

E-News for the Week of Sunday, February 21 First Sunday in Lent

Readings

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

Participants

Celebrant: Rev. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Barbara Sponem

Communion Assistant: Julie Valliere

Lector: Lydia Wisloski

Liturgical Assistant: Audrey Stone

Organist: Ann Gnagey

Greeters: Joyce Gallimore and Sam Swanson

Ushers: Richard Butz and Charlie Cutting

Coffee Hour: Johanna White

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 2/17

4:30-5:30 p.m. Tai Chi

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Contemporary

Thursday, 2/18

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Quilter's Group

6:00 p.m. **SETUP** Care for Creation showing of "Merchants of Doubt" (see announcement below)

7:00 p.m. "Merchants of Doubt" Movie Starts

Saturday, 2/20

8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, 2/21

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)

11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting and Special 50th Anniversary Coffee Hour

Wednesday, 2/24

4:30-5:30 p.m. Tai Chi

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Bells

Click [HERE](#) for a long-range calendar.

Services in Lent

Ash Wednesday (February 10) 7:00 p.m. Receiving of Ashes and Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday (March 24) 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, stripping of the altar

Good Friday (March 25) 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae service of scripture readings, prayers, and hymns, ending in darkness

Easter Sunday (March 27) 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Worship services with Holy Communion; Pancake breakfast by Church Council from 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Upcoming Birthdays

2/18 Bill Valliere
2/19 Robert Wilhite
2/20 Jack and Ben Tylenda
2/21 Ronald Uttecht
2/22 Will Fry
2/22 Stephen Wisloski
2/22 Jody Wuensch
2/23 Meghan Kimball
2/23 Karen Martin

Pastor's Message

Dear Ascension parishioners,

I will look for you in worship and at the congregational meeting this Sunday. I am inspired by all that this congregation has done and will do to support the ministry of Ascension. This Sunday, we will begin to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Ascension's organization, on February 20, 1966.

The organizational statement reads:

"We, the undersigned, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and desiring to have a place in our community where we and our children may worship Him, hereby petition the New England Synod of the Lutheran Church in America and the Board of American Missions to permit us to organize ourselves into a congregation of the Lutheran Church in America, and to support the congregation by such means as the Church deems wise and advisable to foster its growth."

To fully celebrate the fiftieth, Bishop Hazelwood will be with us on Sunday, June 26th; please save the date.

Second, this Sunday we will address and pass the 2016 budget. This budget includes a short-fall that we can meet in creative ways. I am confident that we will find a balance in approach that continues to develop our ministries. Each of you will contribute your ideas.

I am taking two steps immediately. In light of our anniversary and long-range plan for ministry, (1) I will ask each committee to brainstorm and move to implement ways that their ministries reach out to families, especially families in South Burlington. (2) We are invited to attend a synod-sponsored "Generating Generous Giving" workshop presented by Bishop Hazelwood and Reverend LiaBraaten, on Saturday, March 12 in Rutland. I will request that two parishioners attend with me. This is an important opportunity to learn from the synod and other churches how to financially sustain our important ministries into the future. For more information:

<http://nesynod.org/faithinaction/news/item/introducing-3g-generating-generous-giving>; <https://youtu.be/OHsD4mkZvRc>

Thank you for your faithfulness and love of Jesus Christ.

Blessings, Pr. Nancy

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 21, 2016, 11:30 a.m. (immediately following service)

DOCUMENTS:

[Agenda](#)

[December 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Treasurer's Report and 2015 Year-End Financials](#)

[Proposed 2016 Budget](#)

[Summarized Long Range Plan](#)

Sunday School News

Children

Reminder: No Sunday School on Feb. 21. (due to school break)

Adults

The class is reading Pope Francis I Encyclical Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home as the Bishop has suggested. Anyone can join at any time; you can purchase a book from Pr. Nancy or read the Encyclical on line for free. No class preparation is needed, as we read aloud and discuss each paragraph.

HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Care for Creation movie - Merchants of Doubt

7 PM - Thursday Feb 18, 2016

This 90-minute documentary delves into the well-funded campaign to spread doubt about climate change and other important issues. This event is co-sponsored by the Care for Creation Committee, VT Interfaith Power and Light, and the South Burlington Energy Committee.

Watch the trailer and find out more: <http://sonyclassics.com/merchantsofdoubt/>

Quilter's Group

All are welcome to join with the quilters at Ascension in the assembling of mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts are tied rather than quilted hence no sewing skills are required. The process is simple and moves along quickly when many hands are involved. The group meets the first and third Thursday of the month 10 a.m. to 12 noon. **Next meeting is Thursday, February 18!**

Men's Breakfast

Calling all Men of Ascension! The next Men's Breakfast is Saturday, February 20 at 8:30 a.m. at Ascension. We're looking for one of the guys to make breakfast for us. Any volunteers? If so, contact Jake.

Women's Retreat 2016

Friday, April 29 (dinnertime) to Sunday, May 1 (after lunch) at the Blue Gentian Lodge in Londonderry, VT

It's our 20th Retreat! Great ready to have some memories made with our theme of Choosing Happiness à Having Fun & Celebrating Grace!

Cost is \$165/person (includes your room and all 7 meals!)

Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Questions? Ask Bonnie @ bonnielomb@gmail.com.

Are you missing Christmas trays?

There are Christmas serving trays and serving dishes left on the counter in the kitchen. Are they yours? Should they be put away in our cupboards? Can they be donated to a resale store? If you have any information at all, contact Suzanne Furst.

Coffee Hour

The 2016 coffee hour list has been posted. Please sign up!

[Additional News and Opportunities](#)

Battery Recycling

There have been a few newspaper articles recently announcing a new recycling program for batteries. Until now the advice has been to put alkaline batteries in the trash. Starting January 1, 2016, you can now give your single-use, alkaline batteries new life by recycling them through Call2Recycle at convenient locations across Vermont. For more information, click

here: <http://www.call2recycle.org/vermont/>

Volunteer at the Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity ReStore

The ReStore is Habitat's thrift store where profits from the sale of donated goods are used to build Habitat for Humanity homes in Chittenden County. Volunteer duties include receiving and sorting donations, pricing and stocking shelves, assisting customers and so much more! If you would like to volunteer at the ReStore please email volunteer@vermonthabitat.org or call 318-7533 for more information.

Writing with Spirit

A weekly creative writing group, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Combines meditation and spirituality with poetry, fiction or creative nonfiction. Cost is \$20 per session or \$100 for 6 sessions and Session 1 is free! Led by Nancy Kilgore, DMin at All Souls Interfaith Gathering, 291 Bostwick Farm Road, Shelburne, VT. Visit www.nancykilgore.com or email nancy.hayes.kilgore@gmail.com for more information and to register.

Tai Chi at Ascension!

Tai Chi for All Generations, Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. with Elizabeth Wirls (Does NOT meet 2/10 for Ash Wednesday)

It's a new year, time to get into a new groove! Please join us!

Classes are ongoing and everyone is welcome to come as you are, whenever you wish. All generations are welcome! Please note that we have decided to offer these classes on a "pay as you can" basis. That way everyone who is interested will be able to join us! For more information, see the attached brochure and feel free to contact Elizabeth in the church office, 862-8866

[CLICK HERE](#) for full brochure.