

E-News for the Week of Sunday, August 28

15th Sunday After Pentecost

Readings

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Worship Participants

Celebrant: Pr. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Barbara Sponem and Lucy Beck

Communion Assistant: Johanna White

Liturgical Assistant: Leah Burke

Lector: Lucy Beck

Organist: Ann Gnagey

Greeters: Karen & Peter Grant

Ushers: Peter Grant, Charlie Cutting & Jake Hansen

Coffee Hour: Cheryl Couillard

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 8/24

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

6:30 p.m. Contemporary Practice

Thursday, 8/25

7:00-8:30 p.m. Care for Creation Meeting

Saturday, 8/27

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. "Project Photo Album" Fundraising Event (see announcement below)

Sunday, 8/28

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

Wednesday, 8/31

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

6:30 p.m. Contemporary Practice

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

Upcoming Birthdays

8/27 Bella Brackett

9/6 Gabriella Snook

9/7 Rick Neu

Pastor's Message

Any person who has been through Confirmation class knows that Law and Gospel are central to being Lutheran. What do these concepts mean?

Here is a good description from one Lutheran theologian (Herman Stuempfle) in a book I find helpful, *Afflicting the Comfortable, Comforting the Afflicted: A Guide to Law and Gospel Preaching*. Stuempfle suggests that **Law**

can mean: Alienation, Anxiety, Despair, Transiency. The Gospel that heals those forms of “law” brings Reconciliation, Certitude, Hope, and Homecoming.

We can see how Gospel of Jesus Christ answers the suffering and problems that the Law uncovers.

Further, as I understand Luther, Law includes laws such as the Ten Commandments. Law tells humans what to do and what to avoid. By contrast, Gospel shows what God has done (and is doing) through love. Law and Gospel together show reality, and how Jesus Christ meets the needs of humans and creation suffering under the law.

The reading from the Gospel this Sunday tells how Jesus encouraged people to invite the poor to your banquet (Luke 14:1, 7-14). Jesus’ invitation to invite people we don’t know, people in need, seems to apply the Gospel invitation of **reconciliation** to the “law of life” that insists that people stay **alienated**, whether by class, race, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality.

Can you think of ways that Jesus’ Gospel of grace is even now overcoming the consequences of the law, as expressed above in your own life, the wider church, or the world? Are there ways to encourage the Gospel as you see it being lived out?

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

FUNDRAISER for Ascension Lutheran Church: Project Life Photo Album—THIS SATURDAY

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

On **Tuesday, 8/30**, several of us will travel to Rutland to pick up the supplies, Leaving the church parking lot at 8:15 am. We could use one more strong back so if you're interested, talk to Mousa or me on Sunday.

Also on **Tuesday** we'll unload the trailer **starting at 4:30** at the church. Four or six people would be really helpful. Sign up please so we know who to expect.

On **Saturday 9/10, from 3:00 - 5:00** we need six or eight people to set up the assembly lines and a few more people to help set up tents for the Sunday School's Rally Day activities. Indicate on the sign-up sheet on the Social Action bulletin board if you'd like to go out to dinner afterward.

And on **Sunday 9/11, from 12:00 to 4:00 +**, we need at least 45 people to staff the lines. Please sign up on the SA bulletin board.

\$2121.00 raised so far! We're more than two-thirds of the way to our goal.

Richard Butz

Quilter's Group

Lutheran World Relief has informed us that the 43 quilts made by Ascension quilters this past season were shipped to Angola in July for distribution. On September 15 we will begin making more quilts for LWR, hoping to make at least as many or more than we did this past year. We appreciate donations of fabrics suitable for making quilts. Won't you join us at ALC to tie quilts the first and third Thursday of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many hands make light work.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the letter we received from Lutheran World Relief!

Join us on our Walk to Bethlehem!

Yes, that's right...the members of Ascension Lutheran Church are going to "Walk to Bethlehem" this fall! Our journey will begin the week of October 2nd and end twelve weeks later, arriving in Bethlehem just in time for Christmas. The goal of the program is to motivate people to become more physically active and to also encourage spiritual growth by focusing on weekly Bible verses and devotions.

Miles will be earned by actually walking or running a mile or doing 20 minutes of aerobic or chair exercises. (Taking Elizabeth's Tai Chi class or walking our lovely meditation trail would be perfect ways to do this!) Bonus miles will be awarded for families who walk or exercise together. **Everyone can participate**... whether you are involved in a sport at school, want to just walk for good health, or can participate from a chair 1 day a week or 7 days a week! Everyone's miles will be totaled each week to see how we are progressing.

You can get more information and sign up starting September 18th...look for the map in the social hall!

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

The 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.