CONNECTIONS

Ascension Lutheran Church

July, 2018

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

July 4th	Independence Day! Church office closed.
July 8th	Fellowship BBQ Picnic/Sandwich Making
July 10	ALCW Combined Luncheon

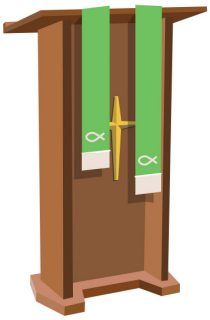
Communion Worship every Sunday-9:30 AM.
Education—10:45 (resumes in September)
www.ascensionlutheran.com

Hearing Devices and Large Print Bulletins are available—ask an usher for assistance.

<u>THE LORD'S PRAYER … Confirmation 2017-2018 Version</u>

(We teach the Lord's Prayer as an outline for all our praying. What follows is the result of our group's meditation and reflection on these topics for prayer.)

Almighty Father, earth creator, mystery…
Your sacred name is honored and respected.
Show your influence and goodness.
Put the world right.
Bring Heaven to us and your realm to the universe as you see fit.
Help us to meet our daily needs, not wants.
Bring your gifts … provide for us … bless us for life.
Forgive us our actions and betrayals.
We forgive those that are against us, disrespect us and hurt us.
Lead us in the right direction, away from evil and greed, and away from harm.
Let this be your realm – your kingdom which holds power and glory.
Now and always.
Amen. Yes, yes, yes.



Vitality Survey: Report #4
Pastor Doug Vold

Each month I've been writing about our Vitality Survey results, one subject area at a time. There will be six altogether. Our subject area this time is leadership, which refers both to the pastor and to the congregation's lay leadership. The central question concerns leadership style, and the answers break down like this: "Take charge" – 17. "Inspires people to action" – 51. "Acts on goals others set" – 57. "People start most things" – 2. "Not sure" – 34. This has to do with where ideas come from and how things happen around Ascension.

As you can see by the numbers, most of our responses fall into the middle groups. There is give and take between leadership and people. Ideas flow in both directions, so to speak. And that seem like a good thing. Some people sense a real take charge attitude, which could be an expression of confidence in leadership, (we have things well in hand) or could indicate they have experienced some power and control behavior.

There is a large number of "not sure," and that would be a concern to survey results analysts. Why are people not sure? Is there a lack of clear vision? Are people confused about what is happening? It is possible that some of us don't know what to make of the "collaborative style" we are trying to develop; they are more used to leadership simply running things. It is also possible that there are folks who are not sure because, beyond worship, they have little experience with what goes on.

When asked to respond to this: "People here are willing to serve in leadership roles;" we overwhelmingly said "agree" or "strongly agree." This was a bit of a surprise to our church council and other leaders, who have often had a different impression. It has not always been clear that there are so many who are willing to serve. Or, perhaps, because we do eventually find people to serve in most leadership roles, everything seems covered.

My sense is that we can do better in the whole area of people being engaged and involved beyond Sunday worship. This is another version of the "too few doing too much" phenomenon which we have talked about before. One approach to addressing this is to focus on getting more people interested in our committees and their ministry. For example, we are having a ministry fair on Consecration Sunday this fall. Also in this vein, it's possible that some of our long-established leaders might need to consider new ways of serving, so as to create new leadership openings.

In addition, there is a broader leadership question asked in our survey results document, and it might involve re-framing how we look at this. "How does leadership identify where the energy lies in the congregation?" Good question, right? "Research suggest that people are more willing to lead when they can do things they are interested in rather than fill slots for the congregation." How might we better find this out? What do we learn when we ask where the energy lies? These will be things we'll be looking at as we move into our future.

Congregations that are vital will sometimes change, not only what we do, but also how we get things done, and how we decide what we are going to do, or not do anymore, going forward. That's part of being real and alive. It's exciting to be always a work in progress, and it's always good to welcome new folks into the conversation and into leadership. Thanks for thinking about these things. And thanks for being part of Christ's church in this particular time and place.

COMMITTEE CHAIR/COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 31 AT 7pm

Representatives from each committee and available council members will meet Tuesday, July 31 at 7:00pm. God's Work, Our Hands Sunday (Sept. 9) and the Consecration Sunday Ministry Fair (October 21) are on the agenda. *This is the only meeting of committee chairs before these events. Please have someone from your committee present.*

Puzzle!

Unscramble these biblical words and phrases, which all have something in common. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below.

1. eivn _ _ ◯ _
2. illy fo het elavyl
   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ◯ _ _ _ _
3. albm fo dgo _ _ ◯ _ _ _ _ _ _
4. estmra _ _ _ _ ◯ _
5. sseju _ _ ◯ _ _
6. okrc _ ◯ _ _
7. rdbae fo fiel
   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ◯ _
8. htlgi fo eth dwlro
   _ _ ◯ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
9. voasir _ _ _ _ ◯ _
10. dorl _ _ _ ◯
11. ishcrt _ _ _ _ ◯ _
12. ehsprdeh ◯ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
13. teh dowr _ _ _ _ ◯ _ _
14. rncpie fo cepae
    _ _ _ ◯ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

What do these have in common?

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ’ _ _ _ _

Answer: Names of God’s Son

VBS is coming very soon!
Aug. 6-10, 9am till Noon

There is still plenty of space on this wild river ride for ALL kids, kindergarten through 5th Grade!

If you haven't registered, go to Ascension's website for a link or to:
rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/ascensionlutheranmedford

Adult Volunteers are needed to provide a lunch for a day for our Youth Counselors!

Ascension provides afternoon programming for the youth counselors that are volunteering in the morning with our VBS children. The program varies from year to year. This year the youth will be working on a service project, with hands-on learning, and reaching out to folks that are experiencing homelessness.

We need lunches for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.
This could be for a half dozen to a dozen kids, depending on the day.

Call Susan at 541-773-3594 or contact by email at susan@ascensionlutheran.com.

Are you in need of a new or replacement name tag? Let Paul know so that he can make one! Contact him at the Church phone number 541-773-3594 or email secretary@ascensionlutheran.com

ALCW NEWS

ALCW Board Meeting, Thursday
July 5th, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
NO Sarah Circle or **Martha Circle** this month
Joint Circle Lunch Meeting July 10th at 11:30

Coming Attractions: Don't forget that during July and August, Martha and Sarah Circles meet for devotions and lunch. July 10, Sarah Circle will host with salads, Martha will provide desserts; August 8, Martha will host with salads and Sarah brings the desserts.

Sunday, July 8th following Worship

Church BBQ Picnic followed by a Service Project

Fellowship around freshly grilled Hot Dogs or Hamburgers accompanied by all the sides and stay to help make sandwiches that will be taken to 1st Presbyterian Church downtown to be used in their Brown Bag Lunches for the homeless.

There will be a fellowship with the Youth who traveled to Houston and the service project to make sandwiches for the bag lunch ministry at 1st Presbyterian downtown Medford.

The Congregation Life Committee will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers and buns—you provide salads, chips or desserts to share. There will be a donation box for those who wish to provide a donation for the picnic instead of making or buying a side. We will need a grill meister or two. Sign-ups are under the monitor. Following the picnic join Community Life Committee in making sandwiches; all supplies are provided—you bring the labor to assemble the sandwiches.

For more information contact: Diane Barnes at 541-324-0404,Terry Helmling at 541-499-4083 or the church office.

Arts and Spirituality:

The Art Wall - The evolving artwall focuses on **"Living the Spirit"** as experienced through prayer and study, celebrating family, friends and milestones, and participating in service to others. Shifting the focus to SERVICE and SPIRITUAL GROWTH, the addition of pictures illustrate one way in which we do God's work, while other service actions are noted on the assorted chalk boards. July will bring visual focus to PRAYER and STUDY.

My dearest church family,

Sometimes it's hard to quite pin point when things start. I feel like I went from youth to youth leader in the matter of moments. When I was a senior in high school, my Sunday school class consisted of my brother Daniel, Samuel Timmons and myself. When I graduated, the high school class dropped from three to two and I felt called to continue to hang out with the boys. Then all of a sudden, I'm on staff and officially the youth leader and working on fundraisers to get a group of youth to Detroit. Though I can't quite remember when it started, I know that this chapter is ending. For those of you that don't know, I finished my degree in graphic design last month! I've decided to give myself the chance to focus on the job opportunities that may come up. This means leaving my position at Ascension. I'll still see you all on Sunday mornings, I just won't be running around after teens and constantly talking to you about fundraisers.

I want to thank our fantastic congregation for all of the love and support I've received while working with our youth. You've made so many cool opportunities happen for our youth, and I'm super grateful that I got to be there with them. I would also like to thank all of the high schoolers (current and recently graduated) who have walked with me on this journey. Your humor and enthusiasm has been a high light in my time as a youth leader. I'm typing this up the night before we leave for Houston, my last official youth leader trip. Working with the youth of Ascension has not only given me opportunities for unique experiences, it's also helped me grow as a person. For that I will be eternally grateful.

With all of my love, Stephanie Risner

Ascension's Memorial Scholarship

From: The Memorial Committee

This year we had outstanding applicants for all of Ascension's scholarships. Congratulations to Lindsey Gurr, Sydney Jenkins, and Darbi Sumption, all three were awarded the Ascension Memorial Scholarship of $500. Initially, this Scholarship was established in 2015 in the memory of Denise Anderson, Mae Anderson's granddaughter. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage and promote education opportunities beyond high school by providing financial assistance. Through additional donations this Memorial Scholarship has grown and this year we were able to award three one-time scholarships to these outstanding young adults.

We want to continue to grow this fund for our future youth. In the next several years we have quite a few young members who are attending middle schools and high schools. To keep this wonderful gift going, donations can be made at any time in memory of loved ones or in celebration of a special event. With the donation please include whose memory or what event is being honored and put "Memorial Scholarship" in the memo on the check. This scholarship is truly a blessing to our youth as they

Ascension's Finance Update

By Marsha Bones, Finance Chair

Summer time has arrived with families planning wonderful adventures and trips. However, the cost of running the Church and doing the Lord's work does not take a vacation or time off. So, the Finance committee has a friendly reminder to keep your financial commitment to Ascension current during these fun summer months.

The end of June is the half way point (50%) in our giving year, our income through June 17, 2018 has be sluggish and is at 40%, down from where it needs to be. Our Budget coverage which is the combination of funds we frontloaded the 2018 Budget and the Estimate of Giving is at 47.6%, just slightly below the 50% midyear mark. Our Budget monthly average is $34,501 and our actual expenses average for the last four months has been about $34,250/month. Our financial situation is fair, our fronted-loaded funds are low, so we have begun to monitor weekly our bank balance in case we need to use the MIF Contingency fund to get us through the summer months. Our plan is to continue to be thankful for what the Lord has given us, continue to do his work daily, and trust in the Lord.

Gathering Support Gratitude!

From: Ascension's Thrivent Advocates

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Much gratitude goes out to the 30 Thrivent members that allocated Thrivent Choice Dollars from March 2017 through May 2018 for our Gathering group in Houston. We were able to give $7,633.19, which covered just over one-third of their expenses. What a blessing and a gift we were able to give them.

Hello from Houston!

By the time you're reading this the youth of Ascension and Hope Lutheran Churches will have conquered Texas! You are invited to join our Houston Youth Team on Sunday July 8th at 9:30 am for our trip presentation. We're going to take over the sermon portion of the service to share what we learned, who we met and all of the laughs we had. Thank you again for all of your love, financial support and prayers! This would not have happened without so many amazing people of our church stepping up to help us out!

Wonders of Creation

Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

Directions: *Beginning with column 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Write the letter that's found to the left of the dot on the blank below to complete Psalm 147:4, NIV. (Some columns have more than one letter.)*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
A																●	●			●					●			●	
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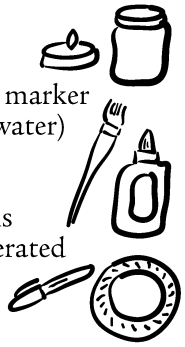
____ ____ __ ____. PSALM 147:4, NIV

A STARRY LIGHT

Summer is the perfect time to gaze at the wonders in the sky. Make this craft as a reminder of God's handiwork — including you!

What you need:



- Glass jar
- Permanent marker
- Glue (and water)
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Star sequins
- Battery-operated tea light

What you do:

1. Around the jar's opening, write in permanent marker: Shine ... like stars in the sky. Philippians 2:15
2. Pour some glue on the plate. Thin with some water.
3. "Paint" the outside of the jar with glue and then sprinkle on some sequins. Let dry.
4. Add the tea light and give your bedroom a starry glow at nighttime.

Bible Quiz

How did Jesus heal the blind man at the pool of Siloam?

A. Put mud on his eyes and told him to go wash in the pool.
B. Laid his hands on the man's head and prayed.
C. Touched his eyes, but at first the man said people looked like trees walking, so Jesus had to do it again.
D. Told him to go to the priests; as the man went, he was healed.

See John 9:6-7

Have an Amazing 4th of July!! Enjoy your Family, friends and Freedom!

"Ed here has a question about the origin of life."

STEWARDS OF CHILDREN

Children are very precious little people. It is our obligation as parents, grandparents and adults to protect our children from abusive behaviors.

Some of the abuses occurring to children include physical abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse. I will briefly explain what the different types of abuse are.

First, domestic violence occurs when adults in a relationship use assaultive behavior, physical or emotional abuse, or economic coercion to gain power and control, all putting children at risk. Domestic abuse can occur when a child intervenes between adults or is present and might be exposed to harm. This abuser can prevent a child from receiving basic needs, threaten to kill a loved one or a pet or put the child in constant fear of witnessing serious violence.

The second type of abuse is physical abuse, which is when a child sustains a physical injury not caused by an accident. Types of physical abuse include bruising or cuts, head injuries, poisoning, fractures or sprains, burns or scalds, internal injuries, electrical shock, drug-affected babies and shaken baby syndrome. Signs of abuse include explanations of physical injury that doesn't make sense, anxiety avoiding questions, fearful of adults, afraid of punishment or "being in trouble", and being overly aggressive or passive.

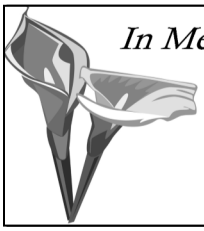
The third type of abuse is sexual abuse. This is defined as the exploitation of a child for the gratification of an adult or any significant older person. It includes all types of sexual acts including the taking or use of explicit photographs of children. Physical signs of sexual abuse include difficulty in sitting or walking, repeated symptoms of medical problems relating to the genitals or digestive system, venereal disease or pregnancy. Behavioral symptoms of sexual abuse can be unusual sexual behavior or knowledge, nightmares, poor peer relationships, few social skills, extremely isolated, and can be repeated run-aways. Did you know that one in ten children in the US will be sexually abused before

their eighteenth birthday? Ninety-three per cent of the time it will have been done by someone they know and trust and forty per cent of the abusers are older and larger youth. This is scary if you are a parent or grandparent.

What can you do? Learn about abuse and it's signs. We, at Ascension, will be offering a presentation this fall or winter put on by the Children's Advocacy Center about abusive behaviors towards children. Watch for details. Everyone should be knowledgeable about this, so whether we are a parent, grandparent, relative or friend, we can protect our children. Regarding our children, remember

Children Learn What They Live...
If children live with criticism, They learn to condemn
If children live with hostility, They learn to fight
If children live with ridicule, They learn to be shy
If children live with shame, They learn to be guilty
If children live with tolerance, They learn to be patient
If children live with encouragement, They learn confidence
If children live with praise, They learn to appreciate
If children live with fairness, They learn justice
If children live with security, They learn to have faith
If children live with approval, They learn to like themselves
If children live with acceptance and friendship, They learn to find love in the world

Judy Dahl RN

 *In Memoriam*	Jacqui Ratcliffe

Ascension Lutheran Church
675 Black Oak Dr.
Medford, OR 97504-8314
541-773-3594
www.ascensionlutheran.com

Communion Services every Sunday at 9:30 AM

Our Mission
We, the members of Ascension Lutheran Church, gratefully rooted in the Good News of God's Grace, proclaim our partnership with the whole church of God and give ourselves to worship, witness and service.

Our Vision
We are a community of believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit to support and serve one another.

We believe that we are called to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through our words and especially through our deeds toward all who live in the greater Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon.

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Return Service Requested

JULY

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 *9:30a—Worship*	2 *630 - Comm Quilters*	3 *8:30a - Quilters*	4 *Independence Day!* *Church Office Closed*	5 *9:30a - ALCW Mtg*	6 *6:30 - AA*	7
8 *9:30 - Worship* *10:30 - Fellowship* *BBQ Picnic/* *Sandwich making*	9 *3:00p - Admin Mtg* *630 - Comm Quilters*	10 *11:30—ALCW Joint* *Circle Lunch meeting*	11 *No Bible Study*	12	13 *6:30p—AA*	14
15 *9:30 - Worship*	16 *630– Comm Quilters*	17 *8:30a - Quilters* *7:00p - Council Mtg*	18 *No Bible Study*	19	20 *6:30p - AA*	21
22 *9:30 - Worship*	23 *630– Comm Quilters*	24 *8:30a - Quilters*	25 *No Bible Study*	26	27 *6:30p - AA*	28
29 *9:30 - Worship*	30 *630– Comm Quilters*	31 *8:30a - Quilters* *7:00p - Committee* *Chairs Meeting*	1 *No Bible Study* *5:15p - Worship &* *Music Mtg*	2 *9:30a - ALCW Mtg*	3 *6:30p - AA*	4