

THE MONTHLY

September 2016



transforming community with Jesus' message

FROM THE PASTOR

God is with you all!

Over the course of the summer, I've had a few people ask me, "**What's the latest on the building?**" Since at least June of 2015, our congregation's leadership has been prayerfully discerning how best to steward our building and property for the long term. Should we build a small, flexible facility on our property? Should we repair or renovate our current facility? Should we somehow do both? We know we have to do something, or the facility as it is will likely be too expensive to operate and repair in the future.

Our Council leadership and staff have been investing time and energy this summer in collecting the kind of information that will be helpful to the congregation in making these decisions. We have met with a reputable contractor with lots of experience in building and remodeling churches in metro Phoenix. This contractor has connected us directly to various subcontractors in order to chase down some realistic numbers for various projects. By securing these numbers, we are hoping to put the congregation in a position **to compare apples to proverbial apples**. Could we invest minimal money in our current facility and prepare it for another fifty years of service? Or would that project be so expensive that it would be wiser to invest in something new?

We have members and friends who love our facility, and may be willing and able to financially support its renovation to the extent that such a project becomes feasible. I know that we also have some folks who have sworn to me that they will not invest another dollar in the building. Quite frankly, our path will become clearer when we get a sense of **which direction is able to inspire people to contribute** to the project.

I'm extremely hopeful that later this fall we will be able to **host a town hall** following worship some Sunday to present those "apples to apples." This will not be a formal congregational meeting, *i.e.*, we won't be voting on anything at that time. It will be an opportunity to get our heads around some real numbers and begin to get a sense of our capacity for various projects. We haven't selected a date yet for the town hall, but when we do, we will make sure to give y'all plenty of notice.

In the meantime, please join me in praying for the guidance of the Spirit of Jesus in this important matter!

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



**God's work.
Our hands.**

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 PAR-

TICIPATE? 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 prayers and appreciation.



ELCA Churchwide Assembly key actions

Two familiar faces in the front row—working on behalf of all at Ascension

Voting members of the ELCA approved a number of key actions during the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans Aug. 8 -13. The 945 voting members elected William B. Horne II of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Clearwater, Fla. vice president of the ELCA. They voted to accept "Declaration on the Way," a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans. The voting members approved AMMPARO – the ELCA's strategy for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. The assembly also voted to unify the three lay rosters into one Ministry of Word and Service roster.

[Learn more and read about additional actions taken by the highest governing body of the ELCA.](#)



Abraham's Tent Collaboration preparing for refugee family



FROM THE DEACON'S STUDY (continued)

Abraham's Tent Collaboration meets family at the airport

After being delayed for a month, we finally got to meet our Syrian family and accompany them to their completely furnished apartment in Mesa and to serve them their first meal. Welcoming the stranger now among us has been a blessing to all of us. We look forward to learning more about them, helping with language learning and culture learning for them.

[Click here for the newspaper article!](#)

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2016/08/31/3-phoenix-area-faith-groups-collaborate-welcome-1-syrian-refugee-family-ascension-lutheran-temple-solel-islamic-center-east-valley-refugee-focus/89659068/>



SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

ASCENSION KIDS:

You are invited to come and explore God's Word through awesome Bible stories, music, crafts, games and more! Each Sunday, you will hear about how God's people care, trust, believe and listen. You will also learn, as young disciples, how we can share God's love with others!

Our fun-filled Sunday school begins with all children (ages 3-12 yrs.) and their Sunday school teachers gathering together upstairs at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

After the opening song and prayers, we will make our way downstairs to the Sunday school area to hear a Bible story and enjoy a variety of faith-building activities.

Remember, everyone is welcome! So, please join us. You are sure to make new friends and discover God's love in fun, faith-filled ways!

Blessings,

Judy Lenz & the Sunday School Staff

SEPTEMBER THEMES

September 4 A Rich Man's Question

**September 11 Parable of the Lost Sheep
(God's Work, Our Hands Sunday)**

September 18 Serving Two Masters

September 25 The Rich Man and Lazarus



NEWS FROM DUET



Are You a Family Caregiver?

Family members often don't consider themselves to be "caregivers" when they have responsibilities for aging loved ones, and thus don't seek help. Yet – receiving guidance and support can help them better care for their loved ones AND themselves. Are you a caregiver, or do you know someone who is?

If so, Duet cordially invites you to attend their **Caregiver Symposium: How to Find Hope While Coping with Stress and Grief**, on October 6. Renowned researcher, author, and psychologist

Dr. Pauline Boss will share proven techniques for coping with the losses of caregiving and reclaiming hope amidst grief. 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. To register, visit www.duetaz.org or call (602) 274-5022.

Meaningful Moments

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 or 602-274-5022. Thank you!

COFFEE CONNECTION



FEATURING IN SEPTEMBER—

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

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

1st and 3rd Sundays – September 4th & 18th



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

THANK YOU FROM THE MEYERS

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for always being there! We were hoping to come up with something much more eloquent to say in order to express our gratitude, but that phrase kept coming to mind. Your financial gift for Gabe's successful eye surgeries this summer has taken a tremendous burden off our family. When we communicated with Pastor Ryan about what was truly happening in our family because of medical expenses, *rivers began flowing*. As the metaphor suggests, changes took place that were not like anything we've experienced before.

The heart-felt organization of the fund-raising Brunch by the Boomers was beyond what we could imagine. Affirming to us what we've long known: those ladies know how to get things done with pure Grace in their hearts. We have continually felt beyond- blessed in our lives by having an intuitive and action-oriented Spiritual Guide in Pastor Ryan. Deacon Jayne's constant spiritual care and support has encouraged and sustained us throughout our journey.

Now, to our entire Congregation - you have inspired us to become greater servants ourselves through your generosity and love.

Blessings to All,

Craig, Sharon, and Gabe Meyer

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



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.



10 PHASES QIGONG* with Rev. Deanne Hodgson, RN

MONDAY EVENINGS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 12, 19, 26; OCTOBER 3, 10

\$75 for the series or \$20/session

Whether your focus is on healing yourself, helping others, maximizing your intuition and creativity, or experiencing inner peace, this series will benefit you. Using simple and powerful tools rooted in ancient tradition, you'll learn how to remove stress, cultivate healing energy and transmit that energy in every day situations. It can be done seated or standing. Wear comfortable clothing.

"Everything you need to know is within you. Listen. Feel. Trust your body's wisdom. Respond freshly to each moment." ~Deanne Hodgson

*Qigong (cheegong) is a health enhancement system which empowers and honors the natural healing capabilities of the human body, mind and spirit.

You can register by contacting Deanne at 602-538-9237 or deannehodgson@gmail.com



HEALTH NOTES- IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

A simple card could **SAVE YOUR LIFE**

Due to several recent urgent medical events during worship, the urgent team asks that you have on your person (wallet or purse) at all times:

A list of your prescription medications and dosages that you regularly take

A list of your significant health conditions such as:

- heart disease
- COPD
- diabetes
- renal failure (dialysis)

It is suggested that you use a **colored index card or colored paper** than can be found very rapidly. Please keep this list **updated** or it will not be of any use.

If you have any urgent/emergent medical event, this list may actually save your life as the emergency personnel will be able to respond appropriately and quickly.

EMERGENCY TEAM

On Sunday, August 28, our urgent response team met and learned more about our AED system. Dr. Floyd Shewmake will be arranging first aide and basic life support certification for adults in the next weeks. The cost is \$25 each. More information to follow.

LOOK AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS...

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

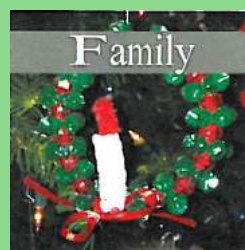
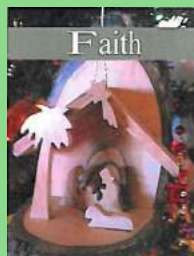
Saturday, October 15, 2016

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

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. Watch for bulletin insert in mid-September

ASCENSION BOOMERS

The Boomers Women of Ascension was established to bring together like-minded women at similar age and stage of life to provide outlets for social, stewardship and support. We are getting ready for our fall events, so if you are interested, please contact Dawn Jeffers at jeffersdm@hotmail.com or 480-824-8207 for additional information and to reserve your spot.

If you have not joined us yet, you are cordially invited. This group enjoys lively conversation and discussion that builds community while connecting us by faith.

YOUNG ADULT IN GLOBAL MISSION

Erin La Haye - Mission in Action

Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive of Erin as she announced her plans to become a missionary through the Young Adult Global Mission project of the ELCA. She has arrived in London and is about to begin her year-long adventure. We ask for your continued prayers during her service there.

If you are interested in reaching her the contact information is:

Church of Christ Parish Office

Attn: Erin LaHaye

90 Brixton Rd

London, UK SW9 68E

EUROPE



She will also be writing a monthly newsletter so if you are interested in getting on that mailing list you can contact her at erin.lahaye@hotmail.com

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.



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!

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 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! <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.



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

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>



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