

E-News for the Week of Sunday, September 25

19th Sunday After Pentecost

Readings

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

Worship Participants

Celebrant: Pr. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Antje Mann

Communion Assistant: Johanna White

Liturgical Assistant: TBD

Lector: Cheryl Couillard

Organist: Ann Gnagey

Greeters: Donna & Gary Pittman

Ushers: Sharon Sturm and Richard Butz

Coffee Hour: The Grants

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 9/21

5:00-6:00 p.m. Tai Chi for Everyone

6:15 p.m. Choir Practice

7:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir Practice

Thursday, 9/22

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

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

Sunday, 9/25

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting in Fellowship Hall (immediately after service)

Tuesday, 9/27

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

Wednesday, 9/28

6:15 p.m. Choir Practice

7:15 p.m. Bell Practice

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

Upcoming Birthdays

9/22 Greta Krag

9/23 Rosine Snook

9/23 Catherine Wisloski

9/24 Brian Dreibelbis

9/28 Bonnie Lombardi & Red Martin

9/30 Lucy Beck & Lesley Schroeter

Pastor's Message

Opportunities for worship leadership:

The basis of our being together as a church community is to worship God. Worship is both work (the root to the word "liturgy" means "work of the people") and joy! We all participate in helping each other worship.

And, we are a priesthood of believers, which means that the more people involved in worship leadership, the more joy we have.

Here are opportunities:

Liturgical Assistant—it would be great to have two more liturgical assistants to assist at the altar. Great training provided by Bill Valliere!

Two worship leaders for Sunday Oct. 16—Pr. Nancy is taking a study Sunday. (Remember that for vacation/study leave Sundays, the congregation voted to have lay leaders instead of paid supply preachers.) So, here may be your time to step up! We need two people—one person to lead Morning Prayer or Service of the Word, and another person to read a sermon, perhaps one by Martin Luther. Pr. Nancy will coach you!

Possible Saturday evening service—Some of us have been talking about having an informal, participatory monthly Saturday evening service. We need a team of three people to talk through this exciting service possibility and plan it.

Sign-ups are in the sanctuary or speak to Pr. Nancy or Johanna White

Finally, **St. Francis Day, Sunday, Oct. 2**, worship with your pets and celebrate all of God's creation! Bring photos of animals and pets to be part of Sunday worship, bring live pets for a blessing after the service.

Blessings, Pr. Nancy

From the Office

There will be a

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th

to share the annual committee reports.

This will be the only business at this meeting.

Keep an eye out later this week for an email with the meeting documents.

Sunday School News

Dear Parents, Grandparents, and Friends,

All kids will meet in the Sunday School wing for the opening, Pastor Nancy will lead us in learning the Lord's Prayer, orally and in sign language. The ROCK Stars, will then leave for their class, in the library. This year we are using the divider wall in the main Sunday School wing to separate the Rising Stars and the SuperKidz classes, who will meet in the SS wing spaces.

Teaching the classes are the following teams, into which we separate after Opening:

Little Lambs (under three, or small child needing help) In the Nursery with parent of adult who brought them

Rising Stars - Sarah Peake and Katie Huggett

Super Kidz - Lydia Wisloski and Bill Huggett

The ROCK Stars - Bonnie Lombardi and Beth Dreibelbis

Other occasional helpers, substitutes, special music, and extra hands who have also volunteered are:

Leah Burke, Donna Pittman, Suzanne Furst, Jim Wilhite, John Fritche, Barbara Fritche, Cheryl Coulliard, Bill Valliere,

Music is an area which could use improvement, if we expect to raise singing Lutheran kids, who like Wobegone folks, are also strong and good-looking. We encourage kids and adults who play instruments and might be able to accompany us on anything, to offer to help as they can.

See you all on Sunday!

Warmly,

Lydia Wisloski

SS Supt

238-5206

HARK! IMPORTANT NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Wanted!

Ascension members who would like to do some community outreach! Alyssa Nye, a student at St. Michael's, visited this past Sunday with her Mom and would like to attend services on Sunday but doesn't have a car. All it would take is to bring Alyssa with you when you come! She can be reached at 781-576-9567.

Mac and Cheese Challenge—A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thanks to the Social Action Committee and all who made our Mac and Cheese Challenge a success! You can see Kelli's pictures of the event in her note below. Over the next few weeks we'll distribute the boxes, so if you have suggestions regarding possible recipients, please contact me or the office.

Some notables from the event:

We had 66 participants ranging in age from 4 to 85+.

We packed 12,000+ meals in less than two hours.

Representatives came from our congregation, Ascension Lutheran, Church Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Jericho, VT and the Colchester Rotary Club.

8 boxes have already been sent to the Milton Food Pantry where we're told the shelves were really bare.

Other food pantries will receive distributions include, the Chittenden Food Shelf, the Joint Urban Ministries Project, both in Burlington and several others.

[CLICK HERE \(link will be live this evening\)](#) to see ALL of the pictures from the day of the event!

-Richard Butz

[Join Barbara and John Fritsche on the Camino de Santiago!](#)

As you all know, Barbara and John Fritsche are walking the Camino de Santiago Trail in Spain! If you would like to follow along on their amazing journey, please subscribe to their blog at www.bfonthecamino.wordpress.com.

[Meeting for Families](#)

If any family has suffered the loss of a child, and is interested in an informal gathering, please let Pr. Nancy or Donna and Gary Pittman know.

[Travel to Germany for the 500th?](#)

Many people will be traveling to commemorate the Reformation. If anyone is interested in talking about this and gathering ideas, please speak to Pr. Nancy

[Women of the ELCA](#)

The New England Biennial Convention will be held Oct. 27 to 29 in Biddeford Pool,

Maine. <http://www.newelca.org/tenth-biennial-convention.html>

Please speak to Pr. Nancy if you wish to attend. We hope to keep up our relationship, established so well through Denise Puisto, with the Women of the ELCA. (A draw back to our attending this year is the Octoberfest dinner on the 29th here at Ascension.)

[Ripple Dinner Sign-Ups](#)

Ripple dinners start soon! Help plan dinners for the few Ascension youth that participate in Ripple and the rest of the crew! If you would be willing to take on a dinner or two through the year, it would be a tremendous help. Click the link below for the sign-up sheet, and contact Rachel Fraumann (Stampul) if you have any questions at all at clergychick@gmail.com.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tPWpNs2oPEHyHUFNimL8LeHxwfDRhHgSAMhBA2qvyUE/edit?usp=sharing>

Also, click [HERE](#) to view the full Ripple schedule!

[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.

Karen Grant has walked the trail... the Meditation Trail loop is .3 miles and the Labyrinth is .2 miles to go in and out, so walking the entire trail and the labyrinth would be .5 mile. Many people have Fitbits (or similar), but if you don't and have a smartphone, a free app that will help you track your miles and time is "Walkmeter," and I

see others called "Steps-Pedometer" - also free. If you do not have a smartphone, Karen also have a couple of pedometers she is willing to share.

Keep an eye out in the Fellowship Hall for updates, and if you have any questions, ask Karen Grant!

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 for September/October is on the Property Committee bulletin board.

Coffee Hour

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

Additional News and Opportunities

TODAY: Author Tolan and Dal'Ouna Musical Ensemble at Middlebury College September 21

On **Wednesday, September 21**, award-winning author Sandy Tolan, author of *Children of the Stone: The Power of Music in a Hard Land* and *The Lemon Tree*, will read from his recent work *Children of the Stone* at Middlebury College. The free, public event will take place in Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Concert Hall, at 12:15 P.M. A light lunch will be available after the event.

Touring with Sandy Tolan are Ramzi Aburedwan and his Arabic-French Dal'Ouna Ensemble, with Moroccan singer Nidal Ibourk. They will perform at Middlebury College on September 21, in Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Concert Hall at 7:30 P.M. Dal'Ouna presents a dynamic fusion of Palestinian Arab folk, classical, jazz, and world music. The concert is free and open to the public.

A number of Ascension members read and discussed Tolan's book *Children of the Stone* in October 2015. It tells the dramatic story of Ramzi Aburedwan, a young Palestinian growing up in a refugee camp in the Occupied West Bank, and his transformation to a talented musician. Ramzi Aburedwan is the founder of Al Kamandjati, a nonprofit organization seeking to bring musical education to impoverished Palestinian children. In a Vermont connection worth noting, celebrated musicians Michael Dabroski and Michael Arnowitz performed several concerts in the fall of 2015 to benefit Al Kamandjati.

Are you an employee of GlobalFoundries as well as a member of this faith community?

As part of last year's acquisition of the IBM/MicroElectronics business by GlobalFoundries, employees lost the ability to directly contribute to charities of their choice through payroll deduction. The cost of this has been VERY large and painful to charities in both Vermont and New York in 2016.

GF has been working hard to correct this situation for the past year AND has just announced that in 2017...and as part of this Fall's Charitable Giving campaign...this direct payroll contribution capability will be reinstated. This means that those of you who are supporters of JUMP (or other charities of your preference) will be able to designate, as part of your charitable giving enrollment, to which charities you want direct payroll deductions to be made. You'll be given more instructions by GF as the Charitable Giving campaign kicks off, but we wanted to be sure to let you know that this giving path was going to be accessible to you again.

Anderson Fader Guitar Duo Vermont Concert Tour

Hailed by *Guitar Review Magazine* as "expert chamber musicians with a perfect sense of timing, virtuosity and a sensitivity to nuance", the Anderson / Fader Guitar Duo is a world-class, New York-based classical guitar duo. We are very happy to announce that they will be coming to Vermont for a five-concert tour from Thursday, October 13 to Sunday, October 16.

They will be coming to Ascension Lutheran Church in South Burlington on Sunday, October 16 at 12:30 PM.

Here are some additional tour dates and locations in Vermont:

Thursday, October 13 at 7:30 PM: Waterbury Congregational Church

Friday, October 14 at 7:30 PM: Unitarian Church of Montpelier

Saturday, October 15 at 7:30 PM: Burlington: College Street Congregational Church

Sunday, October 16 at 7:30: Stowe Community Church

The New York Times writes, "Anderson and Fader played the work from memory, and gave an impressive account of it."

Their Vermont program will consist of works by J.S. Bach, Granados, Haydn, and "The Footbridge", a suite written for them by Vermont composer, Damon Ferrante. The Footbridge is a lyrical and energetic piece that is inspired by Alexander Calder's sculptures. The duo has recently performed this program at Symphony Space, Georgetown University, Washington College, Longwood University, and many other locations throughout the US and is coming to Vermont from tours in Europe and Hawaii.

Here is a link to the Steeplechase website, which has additional information:

<http://www.steeplechasearts.com/andersonfader-guitar-duo.html>

Tai Chi to Benefit Ascension

Every Wednesday, Everyone Tai Chi ... 5-6 p.m. All are welcome, beginners and long-time practitioners alike. With practice, tai chi has been shown to help people of all ages improve balance, posture, and coordination of movement, increase mental awareness and focus, and enhance a sense of relaxation and spiritual serenity. Medical research has proven that tai chi, in combination with mental calmness, can help to relieve arthritis, lower back pain, ulcers, hypertension, insomnia, chronic fatigue, obesity, and heart disease. And it's fun! Enjoy playing together and log miles for our community "Walk to Bethlehem." (A one-hour class logs 3 miles.) Instructor, Elizabeth Wirls, is certified through Tai Chi Vermont and the Tai Chi for Health Institute. Drop-in or become a regular. Classes are on a pay-as-you-can basis and all proceeds will benefit Ascension Lutheran Church. For more information, you may contact Elizabeth in the church office (862-8866).

Peace and Justice Fall 2016 Programs

Sponsored by the Saint Michael's College Edmundite Center for Peace and Justice. All programs free and open to the public.

Is War Necessary? Annual Peace Pledge Ceremony

Wednesday, 10/5, 7:00 p.m., McCarthy Recital Hall

Chronicling the Other America: A Twenty-Five Year Retrospective

Wednesday, 11/2, 7:00 p.m., McCarthy Recital Hall

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on each of these programs.

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).

Deep Change for Climate Justice: Coalescing a Transformational Movement

Oct. 15 – 16, White River Junction. VT Interfaith Power & Light and Our Children, Climate, Faith Symposium are collaborating on this great conference. Come and join with people from all over the state and beyond to connect and draw courage to do the work that's needed, and to engage others to take action on global climate change! If you can't attend both days, come Saturday. For detailed information and on-line registration go to www.dc4cj2016.org. Register by Oct. 1 for lowest rate. Contact: info@vtipl.org or [802-434-3397](tel:802-434-3397).

Start off the school year with free courses!

As we move into the 500th anniversary celebration of the Reformation, aware of all the issues related to poverty, governance, democracy, and ecological healing that comprise our world, it is important that we are informed and studious Lutherans. Here are some possibilities for study that are free and online:

On-line noncredit courses from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary: "The End of Adam and Eve: Theology and the Science of Human Origins," and "Violence in Scripture," These courses are taught by excellent theologians and would be well worth taking.

Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker and her husband, Dr. John Grim, joint professors at the Yale School of Forestry and Theological Seminary, offer excellent free on line courses in science and religion; go

to <http://environment.yale.edu/news/article/fes-online-courses-on-cosmology-and-ecology-offered-as-yales-first-mooc-specialization/>