

E-News for the Week of Sunday, May 15

Day of Pentecost

Readings

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:9-17 [25-27]

Worship Participants

Celebrant: Rev. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Antje Mann

Communion Assistant: Julie Valliere

Lector: Amy Harrison

Organist: Ann Gnagey

Liturgical Assistant: Leah Burke

Greeters: Suzanne Furst & Marilyn Johnson

Ushers: Jim Wilhite

Coffee Hour: Bonnie Lombardi

Nursery: TBA

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 5/11

5:00-6:00 p.m. Tai Chi (rental)

6:15 p.m. Choir

Thursday, 5/12

7:00 p.m. Social Action Committee Meeting

Sunday, 5/15

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Education Committee

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

4:00-7:00 p.m. St. Timothy Worship Service (rental)

Monday, 5/16

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

7:00 p.m. Council

Tuesday, 5/17

3:00-5:00 p.m. Music Lessons (rental)

6:30-8:30 p.m. Financial Stability Team Meeting

Wednesday, 5/18

5:00-6:00 p.m. Tai Chi (rental)

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

Upcoming Birthdays

5/13 Julia Hondal

5/16 Dave Grimm

5/16 Kelli Magnier
5/16 Johanna White
5/17 Janice Tilley
5/18 Beth Hoehn
5/21 Elizabeth Hill
5/22 Maria Dreibelbis
5/22 Harriet Richards (95!!!)

Pastor's Message

Dear Ascension parishioners,

This Sunday we celebrate Pentecost, meaning the fiftieth day (fifty days after Easter) and known as the birthday of the church. We celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and upon us.

We will extinguish the Paschal candle, which burned during the seven Sundays of Easter to commemorate the light of the risen Christ. Now with the coming of the Spirit anew, the story of Jesus Christ is complete; or rather, it is completed by you and me as we live as disciples of Christ. Being disciples therefore means encouraging and sharing the fruits of the Spirit, as St. Paul writes in Galatians 5:22-23, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." If you are like me, being a disciple means daily to try to be patient, kind, loving, and joyful.

Please wear red, bring red flowers if you wish, and celebrate with your church family.

One more note: every Sunday, we repeat in the Creed that we believe in the Holy Spirit who "spoke through the prophets." The prophets (Jeremiah, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos) spoke God's passionate words to the people of Israel to stop being unjust, and to care for one another, especially the vulnerable, and for the land. This Sunday we have an opportunity to be prophets by writing letters to redress extreme poverty and malnutrition around the world. This would be an excellent way to live out our belief in the Holy Spirit, who spoke through the prophets.

Blessings, Pr. Nancy

Sunday School News

Please click the links below for Sunday School updates:

Children: <http://alcvt.org/education/children.html>

Adults: <http://alcvt.org/education/adults.html>

From the Office

- We are beginning to work on the Summer Church Mouse, so please send in your submissions no later than **Friday, June 3**—pictures, articles, anything you have! If you have any questions, email church.office@alcvt.org.
- Our 50th Anniversary celebration is coming up on June 26! Bishop Jim Hazelwood will be joining us for worship, followed by a special catered luncheon and FUN! Please let the office know if you have any photographs of the church in its early years!

HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Hunger Appeal

Beginning this Sunday, we will be taking a special collection for the Hunger Appeal. The Synod has challenged each church to take at least \$100 to the Synod Assembly for the Hunger Appeal.

You're Invited- Dishin' on Nutrition

Malnutrition killed almost 3 million children in 2014, and is still to blame for nearly half of the deaths of children under age 5 around the world.

The good news is, this is preventable. That's why ONE members around the globe are speaking out to tell their elected leaders: increase investments in nutrition, so we can save lives and boost economies.

Please join ONE members at Ascension at 11:30 a.m. on **May 15th** to:

Learn how Nutrition aid is one of the most cost-effective ways to fight extreme poverty around the globe

Advocate for the world's poorest people by writing letters to our Representative on the importance of increasing Nutrition aid in the US budget

We need you to weigh in with Congress. In the fight against malnutrition and extreme poverty, there's no time to spare so we look forward to seeing you there.

Clean up day a success!

Many thanks to the fantastic work crew for a job well done this past Saturday! Those able to participate on Saturday were Bob and Suzanne Furst, Bonnie and Paul Lombardi, Barbara Fritsche, Beth Dreibelbis, Bill and Julie Valliere, Johanna White, Joe Oppenlander, Charlie Cutting, Mark Schroeter, Karen Martin, Gary Pittman, Pastor Nancy and Jane A'Lee and Gene Heyerdahl. We were able to accomplish most of the jobs on our "to do" list! For those who were unable to come on Saturday but would still like to contribute to this effort there are a few jobs remaining. They are listed on the Property Committee bulletin board in the fellowship hall. They include washing the windows in the Sunday School and nursery (see Jane A'Lee). clean the Sunday School kitchen, haul old toilets to the CSWD, plant 4 new shrubs (see Johanna White). There will also be work on the Meditation Trail (see Peter Grant) and Richard Butz has provided a sign-up sheet for the lawn mowing schedule for the summer.

Please check with Elizabeth (in the office) to be sure your available time does not interfere with a rental. And many thanks in advance for your caring about ALC!

The property committee would also like to extend an invitation to any and all interested in joining us. We meet on most 2nd Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. to share a meal and tend to any jobs that need attention. We would welcome you with open arms!

~Bob and Suzanne Furst, Mark Schroeter, Charlie Cutting, Gary Pittman, Jane A'Lee and Gene Heyerdahl.

Mowing Season

Yea, it's mowing time again! You may remember when we passed the 2016 budget, we voted to reduce expenses by doing our own grass mowing this year. Spring clean-up is scheduled for this Saturday so next week would be a good time to begin a bi-weekly mowing schedule to start and then see how it goes. So look for a sign-up sheet on Sunday and plan to help out by mowing our lawns. Information about what to mow and how to access the lawnmower will also be posted.

~Richard Butz

Burlington Emergency Shelter Transformed

The Burlington Emergency Shelter (where members of Ascension provided a week's worth of dinners during the summer for many years) is now called ANEW...A New Place. It is still located on North Street in Burlington with a mission "to provide a holistic continuum of services for the homeless, centered in love and dignity, that foster growth, cultivate community engagement, and provide tools for lifelong change so that each person may start ANEW." On **Sunday, May 22**, an ANEW staff member will join us to provide an update.

Spring Fling Dinner!

Why did the chicken cross the road? To come to the 1st Annual Spring Fling Dinner at Ascension, of course!!

Join us on **Saturday, June 4 at 5:00 p.m.** for drinks (BYOB) and appetizers. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. (Grilled BBQ Chicken, Salads, and Desserts). 7:00 p.m. is when the program and more FUN begin!

Childcare provided. Please RSVP for childcare to Beth Dreibelbis at edreib2@comcast.net

A sign-up sheet will be posted at church. Please sign up to bring salad or dessert. Chicken will be provided. We also need volunteers to set up, clean up, servers, etc. Please see the sign-up sheet for those spots as well!

Come and join us for a fun, family picnic. RAIN OR SHINE!

Proceeds will go to reduce the budget deficit.

Church Service Childcare

The Educational Ministry Committee is going to provide childcare during the regular worship time. 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 caregivers can have a more focused worship experience.

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.

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.

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.

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

Childhood Bereavement Seminar

Seminar will be held in St. Albans on **Thursday, May 12** from 8:30 - 4:30 p.m. \$20 registration fee includes light breakfast and lunch. Register and find more info

at: <http://www.fchha.org/media/Childhood-Bereavement-Seminar-brochure-1.pdf>

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 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; or 802-229-0984.

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

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