

E-News for the Week of Sunday, May 8

7th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Readings

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

Worship Participants

Celebrant: Rev. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Kris & Mousa Ishaq

Communion Assistant: Johanna White

Lector: Doug Dreibelbis

Liturgical Assistant: TBA

Greeters: Joyce Gallimore & Sam Swanson

Ushers: Sharon Sturm and Richard Butz

Coffee Hour: Karen and Peter Grant

Nursery: TBA

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 5/4

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Bells

Thursday, 5/5

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

Friday, 5/6

Meals on Wheels

Saturday, 5/7

9:00 a.m.- ??? Annual Work Day

Sunday, 5/8

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Worship and Music Meeting

12:00-3:00 p.m. Elias Carter's Graduation Party

Monday, 5/9

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

Tuesday, 5/10

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

6:00-9:00 p.m. Nunn's Men's Group (rental)

Wednesday, 5/11

6:15 p.m. Choir

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

Upcoming Birthdays

5/4 Morgan Dreibelbis

5/6 Ben Harrison

5/6 Aida Qubrosi

5/7 Sarah Gottschalk

5/9 Claire Anderson

Pastor's Message

This Sunday we celebrate Cantate Sunday, as well as Mother's Day!

Cantate Sunday is traditionally the fourth Sunday of Easter, and often a service that celebrates hymns and liturgical music.

This Sunday we will consider the hymnody of women through the ages, including the great hymn in Luke, the Magnificat (Luke 2:46-56). In this story, Mary sings with joy when she is with her cousin, Elizabeth; both are anticipating the birth of children, John the Baptist and Jesus. The hymn Mary sings speaks of God's love, which turns things upside down: "My soul magnifies the Lord...for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.... His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.... He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty."

Perhaps the hymn was actually sung by Mary or was one of the earliest Christian hymns, sung by early Christian believers who "had all things in common.... praising God and having the goodwill of all the people" (Acts 2:44, 47). In any case, God's love, shown in Christ, spread a movement to treat others with tenderness and respect in response to such a loving Savior.

Let us celebrate our own mothers, all people who treat others with love, and our "mothering" savior Jesus Christ.

Sunday School News

Please click the links below for Sunday School updates:

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

Adults: <http://alcv.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@alcv.org.

HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Spring Work Day

Saturday May 7. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Lunch provided

Many jobs to be done inside and out - many hands and muscles needed!

If you can't work that Saturday - (talk to Gene Heyerdahl to avoid time and space conflicts with renters) - work can be done at other times. Contact the Heyerdahls if any questions.

Quilter's Group

Ascension Quilters have been busy making more mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief. On **May 8** the remainder of the quilts made this season will be blessed. We will then pack the quilts and ready

them for shipment to the LWR warehouse in Maryland. We have received word that the quilts made by Ascension Quilters last year were distributed in Georgia (a country at the intersection of Europe and Asia), and Angola (a southern African nation). The last session for working on the quilts this season will be Thursday, May 5.

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

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.

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 Tylanda, 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.

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.

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

Jiggety Jog to Ascension

You can hop, skip, walk or run in the Jiggety Jog to support Vermont Respite House on **Saturday, May 7**, and then take your car to Ascension with your energy up to help during clean-up day at the church. You'd get your lunch free at Ascension and you already would have had breakfast snacks at Allen Brook School in Williston where registration begins at 8 am and the Jiggety Jog starts promptly at 9. Check the website for details: <https://www.vnacares.org/event/vermont-respite-house-5k-fun-run-jiggety-jog/>

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

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/>