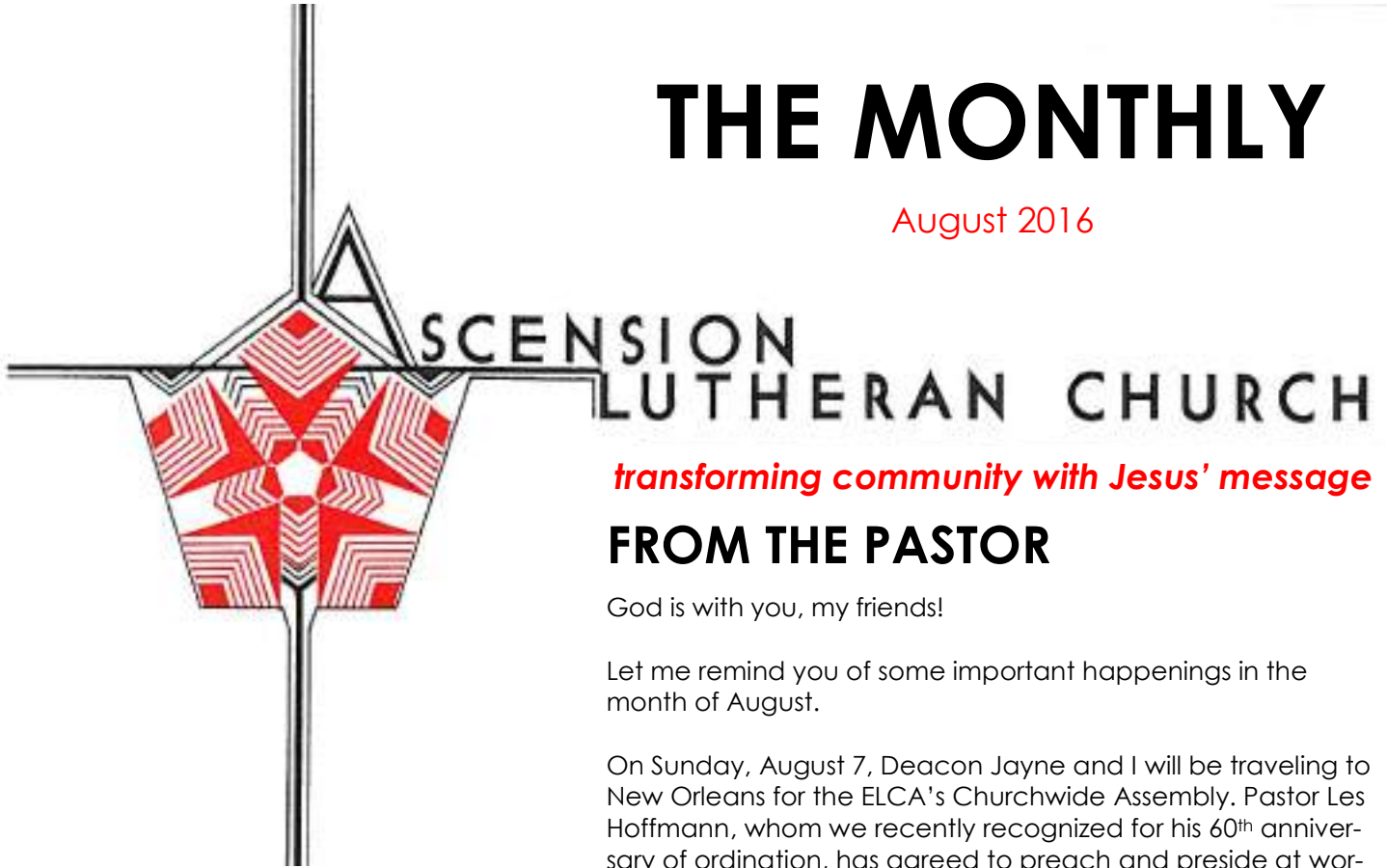


THE MONTHLY

August 2016



transforming community with Jesus' message

FROM THE PASTOR

God is with you, my friends!

Let me remind you of some important happenings in the month of August.

On Sunday, August 7, Deacon Jayne and I will be traveling to New Orleans for the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly. Pastor Les Hoffmann, whom we recently recognized for his 60th anniversary of ordination, has agreed to preach and preside at worship that day. Thank you, Pastor Les!

The week-long Churchwide Assembly takes place every three years. This year, we will be voting to combine our three lay rosters (diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses) into a single roster—that of Deacon. It is so right that Ascension, a congregation that has been advocating for a traditional diaconate, will be part of our local synod's delegation!

Deacon Jayne and I will be returning on Saturday, August 13.

On Sunday, August 14, we have two special rites of blessing during our liturgy. First, we will be blessing backpacks for the new school year. If you are a student, have a student, or are a teacher, you should bring your backpack to worship with you that day so that the assembly can pray God's blessing on your school year. Also, we will be blessing and sending our congregation's new Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM), Erin La Haye, as she leaves for her year of service in London.

And finally, on August 21, mid-worship Sunday school will resume. Children will begin the morning with their families in the sanctuary. Following the prayer of the day, I will dismiss them with their Sunday school teacher so that they can have an experience in God's Word that is geared to their age level. The children will then return to the sanctuary at the offering so that they can participate in Communion with their families.

See you in worship, my friends!

Ryan+

Rev. Stephen S. Talmage
bishop

Rev. Ryan M. Hersch
pastor

M. Jayne Baker
diaconal minister

Thomas Mueller
administrator

Tina Samuel
office support

Dale Niehaus
organist

Dr. Christopher Samuel
cantor/choirmaster

Judy Lenz
children's minister



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

FROM THE DEACON'S STUDY



Abraham's Tent gathering to welcome the stranger had a slight change of plans recently and are now sponsoring a smaller family coming August 1st. They are a young family: father 24 years old; mother 19 years old; 2 year old son and 10 month old son. They fled Syria in April of 2013 and have been living in a resettlement camp in Jordan since. He was a builder in Syria. They speak no English.

A big thank you to all who donated items for our family. We have more than enough to fill their apartment with cribs, toys, books, food, and necessary other furniture, pictures, lamps, and all kitchen necessities. We will be putting the apartment together on Sunday July 31 and then thanks to a Temple Solel member gracious offer of hospitality, members from the three congregations (Chandler Mosque, Temple Solel, and Ascension Lutheran) will meet to make welcome signs, gift bags, flowers that we will present at the airport. A full account of our experience along with pictures will be forthcoming in the next issue.



God's Work Our Hands Day is planned for September 11 with an appreciation brunch for the Fire, Police and EMTs in Paradise Valley.

This is especially fitting for our public servants for all they do to keep us safe!! This year, this special day falls on the 15th Anniversary of the Twin Tower attack.

WISHING TO PARTICIPATE? We need folks to write **thank you notes and letters** which will then be collected in a couple of baskets to present. The Sunday School kids will be participating in God's Work Our Hands Day by filling bags for the Take One Give One ministry as well as adding their art work and cards to the baskets to take to the brunch Help us fill the baskets with your pray-



NEWS FROM DUET



100 is Not Always an Ace

Our congregation is part of Duet, a nonprofit that helps isolated elders and adults with disabling conditions remain living in their own homes. That is possible through caring volunteers from our faith community and other congregations throughout the Valley. However, our network of care recently topped a sad milestone. Over 100 "neighbors" are currently waiting for caring Duet volunteers to simply visit, assist with grocery shopping or rides to medical appointments, or provide in-home computer lessons. Please share your compassion and become a volunteer! You choose the time, place, and type of service. Visit www.duetaz.org for volunteer orientations details, or call 602-274-5022. Thank you for replacing the wait list with abundant joy!

Help for Grandfamilies

Are you raising your grandchild, or do you know someone who is? Duet invites "grandfamilies" to participate in support groups, family activities (such as to Sunsplash on August 6th, a Movie Night on August 26th, or a Childsplay performance on Sept 11th), respite, benefit counseling, and legal guidance. For details, contact Duet at 602-274-5022 or visit www.duetaz.org.

AUGUST SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Hi Ascension Kids and Families,

Sunday school is almost here! The staff has planned another great year filled with terrific Bible lessons, creative art, interactive songs, and fun game activities. Many congregation and staff members have been busy this summer getting ready for our start. Walls are newly painted, new carpet installed and classrooms are clean and bright. Now all we need is you! Remember, everyone is welcome. So feel free to bring your friends and join us for this exciting, fun and faith-filled program. Sunday school meets each Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Service.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Judy Lenz, Tammy Barks, Diane Ewell, and Vivian Mora

August 14 Backpack Blessing Sunday

August 21 Sunday School Begins -
Bible Theme: The Sabbath Cure

August 28 Bible Theme: Left Out - A Lesson in Humility



MOUNT OF OLIVES NEWS

Mount of Olives Food Closet

We are partnering with the Mount of Olives Food Closet and have been asked to help with the food that is given out each week to the homeless. Until further notice we will be asking you to pick up one or two of the following items when you do your grocery shopping during the month.

- 16 oz peanut butter
- pop top cans of chunky soup
- pop top cans of vegetables
- saltine crackers

These items are desperately needed and any items you can contribute will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry at Ascension

Blessings

Jan Peterson

480-659-7328



COFFEE CONNECTION



FEATURING IN AUGUST-

NEW - ORGANIC WHOLE BEAN COFFEES - French Roast & Breakfast Blend

ORGANIC DRIP GRIND COFFEES - French Roast, Breakfast Blend & Decaf

AUGUST SUMMER SCHEDULE - First Sunday of the month August 7



Ascension is "connecting" in ministry globally and locally by selling Fair Trade coffee. GLOBALLY, we are connecting with Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Coffee Projects. Your purchase of Fair Trade coffee will help support small farmers to feed their families, educate their children, get medical care and improve their communities. LOCALLY, we are connecting with Mission of Mercy Mobile Medical Clinic. Mission of Mercy provides primary medical care through its 6 mobile clinics to the uninsured, working poor and those unable to qualify for state or federal medical plans. It is 100% funded by private donations and is the only free mobile primary care clinic in Maricopa County. Three dollars of every coffee purchase will help to provide glucose test strips for diabetic patients (an essential need to help them manage their disease) - normally an out-of-pocket cost of \$100 per month. Through your coffee purchases, you will be supporting TWO ministries for the price of one! Check out the Fair Trade coffee display at the back of the sanctuary. Also available by order, with the same global and local impact: baking cocoa, Fair Trade Equal Exchange chocolate and all occasion artisan gift items.



For more information about LWR Fair Trade, click

http://lwr.org/site/c.dmJXKiOYJgl6G/b.7521971/k.C73D/Support_Fair_Trade.htm

HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Empty Nesters, Families, and Singles: Anyone can Host a High School Foreign Exchange Student

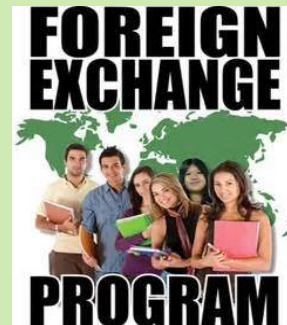
There are two possibilities available:

1---The **traditional program** where the student attends high school for two semesters. There are spots available at many of the Scottsdale, PV public and private high schools. Students are from Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Czech Republic, China, and France; overall, there are 60 countries represented.

2---Our **summer programs** are 2-8 weeks 1) Tutor in home- your family is tutored in the students language for a time each day, 2) Volunteer - Student has asked to be paired with a volunteer organization and will serve up to 15 hours per week 3) Teen guarantee- student will be paired with a family that already has a teen and experience what it's like to be an American teen.

Each student arrives with complete medical insurance, spending money, and are required to volunteer in their community each month.

To find out more details just email or call Kimberly Schmidt, kschmidt18ella@gmail.com or 480.200.3151.



SERVING BREAKFAST TO THE HUNGRY

Each month we partner with Grace Lutheran and Trinity Cathedral to help serve breakfast to 200-300 homeless people in downtown Phoenix at Grace Lutheran church. Email Jane McCarty jmc1841@gmail.com to join us.

The basics on the breakfast are:

Please arrive by 6:15am

We serve beginning at 7:30-8:15am

Clean-up is one no later than 9:00am--plenty of time to attend worship at Ascension

Training will be provided



MOUNT OF OLIVES FOOD PANTRY

The Food Closet at Mount of Olives Lutheran Church in Phoenix is constantly looking for monetary and food donations. They have had a few major expenses with air conditioning and freezers/refrigerators needing to be serviced as well as needing to buy supplies from St. Mary's due to the influx of guests who have been coming in over the past few months. The steady increase has meant that they have been buying more and more food. Food donations would greatly decrease the amount of food they are buying. They are looking for bagged rice, beans, and pasta, as well as pop top canned soup and crackers.



Checks and cash may be placed in the offering plate marked for Mount of Olives. Any food items and diapers can be left at the church in the manger at any time. Many thanks for your participation in this very important ministry. Questions? Call Jan Peterson 480-659-7328.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTINUES



Although the Campbell's Soup Label Program has been discontinued, the "Box Tops for Education" program from General Mills is still valid, so please continue to bring those in and place them in the large Campbell's Soup can on the Welcome Table! They continue to provide valuable resources for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission and School.



POCKET PAL QUILT MINISTRY

Our quilting group's creative juices have been very busy this summer, a good activity when it is so hot out. Jon Loomis, our representative for Child Protective Services, picked up 49 more quilts last month. For those of you who are not familiar with our quilting project, let me explain... In 2012, we entered into sewing quilts for our Arizona's foster children which number over 20,000 children. We sew quilts of all sizes, using every scrap of material as the cost is high an average of \$30 per quilt. We sew a large pocket on with a velcro closure so they have somewhere to put their few belongings when moved from one place to another. Also, a name tag is sewn on the pocket where their name is written once they receive the quilt.

There are currently four Lutheran churches involved. The group to date has sewn and donated 2052 quilts. Ascension, Christ the Lord in Carefree, King of Glory in Tempe and Lord of Life in Sun City West. Your financial support is always needed and appreciated and should you have any material for children in good shape taking up space in your cupboard, we also welcome that. Our quilts always put a big smile on these sad and confused children, so... thank you for all your support.

Your Ascension devoted Pocket Pal Workers



OKTOBERFEST FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Mark your calendars- this year's Oktoberfest Fundraiser is Saturday, October 29.

This year, we'd like to get a head start on collecting donations for our biggest fund-raiser of the year. If you can help out in any way, we would greatly appreciate it.

Silent Auction - New items only please - gift certificates, gourmet foods/wines, children's baskets, something you've always wanted to see on the Auction tables, etc.

Balloon Pop - we'll be doing the Balloon Pop again so are looking for gift certificates and items of general interest (after all, anyone can buy a balloon) with a retail value of \$20 or more . . . we'd love to have at least 50 balloons this year as they sell so fast.

Basket Sponsors - if you've ever thought of donating a basket for the Silent Auction but aren't in town, hate to shop or just don't have the time . . . be a basket sponsor, either alone or with a friend! Donate a dollar amount of \$50.00 or more, pick a theme (or not) and the Auction Committee will put together a basket in your name.

Wine Wagon - this is similar to the Balloon Pop but limited to age 21+ - a mystery like the Balloons - for \$20 you pick a wrapped bottle of wine from the roaming wine wagon. We are asking for donations of your favorites (with a \$20+ retail value) - red or white, sparkling or not . . . we are hoping to have at least 75 bottles.

Donations can be brought to the church office during office hours, just put your name and the retail value on the Oktoberfest donation form. Deadline for accepting donations is Sunday, October 16.



ASCENSION ENDOWMENT FUND

"The Lord has set our feet on solid ground and has given us a firm foundation . . . many will see what the Lord has done and be astounded. They will put their trust in the Lord."

These words from the Psalms speak to both the invitation and purpose of the Ascension Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is a special invitation to you to participate in what God is doing among us. We at Ascension are committed to becoming a vital center for spiritual growth, family life, music and the arts. Through the gifts of generous people, lives will be transformed for the glory of God.

What is the Ascension Lutheran Endowment Fund?

The Endowment Fund consists of two funds which enable the further growth of our church, its ministries and stewardship opportunities.

VISION for MISSION FUND - for immediate needs of current ministries.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND -designed to provide long term income, for long term growth in perpetuity, beyond our lifetime.

Is giving to the Endowment Fund a part of our yearly pledge at Ascension?

No, the Endowment Fund exists separate and distinct from the annual operating budget of the Church, and is intended to serve the ministry of our congregation now and beyond our lifetimes. The Endowment Fund was established in January 2000 to receive and manage gifts and bequests for the perpetual support and enhancement of Ascension Lutheran Church and its congregational ministries.

How are the Endowment Fund's assets used?

The Endowment Fund assets are applied to the development and expansion of ministry programs that benefit our congregation directly, as well as capital improvement projects. No portion of the Endowment Fund assets may be used for the annual operating budget of the Church.

How do I Make a Gift to the Endowment Fund?

The Endowment Fund can receive many forms of gifts and bequests involving almost any type of asset. A few of the more common ways to give are:

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

1. **CASH** Gifts can be made in a lump sum payment at one time or in installments.
2. **STOCKS/BONDS and OTHER SECURITIES** Gifts of appreciated stocks and bonds (including U.S. Savings Bonds) often provide significant tax advantages for the donor.
3. **TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY** Gifts of saleable personal property could include artwork, jewelry and coin collections.
4. **REAL ESTATE** Gifts could include homes or remainder interests in real property.
5. **LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES** Donors may purchase a new policy or donate an existing policy or portion thereof with the Endowment Fund as owner or beneficiary.
6. **GRANTING A REMAINDER OR BENEFICIARY INTEREST** Retirement Plans, IRAs, 401(c)3 or Savings Accounts.
7. **CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST** Substantial gifts can be made to the Endowment Fund in trust and the donor receives annual cash payments from the trust assets.
8. **CHARITABLE ANNUITY** Donors can create an annuity to provide regular income payments through a sizable gift to the Endowment Fund.

GIFTS THROUGH A WILL OR TRUST

WILL You may make a gift to the Endowment Fund of any property through your will. This permits you to specify the nature of the extent of a gift that will be made upon your death. Without a will, the State will determine how your assets are distributed.

TRUST Through a trust you may give to the Endowment Fund during your lifetime or upon your death.

STEWARDSHIP FLEXIBILITY

Both wills and trusts can serve as a final opportunity for you to practice good stewardship of all that God has given you. Both wills and trusts allow you the flexibility of making SPECIFIC or RESIDUARY gifts.

SPECIFIC GIFTS: Any stated dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or a specific piece of property may be given.

RESIDUARY GIFTS: Any property residue remaining after your specific gifts are made.

All gifts (other than cash) are subject to acceptance by the Endowment Fund at its discretion. Cash [check] donations should be made to the Endowment Fund through the Church office. Any gift can be made by contacting any member of the pastoral staff.

Can I Designate How My Gift is Used? Yes, donors may indicate how their gifts to the Endowment Fund are to be used. The needs of the Church continually change, therefore, gifts will be deemed unrestricted as to use unless the donor instructs otherwise.

Gifts of any kind can be made in memory or in honor of someone.

Prospective donors to the Endowment Fund are encouraged to discuss their wishes with a member of the pastoral staff before making a final decision concerning any restrictions or designations that are to apply to a gift.

Are There Tax Advantages to Giving to the Endowment Fund?

Yes, advantages that donors enjoy may depend on the amount and nature of the gift. Donors are encouraged to consult with their accountant or tax advisor. Donors are also encouraged to consult their attorneys when preparing or amending their wills or estate plans.

"You must each make up your own minds as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."
2 Corinthians 9

FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS

It's time to renew your enrollment in Fry's Community Rewards program for 2016-2017!

Beginning August 1, supporters can enroll their Fry's V.I.P. Cards online at Fry's secure web site. Then starting September 1, 2016, every time an enrolled participant shops at Fry's using his or her Fry's V.I.P. Card, Ascension will earn rewards. In addition, once a household member enrolls his or her card, all linked Fry's V.I.P. Cards within that household will begin earning funds for Ascension. If you would like assistance in enrolling your V.I.P. card, please call the church office.



How to Re-Enroll for the Fry's Community Rewards Program

- *Go to www.FrysCommunityRewards.com
- *Click on 'Sign-In.'
- *Enter your email and password then click on 'sign in.'
- *Click on your name (top right hand corner), under 'Account Summary' scroll down to
- *Community Rewards
- *Under Find Your Organization: Enter Ascension Lutheran Church then select 'search'.
- *Under Select Your Organization: Click on the circle next to your organization.
- *Click on 'Enroll'

If you have re-enrolled correctly, you should see a green box with 'Your enrollment in the Community Rewards Program has been updated. Thank you for participating!' You will also see the information listed under 'Community Rewards' on your Account Summary page.

GOODSEARCH

Use Goodsearch to search the web and earn money for Ascension with every search! The GoodSearch toolbar makes it so easy to use– it also links your rebate to Ascension whenever you shop on the web at a participating retailer!



Click <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/ascension-lutheran-church-paradise-valley> to download this quick utility.

AMAZON SMILE REWARDS

Please support Ascension when you shop Amazon! Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know; same products, same prices, same service. Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Ascension Lutheran Church whenever you shop on Amazon Smile. Support Ascension by starting your shopping at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0148330>



THANK YOU FOR REGISTERING WITH ESCRIP



We appreciate your support in registering your credit and debit cards with the office to earn rebates for Ascension on your everyday purchases. This last month we received a check for purchases that our supporters made at Lamps Plus, Eddie's House, and 92nd St. Café. Don't forget to update the office if you get a new card. Ask the office or member of Romeo's for details about this program which has been benefitting Ascension for over 10 years now!

Register your credit and debit cards with the church office! Ascension earns corporate donations each and every time you shop at an eScrip merchant or dine at a Rewards Network restaurant– automatically!