurricane collection: Please place your donations in the bins provided in the narthex. Items most needed are cleaning supplies, bathroom supplies, personal hygiene products, cleaning gloves, masks, school supplies, first aid kits, and non-perishable food items.

Hyejin Pak Piano Recital, Sat. March 3

Members and friends of Ascension, please join us **Saturday, March 3, at 7:00 pm**, for a piano recital by our very own keyboardist, the talented Hyejin Pak. This is an event not to be missed! The choir will sponsor a reception after the performance.

Lenten Soup Supper and Service



Throughout Lent, we have been sharing a soup supper on selected Wednesday evenings, so you may come, have dinner and then worship. The final soup supper followed by a service will be held on **Wednesday, March 14. Supper will be served at 5:30 and the service begins at 7:00.** If you would like to come and dine, sign up on the narthex bulletin board. Please, if you are not sure about coming, sign up anyway as we would rather have too much soup than not enough! We will need some soup makers as well as bread and dessert donors.

Easter Flower Order Deadline Sun., March 4



If you would like to order Easter Flowers in memory of loved ones or to honor friends or family, please fill out an order form on the shelf under the bulletin board in the narthex. **The deadline to order is Sunday, March 4.** The flowers will decorate Ascension's altar on Easter Sunday, April 1, and you may bring your flowers home with you after the 10:15 am service that day.

Adult Forum

Faces of Christ: Adult Forum Lenten Study



Come join us Sunday mornings in Lent as we discuss the Bible study "Faces of Christ." We will dive more deeply into who/how Jesus is for us, with us and among us today and how we are called into mission as we see Christ in the faces of our neighbors in our own communities and around the world. Grab a cup of coffee and meet with us at 9:00 a.m. in classroom 2.

Interested in a "Movie Club"?

Do you like to watch movies with a message and would you like to discuss them with a group of others with the same interest? **Would you like to see an Adult Forum at Ascension based on that idea?** If this sounds interesting, please contact the office or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

Call to Prayer

OneHeart Prayer Ministry invites you to join us in prayer. We meet every other week on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. This month, we meet on Tuesday, **March 13 and 27.**

Opportunities for Social Ministry

Refugee Resettlement

We hope to plan a visit to Tikkun Farm in Mt. Healthy and the Wave Pool community space/art gallery on Colerain in the Camp Washington neighborhood. Driving opportunities include Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Wave Pool as well as alpaca yarn classes on Wednesdays. Help with transportation to these classes would be greatly appreciated. Contact the office with any questions.

Healing Touch

4th Tues. each month, sign up on the bulletin board. There are two sessions and usually 5 clients per session.


Join the Pillowcase Challenge



Are you inspired to start a project at Ascension? We are enthusiastically starting a campaign to encourage our youth to share their caring for others by giving a homemade pillowcase. This idea is based on the 1 MILLION PILLOWCASE CHALLENGE (millionpillowcases.allpeoplequilt.com). Perhaps they have a friend who needs a token of caring—knowing he/she is appreciated and loved. This project will continue throughout 2018. Two pillowcases will be available each Sunday. Please contact the office if you have any questions or would like to participate in making the pillowcases. Tutorials for making the pillowcases are available online.

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
John 13:34*



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	2	3 Hyejin Pak Piano Recital 7:00 pm
4 WORSHIP 8:00 am 10:15 am Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Forum 9:00 am	5	6	7 Finance Committee 7:00 pm	8 Wine and the Word 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	9	10
11 WORSHIP 8:00 am 10:15 am Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Forum 9:00 am	12	13 OneHeart Prayer 9:30 am Council Planning/Retreat 5:30 pm	14 Wheel of Friendship 10:00 am Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 pm	15 Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	16	17
18 WORSHIP 8:00 am 10:15 am Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Forum 9:00 am	19	20 Evangelism Committee 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm	21	22 Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	23	24
	Worship and Music Committee , 11:30 am					
25 Palm Sunday WORSHIP 8:00 am 10:15 am Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Forum 9:00 am	26 Facilities and Grounds Committee 7:00 pm	27 OneHeart Prayer 9:30 am Healing Christ Ministry 7:00 pm	28	29 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm	30 Good Friday Silent Prayer and Meditation 12-3 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship 7:00 pm	31