

E-News for the Week of Sunday, August 21

14th Sunday After Pentecost

Readings

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

Worship Participants

Celebrant: Pr. Nancy Wright

Preacher: Chuck Ross

Altar Guild: Suzanne Furst

Communion Assistant: Bob Furst

Liturgical Assistant: Audrey Stone

Lector: Greta Krag

Organist: Ann Gnagey

Greeters: Karen & Red Martin

Ushers: Jim Wilhite, Bonnie & Paul Lombardi

Coffee Hour: The Lemley's

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 8/17

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

Sunday, 8/21

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Worship and Music Meeting

Tuesday, 8/23

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

Wednesday, 8/24

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

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

Upcoming Birthdays

8/20 Laura Sturm

8/21 Rachel Valliere

8/22 Lell Forehand

8/27 Bella Brackett

Pastor's Message

We are privileged to have as our guest preacher this Sunday, Secretary Chuck Ross, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

This wonderful occasion is made possible by the grace of Ellen Wilhite, who has known him from childhood and suggested he might be open to an invitation to speak to us. Mr. Ross has worked tirelessly (and is highly respected for) building community in the region while protecting the watershed and soil so necessary to strong communities and mutual understanding. Let us have a good congregational welcome for Chuck Ross!!!

I was privileged to attend the Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans this past week. I led two workshops on Eco-Reformation (the great work of the church to embrace God's love for the whole creation). For those interested in the Resolutions passed at this exciting and newsworthy triennial national meeting of the ELCA, which initiates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation go

to <https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.guidebook.com/upload/p8aWh9vqY2iSfM4NcXE63Bhj5PwCQxn7/Jve217pvWYdLe3XWovBRz7keLov87RVIK6Fy.pdf>. Among other strong and approved resolutions were "Stewardship of the Gift of Water," "Toward a Responsible Energy Future," "Peace with Justice in the Holy Land," "Discernment of US Foreign and Military Power," and "African Descent Lutherans."

Here's an additional note from our own Sam Swanson from the Care for Creation Committee on Secretary Ross's visit:

Care for Creation friends and colleagues,

Our Congregation hosts Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Ross this Sunday as a guest speaker at our Sunday worship service. Chuck Ross has done an amazing job supporting action to protect the environment while also leading Vermont's effort to support a vigorous farm economy.

I am looking forward to hearing his message and hope you will join in welcoming him to our Congregation.

Best,

Sam Swanson

Chair, Ascension's Care for Creation Committee

Blessings,

Pr. Nancy

Sunday School News

Sunday School for Children AND Adults will be on break from now until September 11. We will kick-off Sunday School with "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday."

After the 10 AM service, our congregation (and others helping us) plan to pack 12,000 mac and cheese meals for the local food shelf. Each meal costs 25 cents. Please consider having your children save quarters from their allowance or their money, to contribute to this effort. Quarters might be placed in an envelope labeled Macaroni money, or GWOH. Bigger checks are welcome as well for this important and monumental undertaking. Think about it like this: \$25 make 100 meals and feeds 100 people. It is like the story of the fishes and loaves...a little gift offered can make a lot of meals! Please plan to help in contributions and in planning to set aside time to pack meals on September 11. A tall macaroni thermometer to gauge our giving progress is in the narthex. On this 15th anniversary of 9/11, bring the family and friends and do God's work for others.

Warmly,

Lydia

HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Steve Snook's Sermon

As promised last week, here is the hard copy of Steve Snook's Sermon from August 7, 2016: [CLICK HERE](#).

FUNDRAISER for Ascension Lutheran Church: Project Life Photo Album

Please join us on Saturday, August 27th for a morning of fun and fellowship at Ascension Lutheran Church! Most of us carry a cell phone full of photos, but wouldn't it be nice to have a beautiful album filled with our favorite photos that could be set on the coffee table? At this event we will be putting together photo albums. Mine will be of my grandchildren (of course) but you can make it anything you want, like your pets, your vacation, your family, or a mix of everything... so bring your favorite photos!

The price of \$35 for the event includes all of the materials to make your album plus a ticket of the Grand Prize drawing and the possibility to earn extra tickets. There will also be a \$5 raffle to win other prizes.

Click [HERE](#) for the information sheet and registration form.

Hope you can make it!

France Leblanc

Mac and Cheese Challenge

We now know that we will be picking up the supplies in Rutland on **Tuesday, September 6**, in the morning. It would be a great help to have one or two people able to handle 50lb boxes/bags go along to help load. And, we'll need help unloading and stacking at Ascension, though that will happen later in the day.

On **Saturday, September 10, from about 3:00 - 5:00** we'll need volunteers to set up for both meal packing and Rally Day. This will involve organizing the assembly line and setting up several tents for Rally Day because we'll be using Sunday School spaces for the meal packaging. Let's go to dinner together afterwards. Sign up and we'll reserve somewhere.

Please check out the Social Action bulletin board for more details on Sunday and/or talk to me.

And, remember, we are only half way to our goal of \$3,000 needed to pay for the event so please contribute what you can for this important event.

Richard Butz

The Property Committee Needs Your Help!

The Property Committee has a number of projects ahead of us. Some more urgent than others. Some are beyond the scope of our members and will require professional help. Others are "in-house" jobs doable by the committee or volunteers from the congregation. Check out the list of projects on the "Property Committee" bulletin board in the fellowship hall. We welcome any and all help!

Mowing Schedule

We are really fortunate to have so many people stepping up to mow this summer, saving us \$1500.00. Special thanks to Bill Huggett, Mark Schroeter, Sam Swanson, Gretchen Dreibelbis who have taken this on, some even doing it multiple times. And please note, there is a new sign-up sheet posted on the Property Committee bulletin board.

Names Tags Are Important

To make it easier for members to find their name tags, there is new storage box on the table right outside the library in alphabetical order. Please find your name tag and wear it each Sunday, and then return it to the box. Lauren Dreibelbis will be maintaining the box.

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.

Coffee Hour

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

Additional News and Opportunities

Household Goods Needed!

Jennie Davis from the Burlington Housing Authority let us know that she has 7 homeless families being newly placed this month. They are in need of sheets, towels, dishes, utensils, pots/pan, window shades/blinds as well

as some bigger items, such as beds and dressers. We greatly appreciate all that the congregation has done before and would welcome any of these things which you might have and no longer need. We can pick up at church in the next 2 weeks or could pick up bigger items from your home if that would be of help. Thank you very much! Karen and Peter Grant (802-372-0123 or 973-214-9849).

JUMP Opportunities

As you all know, The Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP) operates a Drop-In Center for emergency assistance at the First Congregational Church of Burlington, Tuesday through Friday mornings, offering hospitality, financial assistance, toiletries, diapers, food, and referrals... and is a mission very near and dear to the heart of Ascension! Needs are great and ongoing, but right now, they need a new Board Secretary as well as a Run for JUMP Coordinator (Coordinator position is a paid contract position). These positions need to be filled ASAP. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information if you are interested or know someone who might be.