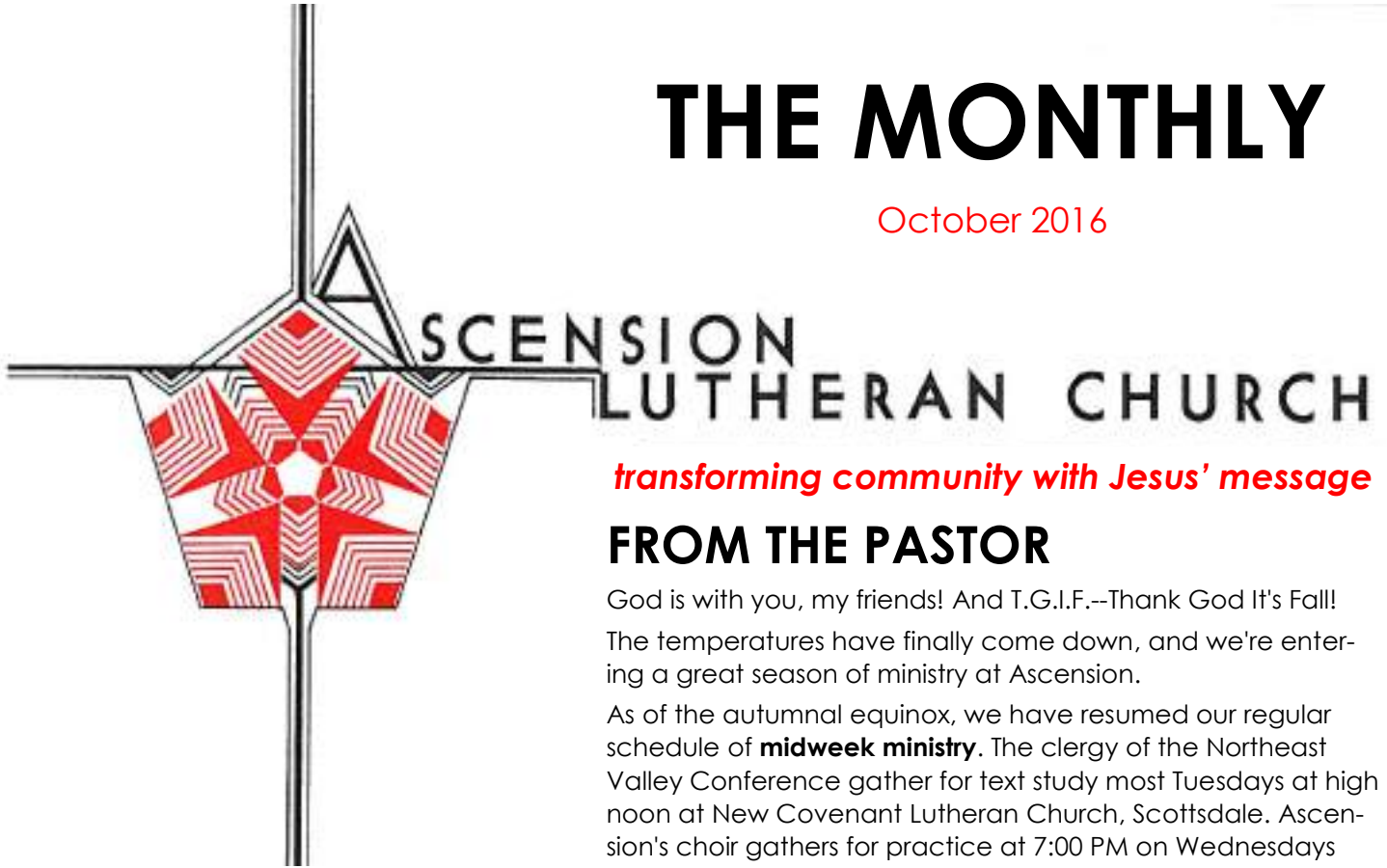


# THE MONTHLY

October 2016



*transforming community with Jesus' message*

## FROM THE PASTOR

God is with you, my friends! And T.G.I.F.--Thank God It's Fall!

The temperatures have finally come down, and we're entering a great season of ministry at Ascension.

As of the autumnal equinox, we have resumed our regular schedule of **midweek ministry**. The clergy of the Northeast Valley Conference gather for text study most Tuesdays at high noon at New Covenant Lutheran Church, Scottsdale. Ascension's choir gathers for practice at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays and warm-up at 9:00 AM on Sundays in the choir loft. And we gather to consider the coming Sunday's texts in Bible study most Thursdays at 9:30 AM in the basement. This is in addition to Pocket Pal Quilting on Thursday mornings in the basement, and the ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) luncheon on Fridays at 10:45 AM at Mimi's on Shea.

Sundays are *always* special at Ascension, of course, but we have a few **extra special Sundays** this season. October 2 is St. Francis Sunday, when we will be blessing our animals during the 10:00 AM service. October 30 is Reformation Sunday, when we celebrate the heritage of grace. And November 6 is All Saints Sunday, when we will be remembering the dearly departed. Please remember to submit photos of your saints to the office for inclusion in the All Saints slideshow by Reformation Sunday.

And what would fall at Ascension be without our annual Oktoberfest? **Oktoberfest** is like a block party for the community, a homecoming for Ascension's congregation, our most important fundraiser, and a beer garden--all wrapped up into one amazing event. And this year, our Oktoberfest is actually in October! Please visit the sign-up table in the narthex for more information about how you can help to make this event a successful one. And pretty please invite your friends, family members, neighbors, classmates, and co-workers to join us on the evening of Saturday, October 29, in our beautiful garden. Offer to buy their tickets for them if that's what it takes to get them to join us!

Thank you all for your partnership in the mission and ministry of Jesus!

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*

7100 N. Mockingbird Ln. ♦ Paradise Valley, AZ ♦ 85253  
[www.ascensionparadisevalley.org](http://www.ascensionparadisevalley.org) ♦ 480-948-6050



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# FROM THE DEACON'S STUDY

This has been a very exciting month and one in which Ascension folks should take great pride.



On September 1, months of planning came together for our three Abrahamic faith congregations: Ascension Lutheran, Temple Solel, and the Islamic Center of the East Valley, as we welcomed our young **Syrian refugee family**. At a time when the rhetoric of fear and xenophobia seems to take headlines, their arrival signaled our united faith groups voice of care and compassion toward the stranger making our own headlines of welcome.

It is my hope that as we as a congregation, learn more about our diverse neighbors, about their stories, and about

the rigorous scrutiny of U.S security vetting for refugees, our common humanity and love of God will shine through. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/11/20/infographic-screening-process-refugee-entry-united-states>



On September 11, **God's Hands Our Work Day** came together in colorful and tasty way as a group of Ascension folks decorated the tables at our two Paradise Valley Fire Stations with posters, flowers, balloons, and a fabulous brunch menu of food prepared under the guidance of our chief chefs (Pat Stump and Mary Newton). In addition, two huge thank you cards were made by our Sunday school kids. Other members who wanted to contribute to our thanks, wrote personal cards and letters.

The brunch was to show our appreciation to all fire/police/EMTs/ first responders in Paradise Valley—the very ones who rescue us off mountains, put out fires, and

keep our neighborhood safe 24/7. Their faces tell you what a joy it was for all involved.

**NEW IN 2016—DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT** with the AZ Charitable Tax Credit—you can cut your taxes by \$800 and help others thrive.

Here's how it works:

- 1 Choose a qualifying nonprofit** (Such as Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest)
- 2 Donate up to \$800 for couples** or \$400 for individuals.
- 3 Fill out form 321 when you file your taxes.**
- 4 Receive a dollar-for-dollar credit of up to \$800 or \$400!**

You can help LSS-SW reach their goal of raising \$40,000 by the end of the year. Your tax credit gift builds strength so that families can thrive. Thank you.



As many of you know, Ascension is a supporter of **Homeless I.D. Project**. Our own Jim Skaggs is an ex-Board member who brought their work to our attention. The following was presented as an update from them: AUGUST, BEST MONTH IN 2016!! With summer coming to a close, we would like to celebrate the success of everyone that has participated in our cause and taken advantage of our services in providing the Homeless with proper identification.

We have helped over 700 hundred people including families and Veteran's in August, making it the most successful month in 2016...so far. We hope to surpass that number in the month of September. Our outreach is ever growing and we are now at Circle the City's Parson's Family Health Center every week, an organization that helps provide medical services for those experiencing homelessness. We are always looking for new ways to help bridge our resources to the community and reach those in need. We are continuing to help our clients achieve their goal of obtaining their IDs and birth certificates, as well as providing a safe place for them to be stored.

# OCTOBER SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

## Hi Ascension Kids and Families,

Sunday school has gotten off to a great start! August and September were packed with great Bible stories and engaging activities. We learned a lot about how God's people care for others. For our 9-11 Sunday, the children made these wonderful hand-painted cards for the local Fire and Police stations. It was our way to say we care, and to thank you for all they do to help and keep us safe.

October begins another busy month learning about how God's people help others. Remember, everyone is welcome. So feel free to bring your friends and join us for this exciting, fun & faith-filled program. Sunday school meets each Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Service. We look forward to seeing you!

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

### October Themes:

October 2 – Pet Blessing Sunday  
(Bring your pets to church)

October 9 – The Thankful Leper

October 16 – The Pharisee & Tax

October 23 – The Pharisee and the  
Tax Collector

October 30 - Reformation



## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2



It's "bring your pet to church" Sunday! October 2nd! Join us during the 10:00 AM worship service as pets receive a blessing and enjoy the opportunity to observe and meet other species in a safe environment with their owners close at hand.



This celebration kicks off a month-long drive for pet food to provide clients of Luminaria Home Care the opportunity to keep their beloved pets. Luminaria provides assistance for seniors and persons with disabilities to promote dignity, quality of life and independence. Any kind of cat and dog food will be welcome. The good folks at Luminaria will make sure it gets appropriately distributed.



# OKTOBERFEST FUNDRAISER

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

We need HELP to make Ascension's biggest fundraiser of the year a huge success! Please tell us how YOU would like to participate!

**Silent Auction** – We desperately need items to fill our Gift Baskets! New items from a favorite store; Sport Tickets (Cardinals, ASU, Diamondbacks, Coyotes); Gift Cards from favorite restaurants; Anything YOU would like to receive in a basket. Be creative! Please bring items to Church Office by October 16. We'll combine your item with others to make a fabulous basket!

**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. Just write "Basket" on your check.

**Balloon Pop** - We'll be doing the Balloon Pop again and are looking for smaller gift certificates and items of general interest (anyone can buy a balloon) with a retail value of \$20 or more. We'd love to sell at least 50 balloons this year. And one will have a GRAND PRIZE!

**Wine Raffle** - For \$20 our Oktoberfest guests over 21 can choose a beautifully hand-decorated box containing a "mystery" bottle of wine from 75 donated bottles. However, to fill these 75 boxes, we need folks to DONATE bottles of wine, each valued at \$20 or more. (We'd love to have some more expensive bottles!) Red or white – sparkling or not. No time to shop for wine? If you can make a \$\$ contribution, we'll do the wine shopping for you! Just write "Wine" on your check.

All Donations can be brought to the Church Office during regular hours. Just put *your name and the donation value* on the Oktoberfest Donation Form. **Questions?** Contact Mary Kolbe 602-989-5522 [marykolbe@aol.com](mailto:marykolbe@aol.com) or Jim Geldien 480-874-9246 [jamofmaui@gmail.com](mailto:jamofmaui@gmail.com)

**Live auction** - You don't want to miss the Live Auction. Once again we are offering, two fantastic trips. One week in lovely Kahana, Maui, Hawaii. This fabulous condo is a two-bedroom, two-bath condo, smack on the beach, overlooking the islands of Lanai and Molokai. Only minutes from Lahaina Town, Kaaanaapali Beach and Kapulua. Direct flights from Phoenix, only six hours.

Love Rocky Point, Mexico? This is a deluxe oceanfront two-bedroom, two-bath condo on the shores of the Sea of Cortez. Imagine being lulled to sleep with the gently waves of the sea. Check out Las Palomas on line and you will fall in love. It is only a four hour drive from Phoenix and a mere 60 miles over the US border.



# COFFEE CONNECTION



**FEATURING IN OCTOBER-**

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

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

**1st and 3rd Sundays - October 2nd & 16th**



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



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.

## LOOK AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS...

**AT THE NORTHEAST VALLEY WOMEN OF THE ELCA ONE-DAY RETREAT**

**Saturday, October 15, 2016**

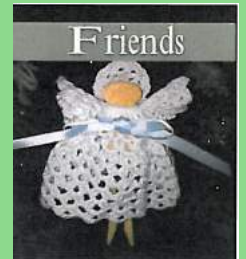
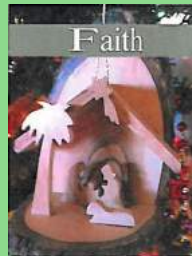
9:30 am to 3:30 pm

(Registration/continental breakfast 8:30-9:30)

Resurrection Lutheran Church

4930 E. Greenway Rd., Scottsdale

\$20 registration includes continental breakfast, lunch and program materials



**Now That Was An Awesome Christmas!!**

Join women from across the Northeast Valley for a retreat experience focusing on making this Christmas awesome! There will be time for fellowship, music, inspiration, contemplation, prayer and worship. Bring a friend and plan to make new ones. We'll have an awesome day together and leave motivated to look ahead to Christmas.

## 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](mailto: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



# ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE

Progress on the installation of the antiphonal is now becoming evident, as work moves from behind-the-scenes to being visible in the east balcony.

The frame, blower, bellows, windchest, pipe racks, and pipes are now in place, creating a striking visual display. The next step will be to connect the relays which control the mechanisms that feed air into the pipes.



Floor footprint showing electrical prep



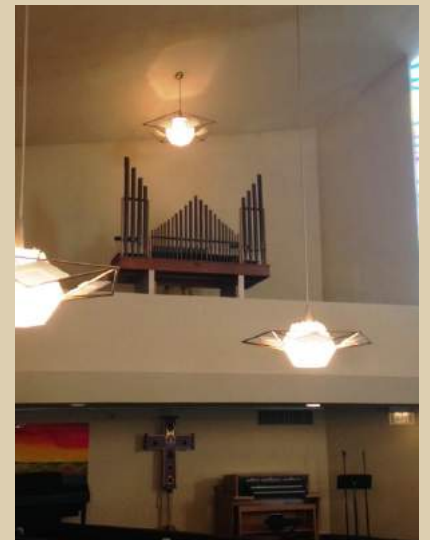
Blower and bellows placement



Chest placement



Pipe racks being erected and pipes placed



Keep spreading the word on this exciting project- your donations have made it possible to proceed with the installation of the antiphonal organ which was originally in Phase III!

Click here for more photos showing progress of the restoration:

<http://www.ascensionparadisevalley.org/gallery3/index.php/Organ-Renovation-Project/Renovation-process-2014>

Click here for more information on the project:

<http://www.ascensionparadisevalley.org/Organ%20restoration.htm>



[www.facebook.com/AscensionOrganRestoration](http://www.facebook.com/AscensionOrganRestoration)



@ascensionorgan

## NEWS FROM DUET



### A Duet Takes Two

Eighty-five-year-old Evelyn has found compassion, dignity, and hope through her Duet volunteer. After her husband's passing, she reached out for friendly visits. "My volunteer, Pam, is not only my friend, she's like a family member." They enjoy regular visits and games of Scrabble. Many more isolated elders are waiting for visits or other help such as grocery shopping or rides to appointments. To become part of a 'duet of service', call 602-274-5022 or visit [www.duetaz.org](http://www.duetaz.org). Simply attend one 2 ½ hour orientation to begin. Our congregation is part of this vibrant network of care. Thank you!



Duet "neighbor" Evelyn

### Get Prepared and Financially Fit

Gain useful information at a free-of-charge seminar offered by Duet on Saturday, October 22 from 8:30 – noon, followed by lunch. Topics include: How to Prevent Identity Theft; Medicare Update; Insurance Coverage - Too Much? Too Little?; Wills and Trusts; and Practical Steps to Take After Your Loved One Passes Away. The no-solicitation seminar takes place at Duet, 555 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021. RSVP by October 14 at (602) 274-5022.

### Help for Family Caregivers

Duet cordially invites you to attend their Caregiver Symposium: How to Find Hope While Coping with Stress and Grief, on October 6. A session for family caregivers will take place from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (includes lunch) and a session for professionals and students takes place from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Duet, 555 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix. Each session is only \$20. Register by 9/29 at [www.duetaz.org](http://www.duetaz.org) or (602) 274-5022.

Do you have an occasional hour or two to spare? Become a Duet volunteer and make the most of your moments! Choose from providing rides to medical appointments, to being a visitor, grocery shopper, computer trainer, handyman, or paperwork helper for an isolated elder. You could even provide a breather for a family caregiver who needs a break. To begin, simply sign up for a volunteer orientation at [www.duetaz.org](http://www.duetaz.org) or 602-274-5022. Thank you!

## 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



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 BoxTops can on the Welcome Table! They continue to provide valuable resources for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission and School.



## FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS

Ascension supporters can enroll their Fry's V.I.P. Cards online at Fry's secure web site. Then, 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](http://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>



## eSCRIP DINING REWARDS

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



Don't leave contributions on the table

Add your new credit or debit cards to your account to ensure you're not missing out when you dine.

[UPDATE YOUR CARDS](#)

We appreciate your support in registering your credit and debit cards with the office to earn rebates for Ascension on your everyday purchases. Recently we received a check for purchases that our supporters made at Lamps Plus, Eddie's House, and 92<sup>nd</sup> 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! <http://escrip.rewardsnetwork.com/>

To make sure you earn contributions at every available opportunity, please take a moment to verify that all your payment cards are registered with eScrip Dining. This includes not just credit cards, but also debit cards, and in many cases check cards, ATM cards and even gift cards. As long as your card has an American Express®, Visa®, MasterCard® or Discover® logo, it can be registered to earn contributions.