



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

95 Allen Road, South Burlington, VT 05403

(802) 862-8866

www.alcvt.org

| <https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranChurchVt/>

E-News for Sunday, February 11, 2018

Transfiguration of our Lord | Contemporary Worship

Service This Week

Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Thomas Arnold

Liturgical Assistant: TBD

Altar Guild: Lucy Beck

Communion Asst: Bob Furst

Lector: Mousa Ishaq

Musical Leadership: Contemporary Music Group

Greeters: Joyce Gallimore & Sam Swanson

Ushers: Jim Wilhite & Charlie Cutting

Coffee Hour: TBD

Readings

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 2/7

MUSIC PRACTICES CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER

Thursday, 2/8

9:00-11:00 a.m. South Burlington Playgroup (Rental)

5:30-7:30 p.m. PCAVT (Rental)

Friday, 2/9

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Kindermusik (Rental)

Saturday, 2/10

10:00-11:30 a.m. Kindermusik (Rental)

Sunday, 2/11

9:00-10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

3:30-7:30 p.m. St. Timothy Worship Service (Rental)

Tuesday, 2/13

9:00-11:00 a.m. South Burlington Playgroup (Rental)

6:00-8:30 p.m. Property Committee Meeting

6:00-8:00 p.m. Nunn's Men's Group (Rental)

Wednesday, 2/14

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service

LENT BEGINS

Upcoming Birthdays

2/9 Bob Hanson

2/9 Valerie Rittershausen

2/11 Gene Heyerdahl

2/12 Sam Schroeter

2/15 Jim Wilhite

2/16 Bill Huggett

2/16 Bekki Earp

2/18 Bill Valliere

2/19 Robert Wilhite

View long-range calendar here: <http://alcvt.org/calendar.html>

Have an item to add? Please contact the church office with the space needed, the start **AND** end times, and any special needs (table set-up, projector, tv, etc...) Elizabeth can be reached at 862-8866 or church.office@alcvt.org.

The Church Directory is back up on the website! Just visit www.alcvt.org > LOG IN (on the right, if you need assistance setting up an account, contact Kelli Tylenda), then click People > ALC Directory. To protect your information, you will now need a PASSWORD to view the file. Please contact Kelli Tylenda or Elizabeth Wirls in the office for the password.

Sunday School News

Children's Classes

Join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room! Parents and Grandparents are always welcome stay with your children and join in their classes.

- Sunday, **February 11, 9 AM - Sunday School Inter-generational Love Fest** This is a Special Sunday Activity, held at the regular Sunday School time, Friends and parents encouraged to and welcomed. We will have Continental Breakfast, some songs, and lots of new fun things to do, all related to a theme "Love One Another".
- Coming soon: Starting the first Sunday of Lent, 2/18, Dr. John Fritsche is planning a several week program for 20-40 somethings, to be held during the Sunday School hour. A letter has been sent to those in this age group inviting them to join the conversation. Please look for it. Further information will also be posted in upcoming E-News.

Important Upcoming Dates:

⇒ **February 2018**—Children's classes in February are the 4th, the 11th (special Love Sunday), and the 18th

⇒ **Feb. 25**—No Sunday School-School Break

Adult Class

Adult classes began again last Sunday! Claire Anderson suggests talking about what to do in the new year. If you have any ideas, please share! Hope to see you there!

Pastor's Message

Dear Ascension sisters and brothers,

An enduring question many of us have is how to promote the deep sense of what faith means to our children and youth? How do we connect their experiences, and ours, in this complex world, with the love that Jesus revealed? An excellent book that I often recommend is *Will Our Children Have Faith?* by John Westerhoff. In this classic in the field of Christian education, Westerhoff's strong message is that our children observe what we do. If parents and other adults speak about their experiences of desire and struggle to live out their Christian values, children remember that! If children observe adults helping others, children remember that! They then associate these examples with the Christian faith.

Another way to develop as people of faith is through **meditation and prayer**. Aostre N. Johnson teaches in the Education Department at St. Michaels. She edited *Educating from the Heart: Theoretical and Practical Approaches to Transforming Education*. I recommend the book, in which several authors speak about the value of meditation. Knowing how important meditation is, **Beth Dreibelbis and I have begun each Confirmation class** with three minutes of meditation (one Confirmation student has already meditated regularly in school). Then we reflect on our experience. Our Confirmands say that the meditation helps them to feel peaceful, to slow down, to realize how tired they are (at which point we may talk about getting enough rest). Meditation is an excellent way to begin class.

The World Community for Christian meditation has a new resource, which can help promote meditation with children. It is **Noel Keating's *Meditation with Children: A Resource for Teachers and Parents***. This book helpfully "encourages adults to experience meditation for themselves and equips them with the tools to introduce the practice to children, including simple lesson plans that can be implemented" in various setting. For more information, go to <http://wccm.org/content/book-launch-meditation-children>.

Faithfully,
Pr. Nancy

HARK! Important News and Upcoming Events

Introducing the Rev. Dr. Arnold Thomas, This week's Guest Preacher!

This Sunday, Pr. Nancy will preach and celebrate at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Jericho, Vermont. The Rev. Dr. Arnold Thomas will preach at Ascension. Ascension welcomes Pr. Thomas. A brief description of Dr. Thomas's career: On January 1, 2017, the Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas was called as Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho, Vermont. Most recently Rev. Thomas served as Interim Senior Pastor of Charlotte Congregational Church in Charlotte, Vermont. He returned to the state after being away for ten years, serving as Minister for Education, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations at the Riverside Church in New York City and Adjunct Professor of Religion at New

York Theological Seminary; and then as Senior Minister to Wilton Congregational Church in Wilton, Connecticut. Rev. Thomas has served a variety of ministries, including Pastor of the First Congregational Church (now Faith United Church of Christ) in Little Rock, Arkansas; Chaplain and member of the faculty of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut; Pastor of First Congregational Church in Williamstown, Massachusetts; and Conference Minister of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, the first African American denominational leader in Vermont. Dr. Thomas received his Baccalaureate in Religious Studies and Philosophy from Hiram College, his Master of Divinity from Yale University receiving the Wolcott Calkins Award for excellence in preaching, and his Doctorate in Ministry from Hartford Seminary. He and his wife, Victoria Anne Short, live in Underhill, Vermont and are the parents of three adult children: Devon Lee Julian Thomas, Ethan Eliot Thomas, and Adria Anne Thomas.

The week of February 19, is Learn and Act Week at Ascension

Tuesday, February 20, at 7:00pm come to the church to get updated on carbon pricing and the ESSEX Plan. Are you pro or con on this issue; do you know enough to take a stand? This presentation By Jack O'Callaghan and staff at VPIRG will bring you up to date so you can effectively talk to your legislators. (More info in announcement below)

Thursday, February 22, from 10:00 - 4:00, marks Clean Water Day in Montpelier. Speaking of talking to your legislators, we'll carpool to the capital for presentations and opportunities to meet your representatives, share your views and hear theirs. It's great fun and very satisfying.

First Communion

Ascension usually offers First Communion instruction to children between the ages of grades 1 and 3. If you feel that your child would benefit from First Communion classes, please let Pr. Nancy know. We often have two sessions in which the students learn about First communion and also make the communion bread.

Additions to the Sanctuary

Noah Dreibelbis purchased a tapestry of Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper. It will now serve as a covering for the table on which the Communion elements are placed during worship. Please note that Noah also gave Ascension the crucifix on that table, which he purchased while his family visited Rome.

Educational Ministry Director

Ascension is still seeking an Educational Ministry Director to foster, oversee, and implement child and youth programming on Sunday morning. The position is part-time, 10-15/hour, \$20-\$30/hour, with growth potential. Please share!

Speak Up for the Climate

Come to a **Speak Up for the Climate** meeting at Ascension Lutheran Church at 95 Allen Road, South Burlington on Tuesday, February 20 from 7-8:30 PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the Vermont focused the ESSEX Plan which will

- ⇒ Provide the cleanest electricity at the lowest rates in New England
- ⇒ Prioritize the most vulnerable and the middle class, and
- ⇒ Use markets to drive carbon pollution reductions

This meeting will offer us an opportunity to learn about the ESSEX Plan, to discuss how it would work, and the benefits it is designed to achieve. VPIRG's Jack O'Callaghan will lead the discussion..

Ascension is convening this event as a part of the continuing commitment to steward our precious environment.

[CLICK HERE](#) to review the sections of three bills that have been introduced into the legislature, related to carbon pricing. These will be discussed at the February 20 event.

Harriet Richards

Harriet Richards died on Friday, January 26. She was over 96 years old. She had greatly contributed to Ascension's fellowship, and purchased for our church the cross on the outside of our building. She was aware and alert until the last few days of her life. She had loved living at Allenwood and then at Quarry Hill. I visited her just a day or so before she died and had taken her communion regularly. Her daughter, Bev, and Bill, her son in law, were very attentive to her.

Thanks so much to Bob and Suzanne Furst for bringing Harriet to worship at Ascension for the past several years.

A memorial service will be held at Ascension on Wednesday, February 28, at 2 pm, with a reception following.

We know that Harriet is held in God's love and light.

Additional News and Opportunities

ANEW

Starting in 2017, ANEW Place (formerly known as Burlington Emergency Shelter) is in Ascension's local benevolence budget for \$25 per month. This money is matched by another ANEW Place donor so becomes a \$50 donation. ANEW's Winter update came out recently. You can check it out via this link: <https://mailchi.mp/162fce1cedc2/anew-place-winter-2018-update?e=ff4b644aa5>

ELCA Advocacy

As part of our ministry in Christ, we strive to be people who foster justice and peace. The ELCA national office listed these priorities, as we begin this new year. Please subscribe to ELCA advocacy to receive these notes.

http://support.elca.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=4545.0&dlv_id=7886¤t=true&em_id=4545.0

Sacred Water Event

Saturday, February 24, 2018, 10 am to noon, at Common Ground Center, Starksboro

Ascension members and friends: Please hold the date and advertise in your FPF. Ascension again worked with local groups to plan this fun outdoors event. Very family friendly for all Ascension families!!—See you there (from Pr. Nancy and the Care for Creation committee)

The Vermont Clean Water Network invites you to join us for a morning of snowshoeing or hiking around the headwaters of Lewis Creek. Learn from a naturalist about special land and aquatic features in a winter landscape. Reflect on sacred interpretations of headwaters as they begin their journey to Lake Champlain. Snowshoes, fun activities, snacks and warm beverages provided! Sponsor Organizations include: All Souls Interfaith Gathering, ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Ascension Lutheran Church, Community Sailing Center, Lake Champlain Committee, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, Vermont Interfaith Power & Light. Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-watershed-in-winter-where-the-sacred-and-science-meet-tickets-42129345005>.

Martin Luther the focus of NYTimes Op-Doc on Feb. 6!

Go to <https://www.nytimes.com/column/op-docs> for an enjoyable trip through Martin Luther's life, the focus this week of the NYTimes Op-Doc, titled "Rebel Monk"!

ECHOES: Choral Music of Richard Stoehr

Features Bella Voce Women's Chorus of Vermont, Counterpoint Vocal Ensemble, Solaris Vocal Ensemble
Sunday, February 18, 3:00 pm

McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall, Colchester, Vermont. Free Admission (see the poster on Ascension's bulletin board or talk to Jeri Bergdahl)

"A Divided America: What Can We Learn from the Nordics?"

Contrasting economic policies and their effects on peace, justice, and prosperity. A talk by George Lakey (author of *Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right—and How We Can, Too.*)

Friday, March 16, 2018, 7 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Society, 152 Pearl St., Burlington, VT

Admission free. Sponsored by Transition Charlotte, Burlington Peace and Justice Center, Vermonters for a New Economy, Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, 350VT, Vermont Interfaith Power & Light, and Burlington Friends Meeting