

## Time for Growth

Summer's in full swing. It's that time of the year for family vacations, trips to the lake, camping, and all those sorts of things that come along with warm weather and sunshine. Just like they do in life, the summer months bring in a new season and a new focus in church, too. Although the Sunday of Pentecost has come and gone, its meaning endures for us, bringing with it a renewed focus on our growth in faith and discipleship. The night before Jesus' crucifixion, He was teaching the disciples about the days that were ahead of them when He gave them this promise: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with You and will be in You" (John 14:16-17). This promise of the Holy Spirit teaches us about who the Spirit is and what He's come to do for us as we live by faith.

First of all, Jesus says that the Father will "give you another Helper." This teaches us that the Holy Spirit is on our side. He gives us faith through the Word, upholds us against the attacks of the devil and temptation, and gives us strength when we are spiritually weak. Therefore, even when it seems as though there's no one on our side, Jesus has promised that His Spirit is here for us.

Second of all, He is the Spirit of Truth. The Holy Spirit ever leads us to Truth. In John's Gospel, the word "truth" takes on added significance: just a few verses before these ones, Jesus says "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." So while it goes without saying that whatever the Spirit says is true, we can say even more about Him, because the Holy Spirit always points us to Jesus, the Truth. When we're lost and trying to find our way, He's pointing us to the Good Shepherd. When we've done what we don't think can be forgiven, He's pointing us to our Savior. When we're weary from life, He's leading us to the One who carries our burdens. When we're longing to grow as Christians, He's pointing us to the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

As the season after Pentecost continues throughout the summer, Jesus' promise to give His Spirit to His disciples of all times and places continues, too. The same Spirit who was the Advocate of the disciples is on our side. We have received Him in baptism, been strengthened by Him through His Word and through the Lord's Supper. He's the one who creates faith in us, and who is always pointing us back to Jesus. As we go through this season of growth, our growth as disciples and as a church depends entirely on the Holy Spirit. But we do not have to wonder where He is or what He's up to, because Jesus has told us what to expect: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth," and He is with you and at work in you. Have a blessed and safe summer, and may God grant us all growth in faith and discipleship this season!

In Him,

Pastor Mike



## CELEBRATION OF CATECHIZATION

The following students completed the catechization portion of their confirmation requirements. Job well done!

**Congratulations to** (left to right):

Josie Voss, Lena Kearney Ledesma, Melinda Edsill,  
Oliver Olsen, and Elijah Coan



- July 2 Grace Brokenshire • Lindsey Youngblut
- July 3 Portia Licht
- July 4 Tracy Beier • Brenda Clement • Betty Fridley (95)  
Cindi Mason
- July 6 Roberta Moritz • Ashley Reinholdt • Derek Wild
- July 7 Ivy Gibbons • Lauren Henry
- July 9 Christine Badenhop • Brianna Bilharz  
Russ Gaede
- July 10 Jan Burrington • Janice Haag • Austin Kendrick  
Braden Krantz
- July 13 Lois Jerke • Hank Trepp
- July 14 Lois Burgess • Gwen Edgerton (91)
- July 15 Jessica Semelroth • Ginny Thomas • Scott Yount
- July 16 Larry Anfinson • Roger Bauer • Cindy Frederick
- July 17 Breanna Haag
- July 18 Charlotte McDermott
- July 19 David Craig • Jordan Lentz • Kamma Pillion (91)
- July 20 Dave Mason • Jerad Webrand
- July 21 Breanne Appel • Dave Coan
- July 22 Wyatt Galbraith • Valerie Illing • Jenna McCully
- July 24 Janet Bergan • Cindy Loder
- July 25 Lucas Schotter
- July 26 Cooper Olsen
- July 27 Francesca Anderson-Tovar • Daniel Glawe  
Heather Hundley • Martha Stone
- July 28 Dave Billman • Bryanna Cox • Nancy Hausler
- July 29 Morgan Galbraith • Aaden Hibben
- July 30 Allegra Wilson



- July 2 Dan & Janell Wright (29)
- July 3 Daren & Paula Breid (13)
- July 7 Mark & Janet Dunkelberger (44)
- July 8 Michele & Michael Anderson (6)  
Jerry & Betty Walter (62)
- July 10 Roger & Kelly Cary (30)
- July 17 Bill & Maria Drewes (70)
- July 24 Marlow & Linda Gray (24)  
Derek & Elizabeth Wild (13)
- July 30 Dana & Sandy Walker (40)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JULY 2 PATRIOTIC BRUNCH

A brunch sponsored by the World Missions' committee. Come after 1<sup>st</sup> service or before 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Please consider helping by bringing a breakfast casserole, coffee cake, pastries, or by helping in the kitchen. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Come celebrate our country's freedom! A free-will offering for Servant Unique Family Ministries will be accepted to raise funds for humanitarian aid to Mexico.

## JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

## JULY 9 PASTOR SCOTT & LENA VISIT

## JULY 9, 23, 30 CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

A community outreach opportunity at Lincoln Park in Waterloo. Volunteers will help prepare, transport, setup, serve, and clean up. All of this to help spread God's love through spiritual and physical food.

## JULY 9-16 NATIONAL AALC YOUTH CONFERENCE THEME: TRUTH (based on John 8:32)

*"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*  
Five days of God-filled opportunities to learn more about Christ and all his wonderful works and love for us. Youth will meet others from across the country and share their walk with Christ. The event will equip youth with faith-based responses to the daily challenges of growing up in an ever-changing world. Please pray for the youth everyone involved in the trip.

## JULY 16 SPECIAL-CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (See cover page for more information)

## JULY 23 BIBLES & BURGERS

A men's ministry for members & visitors to enjoy a good meal and share God's word. Sign up in the narthex or talk with Tom Knight.

## JULY 24-28 9 am to 11 am VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THEME: VICTORY

*Through Courage-Through Obedience-Through Faith  
Through Unity-Through Jesus!*

## July 29-August 5 Annual Cedar Falls Bible Conference

Brochures available at church or search the internet or Facebook for "Cedar Falls Bible Conference"



## SPECIAL-CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



**When:** Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> between the services at 10:00

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Item of business:** Congregational approval to Deed approximately the South 30 feet of Ascension's property to the City of Waterloo

**Why:** This area contains the drainage easement for rain runoff control. The surface of the drainage system is severely sloped to catch and drain the water to the retention pond. As an easement, Ascension owns and must maintain the easement. We cannot put any structures on the easement. Due to the slope of the easement, it is a possible liability if someone were to fall on our property. To maintain the grass, approximately 350 feet by 30 feet, must be weed whipped by hand. By deeding this land to the city, Ascension would no longer need to maintain the area and the liability issue would be removed. Through the years Ascension has owned the area, the only use of the land has been to cut the grass.



Beginning this month, the newsletter format looks new. This is an effort to condense and highlight upcoming events and activities while also continuing to provide the congregation with meaningful articles and information. Goals in making changes to the newsletter & how it's delivered are to continue to provide information to our members, use our church monies and resources wisely, give access in multiple forms, deliver information in a concise manner that's easy to read.

**We encourage all members to consider receiving the newsletter in one of the following ways:**

1. Have the newsletter emailed to you (*full color version*).

~Scan the QR code to get signed up or

~Call the office and leave your name and email address.

2. Bookmark our website ([www.ascensionwaterloo.com](http://www.ascensionwaterloo.com))

~Hover over the ABOUT US tab

•Select Newsletters from drop down options

~Click on the newsletter you wish to read (*full color version*).

3. Pick up a hard copy in the narthexes.

**Email Newsletter List**



*Thank you to the many  
who have already joined  
the email list.*