

THE MONTHLY

February 2017



transforming community with Jesus' message

FROM THE PASTOR

God is with you all!

This is the time of year when the attendance at our 10:00 AM celebration of Holy Communion is at its highest. When there are around 250 people at a single service, that poses some awesome challenges for our spiritual village. For example, we have to be extra vigilant that the many guests who are in town for the season's special events don't fall through the cracks! We want everyone whom Jesus gathers into Ascension's assembly to feel that indeed *the Lord welcomes everyone*. That's our congregation's second guiding principle.

If you see someone standing or sitting next to you whom you do not recognize, please greet them warmly! Always introduce yourself to her or him first, and *then* ask for her or his name. Generally, I try to discourage you from asking the question, "Is this your first time at Ascension?" Remember, because of the seasonality of our congregation, that person may have been attending worship at Ascension longer than you have! Instead, I encourage you to ask our guests, "How long have you been coming to Ascension?"

If it is a guest's first time at Ascension, take some extra time to visit with him before and after worship. Invite her to share coffee with you in the narthex (lobby) after worship. Give them one of our congregation's welcome packets, available at the welcome table. Take some time to make a few introductions to your fellow Ascensionites. If the person turns out to be an Ascensionite that you just haven't met before and she doesn't have one of our nice name tags, maybe you can direct that person to a name tag form. And please, please, please, help Deacon Jayne and me to get to know the guests that Jesus has entrusted to your care.

We like to think of ourselves as a very friendly congregation, and many of our guests confirm that sense of ourselves. So, I know that much of the preceding comes to you naturally and/or by God's grace! I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that hospitality is a team effort. Let's live up to our sense of ourselves this busy season! And thank you for being a part of Jesus' family business of grace!

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

CELEBRATING SERVANTHOOD AT ASCENSION:

Ascension was blessed with the privilege of praying and sending out into the larger world three members of our congregation: in the month of January

The week of January 22—Roy Gust left for his fifth mission trip to Haiti with Pastor Luc's Harmony Ministry team. He was presented with a surprise gift of \$2,170 from the congregation to support his work there in Haiti.

The week of January 29— Jim and Donna Skaggs departed for their first trip with other Grand Canyon Synod members to very far away country of Senegal.

Our prayers go with them as they represent everything that is good working within our spiritual village.

FUN FRIDAY FOOD TRUCKS ARE BACK

Friday, February 10 from 5:30-8:30

Fun for the whole community!!! Bring your friends, family and neighbors!! Dine in our garden or playground. Grab a table or bring a picnic blanket. Kids will enjoy Angry Bird game and Playground.

BYOB or drinks for purchase from the food trucks. Bistro on Wheels is back and our new truck this month will be United Lunchadores for delicious dining!



RALLY IN THE VALLEY

It's time for Rally in the Valley 2017 the premier Lutheran Seniors Gathering in the ELCA. The theme is "**By Grace - Through Faith - A Gift of God — What Does This Mean Today?**"

It all begins Monday morning, February 20, 2017 and continues until Tuesday afternoon February 21, 2017, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Phoenix.

The Rev. Dr. David Lose, President of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and **Dr. Martha Stortz**, Bernhard M. Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation, Augsburg College, Minneapolis. Joining them will be **Dr. Michael Burkhardt**, Cantor and Director of Musical Arts at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Livonia, Michigan. Together they will weave the great themes of scripture and history as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation 1517-2017. We are inviting seniors to bring their Bibles and be prepared to engage in conversation, prayer, worship, and discernment. Registration forms and group rate information is available in the church office or online at www.rallyinthevalleyaz.org.



By Grace -Through Faith
A Gift of God
What does this mean Today?
Rally in the Valley 2017

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Hi Ascension Kids and Families,

The Sunday school staff was very excited to see our children's program off to such a great start in January. We are so happy that families are pleased with the format, and we are looking forward to another wonderful year serving and growing the children's ministry here at Ascension.

In February, Sunday school will continue with the gospel stories of the Epiphany season, and end the month with the beginning of the Lenten season. So come and join us as we will listen to some wondrous Bible stories and learn about how we can share Jesus' love and be His light in the world. Remember, everyone is welcome. So feel free to bring your friends and join us for our faith-filled Sunday school 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

February Themes:

February 5 – Let Your Light Shine

February 12– Forgiving and Forgiven

February 19 –Love Your Enemies

February 26– On the Mountain Top with Jesus



PHOENIX ARTISTS GUILD EXHIBIT

FINE ART EXHIBIT AT ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN PARADISE VALLEY

The Phoenix Artists Guild is presenting a wide array of beautiful original fine artwork in the sanctuary of Ascension Lutheran Church through February 5. The Phoenix Artists Guild is a member of the Arizona Art Alliance; most of the guild members are juried members of the Alliance. The 68 Guild members display their original fine art works in exhibits, galleries, and other venues throughout the Valley. For more information about the Phoenix Artists Guild, visit www.phoenixartistsguild.com.

Among the artists exhibiting: Dr. Carl Hoelle, Jeannette Sprague, and Elaine Waters.



COFFEE CONNECTION



FEATURING IN FEBRUARY-

ORGANIC DARK CHOCOLATE HEARTS

ORGANIC WHOLE BEAN COFFEES – French Roast & Breakfast Blend

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

1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays – February 5th, 12th and 19th



Remember your Valentine and special people in your life with festively boxed ORGANIC DARK CHOCOLATE HEARTS and VALENTINE GIFT BAGS. Also available, packaged organic coffees. Fair Trade sales help support Lutheran World Relief Coffee and Chocolate Project farmers globally and \$3 of every purchase helps provide diabetic supplies locally to Mission of Mercy Mobile Medical Clinic. GIFT BAG sales help support Ascension's POCKET PAL ministry for AZ foster care children. Stop by the display at



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.



the back of the sanctuary on February 5th, 12th and 19th to make your purchase(s). For more information about LWR Fair Trade, click

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

NEWS FROM DUET



More Than One

Our congregation is part of Duet - a cause that weaves the efforts of hundreds of individuals into a beautiful tapestry of care. Please consider becoming a Duet volunteer. You will be matched with an isolated elder or adult with disabilities who longs for a visitor, or a volunteer to help with grocery shopping or another simple task. By becoming part of a "duet of service", you will absolutely know that you are making a difference!

Call 602-274-5022 or visit www.duetaz.org to RSVP for an upcoming volunteer orientation or to request help. Thank you!

Grand Opportunities for Grandfamilies

Duet offers a wide range of free help for grandparents and the children they are raising, including respite, personalized guidance, and support groups. Additional opportunities in February and March include a guardianship clinic, family picnic, zoo excursion, and workshop regarding children of incarcerated parents. Call Duet at 602-274-5022 or visit www.duetaz.org to learn more.

Will Your Will Be Known?

A will can give final voice to your values and wishes. Learn about the importance and legal aspects of having a will by attending a free presentation offered by Duet's Professional Advisory Committee, including attorneys Lynn Anderson and Nat Nিকে. RSVP to Duet at (602) 274-5022; please indicate your preferred date.

- Saturday, March 4th, 10:30 AM-noon; Peace Lutheran Church, 18265 N. 89th Ave Peoria, AZ 85382
- Thursday, March 9th, 3:30 – 5:00 PM, Duet, 555 W. Glendale Ave Phoenix, AZ 85021
- Saturday March 11th, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, 6261 N. Granite Reef Rd Scottsdale, AZ 85280

ASCENSION RECYCLING FOR CASH

Donations of used **printer cartridges, cell phones, digital cameras, GPS devices, iPods** and **laptops** not only earns money for Ascension but keeps our environment clean. Collect items from home, businesses, family, and friends and bring them in to the church office. Help teach our children how to become a hero and **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**.



ASH WEDNESDAY March 1, 2017

March 1 is **Ash Wednesday** this year. Deacon Jayne and Pastor Ryan will be distributing ashes again down at the **Scottsdale Waterfront** during and around the lunch hour. Come visit us if you'd like! Ascension's **sanctuary service** on Ash Wednesday is at **7:30 PM**. This service is a non-Communion service, and includes the receiving of ashes on the forehead.



ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE

Antiphonal Organ installation, 2017

This year Richard Hurley and Michael O'Sullivan are continuing with the construction of the Antiphonal Organ. The original 4½ rank antiphonal organ is being augmented by two ranks: 1) the relocated Krummhorn rank from the Choir division of the Gallery organ, which had been replaced during the Gallery organ restoration by a Clarinet rank procured from a Möller organ in New Jersey, and 2) a Flute Celeste rank, procured from a Möller organ in Philadelphia.

Electrical preparation work has been completed and installation of the pipework and chests has begun. They are working on the physical connection of the Antiphonal Organ to the console located on the main level of the Sanctuary which will not only control the Antiphonal Organ but also have the capability of playing resources of the Gallery Organ. The Gallery organ will of course also have the ability to use the resources of the Antiphonal Organ.

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



@ascensionorgan



Constructing the piperacks for the re-purposed Krummhorn rank from the Gallery organ

WINTER POTLUCK PHOTOS

Our winter potluck on Sunday January 15 was a culinary delight!



FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS

If you shop at Fry's, be sure to enroll in Fry's Community Rewards program! By registering your Fry's V.I.P. Cards online at Fry's secure web site www.FrysCommunityRewards.com. Once registered, 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>



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!