



THE SPIRIT

Ascension Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2022

The Power of God's Word



This time of summer is often a bit challenging. Everything seems to be winding down—school is back in session for another year, the kids are getting back to their routines, vacations and visits with faraway family have come to an end, and after this coming Labor Day weekend, the beginning of fall seems to be just around the corner. Soon the leaves will start to change, the vast cornfields of Northeast Iowa will dry out, and everything but the mums will turn brown for another season. At the same time, not everything winds down at this time of year. Sunday school classes start back up, with the young disciples of our church gathering to learn of all that God has done for them. Confirmation, Children's Sunday School, CIA, and AWANA feed the children of our church with the spiritual food of God's Word, and our adult Bible studies and adult Sunday school class do the same for those of us more "advanced in years," as the Scriptures would say. In stark contrast to the season, we continue to grow and flourish even as the world around us winds down to the reality of another autumn.

This growth is not always easy to spot. That's the way it often goes with spiritual growth. As we grow in faith, we expect that we'll advance by leaps and bounds, that we'll see the evidence of it all along the way. But that's not always the case. Rather, like watching the grass grow in fall, we don't often seem to see it happen. And when we don't see it, we doubt that it's happening at all. We might even ask ourselves: "Why don't I seem to be growing in faith?" We go to worship, we go to Sunday school, we read our Scriptures, we pray often—in short, we do everything we're supposed to do, but we just don't see it. We may even become discouraged.

But take heart—God has given us His Word and promise. And in His Word, He promises that His Word will accomplish exactly what He wants it to do. In Isaiah 55:10-11, we read:

*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

We could apply this passage in any number of ways, but in this season, one way we can benefit from it is by holding fast to the promise that God's Word will do what He intends it to do. In fact, we could say more than that it accomplishes what He purposes. God's Word accomplishes what brings Him joy. When we hear His word in worship, read it in our homes, study it with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and pray it in every time of need, we may rest assured in the promise of God that His Word will do what brings Him joy. It will lead us out of sin and into repentance—and that's growth. It will strengthen our faith in Jesus, bringing us to His cross, His death, and His resurrection so that we can have the peace and salvation that come with the forgiveness of sins. That, too, is growth. His Word will lead us through every trial and cross of this life into the joys of eternal life with Christ. In every time and place, God uses His Word to accomplish His joyful purpose: to lead us onward as His people redeemed by His Son.

In times like these, it's natural to wonder if we're growing at all. But if you're questioning whether or not you're growing, I suggest you ask yourself another question: are you receiving God's Word? For God has promised and so it will be: "It shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Where God's Word is, there's also spiritual growth. A blessed September to you all!

In Christ, Pastor Mike

Condolences

Condolences to Tom Freed and family on the death of his sister, Barb Schroeder, who died on August 8.

We mourn with you



Prayers & Praises

Thank you to the many hands who made our VBS programs this summer possible! We encouraged our kids and welcomed many guests. This would not be possible without an army of volunteers who love Jesus and love kids. Thank you for giving of your time and heart to serve the Lord.

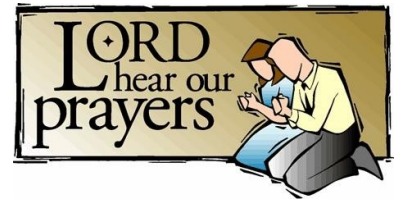
-Shanda Knight

The **Women of LIFE** want to thank everyone who helped to make the Women of LIFE Chick-Flick movie night come about and also all that came to enjoy the evening with us! What a powerful and encouraging movie to remind us to call upon our Lord in Prayer. Not just in hard times but in all times. Also, to have a real relationship with him! A big Thank You to Shanda for suggesting the movie and for the use of her personal DVD copy.

Thank you to our Ascension family for your words of sympathy and comfort at Kent's passing. Your thoughts and prayers were so appreciated. God bless you all.

-The McIntyre Family

Congratulations to Lindsey & Matt Youngblut on the birth of their daughter, Charlee Rae, who was born on August 17.



Rose Beier

Ed Billings

Maria Drewes

Ivy Gibbons

Ivadean Herter

Jack Hoffman

Traci McNally

Ruth Prins

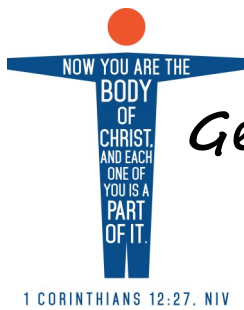
Ken Schwake

Marnie Stewart

Mike Sullivan

Mary Volker

Dana Walker



Sunday, September 4

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Get Reacquainted Sunday • Service & Brunch

1 Service at 9:30 a.m.
Brunch to follow in fellowship hall

Breakfast pizza, fruit, pastries
Coffee ~ Juice
and
FELLOWSHIP

Freewill offering to support outreach programs at Ascension



Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism
we welcome into the church of Christ and
the family of Ascension:

Krystina Campbell

Skyler Smith

WEDNESDAY LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

~ "RALLY WEDNESDAY" ~

The Wednesday Ladies Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. First, at 9:15, we meet for fellowship, a.k.a. "chatting", to catch up on the previous week and enjoy great fellowship with each other while enjoying coffee and treats! Our Bible Study "Women of the Gospel of Luke" follows from 10-11. This fall we will complete "*The Heart of Jesus*" which we started last spring/summer. This study is an in depth look at women in Luke who encountered Jesus and experienced his compassion for them. In addition to the story of their lives, we also read about the role of women during Biblical times.

We certainly welcome new participants anytime and we'll make sure that you have the materials you would need. Soooooooo, feel free to stop by the Church Board Room to join us in fellowship and sharing of the scriptures!!!

Contact Cindi Mason or the church office
for more information.





Were you there for the prayer over our congregation members getting ready to go back into schools of all levels?! During the second service, at least 20 different schools were represented by members of our congregation. First service had a prayer too! So quite possibly there were even more being prayed for.

“God we ask that you be present in our schools and with our members who are attending and working in these places. Amen.”

AWANA is kicking off
Wednesday, September 14

Registration is now open! Join us every Wednesday for friends, games and growing in God's Word.

~ 3 years old through 6th grade ~

Registration forms, as well as additional information, can be found by the youth bulletin board across from Pastor Mike's office.

Questions? Contact Shanda Knight.



**Servant
Unique
Ministries**



Dear Ascension congregation:

We wish to thank you for allowing Servant Unique Family Ministries to be the recipients of the proceeds from this year's Patriotic Brunch. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated, especially since this is a time when cash flow is very slow. We have made many trips to pick up stuff for shipment to Latin American Lutheran Mission and their work in Mexico and along the border, and one of the biggest

expenses is fuel for our vehicles. On top of the money raised, there was enough money on the card from the Patriotic Brunch to purchase school items plus fill our main vehicle which we used in picking up humanitarian aid.

Let me assure you we just don't haul humanitarian aid just to be given out without a purpose. If that was the case, we would not invest so much of our money or ask you to support this ministry as well. Just like SUFM's Ministry of the Arts, the humanitarian aid part of the ministry is used to share the Gospel of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Either LALM Director Mariana Mendez or some other worker shares the Gospel and prays with them before it is distributed to meet each other's needs. This is so very important that this be done! It makes it all worth while and the sacrifices we have to make too. This is what keeps me going even though it is getting harder for me to do it.

We also want to thank the church board for the gift of 50 extra pew chairs to be used in a new congregation in LALM's work in Mexico. This was an amazing gift because I had missed out on getting chairs for the mission because I could not find help to pick up the 200 chairs that LALM had said they could use if I could get them. I had found the chairs available to me just for the hauling but had given that dream up. Then the Lord blessed us with these wonderful chairs for a church.

Again, thank you to all of our Ascension family, the World Missions Committee and others who helped put the food together to all those who came, enjoyed food and fellowship, and gave a donation for the brunch. Those of you who prepared food, I know that costs you personally out of your pocket to make the dishes! Thank you all.

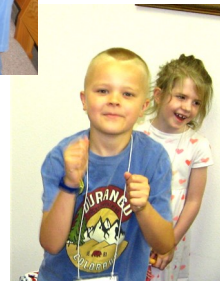
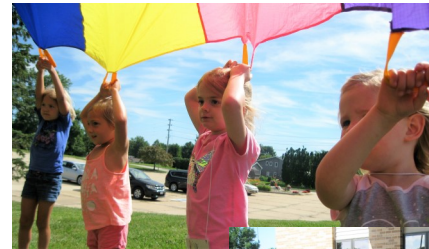
Sincerely In His Service,
Brian M. Smith, President/Director
Servant Unique Family Ministries



VBS
2022

"PRAISE!"

*Where Kids Get Down
and Lift God High*



All Ascension is invited...

Ascension's Car-a-van Day-Trip...

to the Floyd Gospel Sing!

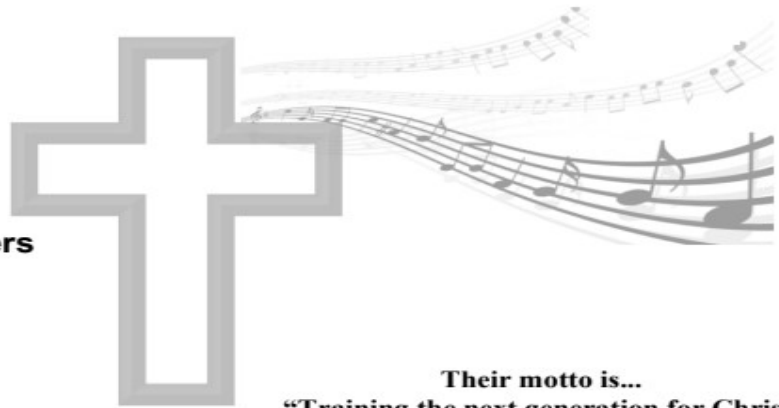
Saturday, Sept. 10th

We will leave Ascension at 10:00

Return home at 6:00

You are also welcome to drive on your own and just meet us there!

- Christian bands from across the nation will play from 10:00 am - 10:00 pm
- Food and Drinks available:
Outside: grilled chicken/burgers
Inside: pulled pork, **desserts**
And More!
- A free will offering is taken at the concert to support their K-12 Christian School
- Held in the park across the street from the church. **Bring your lawn chairs.** If rain, it moves inside the church.
- Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to go or need a ride.



Their motto is...
"Training the next generation for Christ,
one child at a time."



All ages and visitors are welcome!



Gospel music by performers from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Virginia, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, North Carolina and Texas.
This is an ALL Ascension event Sponsored by WOL

	Current Expenses	Benevolence	Building Fund
July 24, 2022	\$7,769.86	\$1,345.71	\$1,282.50
July 31, 2022	\$3,826.53	\$484.26	\$227.00
August 7, 2022	\$7,951.78	\$1,980.00	\$836.82
August 14, 2022	\$5,648.50	\$609.00	\$445.00
August 21, 2022	\$5,099.11	\$1,010.13	\$432.00