

## E-News for the Week of Sunday, April 17

4th Sunday of Easter



Baptism of Sebastian Brian Lemley-Willis



Son of Shannon and Erik; Grandson of Vicki and Barry

### Readings

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelations 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

### Worship Participants

**Celebrant:** Rev. Nancy Wright

**Altar Guild:** Kathe Bruno

**Communion Assistant:** Julie Valliere

**Lector:** Molly Fry

**Liturgical Assistant:** Audrey Stone

**Greeters:** Karen and Red Martin

**Ushers:** Richard Butz and Charlie Cutting

**Coffee Hour:** The Dreibelbis Family

**Nursery:** Barbara Fritsche

### Upcoming Week

#### **Wednesday, 4/13**

4:30-5:30 p.m. Tai Chi (RENTAL)

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Bells

#### **Saturday, 4/16**

8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ALC

#### **Sunday, 4/17**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Adults (**NO CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**- school vacation)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

2:00-3:30 p.m. Trans-Youth and Family Support Group (RENTAL)

3:30-7:30 p.m. St. Timothy (RENTAL)

#### **Monday, 4/18**

3:00-6:00 p.m. Music Lessons (RENTAL)

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

#### **Tuesday, 4/19**

3:00-6:00 p.m. Music Lessons (RENTAL)

6:30-8:30 p.m. Financial Sustainability Task Force Meeting

#### **Wednesday, 4/20**

4:30-5:30 p.m. Tai Chi (RENTAL)

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Bells

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

### [Upcoming Birthdays](#)

4/17 Mark Hampson

4/18 Sharon Norton

4/18 Serena Vascik

### [Pastor's Message](#)

Dear Ascension friends,

The next two Sundays include scripture readings from the book of Revelation that refer to the "water of life" (Rev. 7:16-17 and Rev. 21:1-6). And on those Sundays, wonderfully, we will baptize Sebastian Brian Lemley-Willis (April 17) and Arjun Lahiru Yeshwant (April 24).

Water gives life to all living creatures, and it signifies spiritual life given to Christians through baptism. The April *Living Lutheran* includes an article "Stream, flood and spring: Water Renewing the Earth and the Church," authored by Benjamin M. Stewart, Professor of Worship at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He inspires us to experience water as holy, and quotes Martin Luther: "Christ by the touch of his most innocent flesh has hallowed all waters, yes even all creation, through baptism." So, let us celebrate (and protect) water.

To that end, I invite anyone, especially the Lemley family, to bring water from brooks, streams, or the lake to add to the baptismal font on the next two Sundays.

Blessings, Pr. Nancy

### [Sunday School News](#)

Full updates for Sunday School are available on our website now!

**Children:** <http://alcvf.org/education/children.html>

**Adults:** <http://alcvf.org/education/adults.html>

### [HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS](#)

#### [Men's Breakfast This Saturday!](#)

The next Men's Breakfast at **8:30 a.m., Saturday, April 16th** at the church! The men will dine on fresh waffles. We hope you will join us!

#### [New England Synod Assembly](#)

The New England Synod Assembly takes place in Springfield, Mass., **June 10 to 12**. The theme, "A Place at the Table for Everyone," includes presentations, workshops and hands-on-experiences and features: Mikka McCracken, Director Planning & Engagement, ELCA World Hunger Appeal, U.S. Rep. James McGovern (D-MA), known for his work to end hunger, Bishop Claire Burkat, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, The Rev. Dr. David Lose, President, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and Pr. Peter Boehringer, New England Synod Board Member.

Kelli Tylenda, Council President, and Pr. Nancy are attending, and we are invited to include another voting member. Please consider joining them at synod Assembly.

#### [Church Service Childcare](#)

The Educational Ministry Committee is going to provide childcare during the regular worship time beginning Sunday, April 3rd. We need help from the congregation to fill this important need. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex now! We are looking for 2 adults to cover each Sunday service. This is a great chance to sign up with a friend and spend some time together while providing childcare so that parents and care givers can have a more focused worship experience.

### **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, April 21!**

### **Spring Ring**

Come see the Bells of Ascension perform at the 35th Annual Vermont Spring Ring, Marble Valley Rings, at West Rutland School, West Rutland, VT on **Saturday, April 23, 2016!**

More than 200 individual handbell ringers, representing 24 choirs or ensembles, will gather for a day of educational classes related to ringing and rehearsals under the direction of Michael Joh, from Philadelphia, PA. He will transform these individuals and groups into one massed choir, and the day culminate in a free concert at 4:00 p.m.

We hope to see you there!

### **Save the Date!!**

Ascension Spring Work Day! **Saturday, May 7. (9-3)**

Lunch Provided. More details to come!

Hope to see you there! -Suzanne Furst

### **Fast Facts about Global Warming**

"2015 was the warmest year on record with an annual average temperature in the US of 54.4 degrees F which is 2.4 degrees F above last century's average. According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's 2015 Climate Report this is the 19th consecutive year that the temperature has been higher than the 20th century average. A study by the National Climate Assessment reports that the world is warming, global sea level is rising and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe." \*

This month, as we approach Climate Action Week we, as Christians, will be asked to sign post cards to our Senators requesting that they support the President's budget request of \$750 million for the Green Climate Fund. The Green Climate Fund was set up to allow advanced nations like the US to support developing countries to build climate resilience and transition to renewable energy technologies. \*

\* Interfaith Power and Light: Fast Facts about Climate Change.

Richard Butz for the Caring for Creation Committee

### **Bible Study Group**

Pr. Nancy would love to start a weekday Bible study group. She will post a sign-up sheet as to what days and times might be possible. Please consider whether you would enjoy and learn from this group.

### **Keyboard Accompanist Needed**

Twice monthly for Contemporary practice and once monthly to play with the Contemporary choir on Sundays. Please tell Pr. Nancy or Bill Valliere if you are interested.

### **Hymnals**

The Worship and Music committee invites anyone to make a memorial donation to purchase a new hymnal. To accommodate all worshipers, we need to purchase about twenty new hymnals. The cost

for each ELW hymnbook is \$22.50. The name of the person in whose memory the book is given will be placed inside the hymnbook. Please inform Pr. Nancy by email if you are interested.

### **Organ Repair**

The organ will be repaired at 10 am on **Monday April 18th**. We don't yet know the extent of the repair; John Lemkul, Jeri Bergdahl, and Pr. Nancy, will be among those who plan to meet with the technician on Monday at Ascension. Anyone else who is interested is welcome to be present on that day.

### **Name Tags**

Dear Parishioners. Newcomers to Ascension would like us to wear our name tags. Please find them in the library, or ask the office to make you a new one.

### **Coffee Hour**

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

## **Additional News and Opportunities**

### **Burlington Choral Society Concert**

The Burlington Choral Society's concert is "Hidden Haydn," on Saturday, **April 23, 2016**, at 7:30 pm in Elley-Long Music Center, Colchester. (Pr. Nancy sings in BCS.) A beautiful concert it will be. \$25 Gen. Admission; \$20 Students and Seniors. Go to [flynntix.org](http://flynntix.org) or [www.bcsvermont.org](http://www.bcsvermont.org).

### **Benefit Silent Auction**

Silent Auction benefiting Vermont Interfaith Action, Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP), and other social justice ministries. **April 29, 2016** at St. Paul's Cathedral, 2 Cherry St, Burlington.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the bidding begins (including light refreshments)! Bidding ends at 7:30 p.m. and the entertainment begins (including delicious desserts)!

Tickets are \$15 at St. Paul's online: [stpaulscathedralvt.org](http://stpaulscathedralvt.org) (through 4/26), \$20 at the door. Students 12-18 years old are \$2. Children under 12 are free! The first 50 ticket-buyers will be automatically entered into a special prize drawing!

Winners take home your treasures that evening. Come, bring friends, and have fun... all while helping our neighbors!

### **COTS Walk 2016**

The 3-mile COTS Walk will take you around Burlington starting from Battery Park and following the route a person who is homeless might travel to receive shelter and services. **Sunday, May 1st**--check in begins at 1 pm with the walk at 2 pm, concluding back at Battery Park where walkers are met with music, Ben & Jerry's ice cream and other free refreshments. Go to [www.cotsonline.org](http://www.cotsonline.org) for registration information.

### **Hop, Skip, Walk, Run or???**

The 25th Annual Jiggety Jog to support Vermont Respite House is on **Saturday, May 7**, at Allen Brook School in Williston. It starts at 9 am with runners heading out first, followed by walkers, bikers, skateboarders, hula-hoopers and more. Registration begins at 8 am.

Check out the website for more information: <https://www.vnacares.org/event/vermont-respite-house-5k-fun-run-jiggety-jog/>

### **Northern Bronze Concert Series**

The Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble (directed by our own Jeri Bergdahl) presents Ringin' In the Rain An' Wadin' in the Water Concert Series: Music filled with water themes!

**7:00 p.m., Friday, May 13** at Waterbury Congregational UCC, Waterbury, VT

**7:00 p.m., Saturday, May 14** at South Hero Congregational Church, So. Hero, VT

**3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 15** at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Hinesburg, VT

**7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 17** at Trinity Episcopal Church, Shelburne, VT

Visit [www.northernbronze.org](http://www.northernbronze.org) for more information!

### **Concert for Syrian Refugees Volunteers Needed**

A LARGE-SCALE BENEFIT CONCERT to raise money to aid Syrian refugees will take place in Vermont in Burlington on **Saturday, May 21** at the First Congregational Church at 7:30 p.m. and on **Sunday, May 22**, at the Montpelier High School Auditorium at 3 p.m. Pianist Michael Arnowitz has created a special program entirely of Syrian music and literary readings of writings by Syrian authors.

The concert will be performed by a diverse group of 30 actors, singers, and musicians playing a mix of Western and Middle Eastern instruments. Syrian-born performers will include: from Albany, the poet Rana Bitar Jacob; from Chicago, the short story author Osama Alomar; and Anwar Diab Agha, a violinist, oudist, and composer, who moved from Syria to Winooski, Vermont, five years ago.

If you would like to offer volunteer assistance for this project or would be interested in joining the concert's choir singing Syrian songs on the program, contact Michael Arnowitz at [MA@MAPiano.com](mailto:MA@MAPiano.com); or 802-229-0984.

Benefit concert website: <http://www.mapiano.com/syriaus.htm>.

### **Book Recommendation**

Recommending an excellent book to commemorate Earth Day and much more, entitled ACTIVE HOPE subtitled How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy by Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone. Recommendation quote: "More than any other book I've read, Active Hope shows us the true dimensions of this crises, and the way our hearts and actions can be part of the great turning toward healing. Please read this book and share it with others-- for your own awakening, for our children, and for our future" Tara Brach, PHD, author of 'Radical Acceptance'.

-Johanna White

### **Vacation Bible School**

**June 20-24, 2016**, First United Methodist Church, Burlington

Deep Sea Discovery! Grab a friend and dive into service, games, snacks, songs, Bible stories, and so much more! 3 years old through 5th graders. To read more and to register, visit the website

here: <http://www.umcburlington.com/VBS/>

Questions? Contact Rachel Fraumann (Stampul) at [clergychick@gmail.com](mailto:clergychick@gmail.com)

### **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/>