

# ASCENSION ACCENTS

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A congregation called:  
to [invite](#), [welcome](#) and [involve](#) all people to share in God's love and service.

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## Ascension Lutheran Church

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Vol. 55 No. 4

April 2015

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## ASCENSION PERSPECTIVES

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*“For he [Christ] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.”  
- Ephesians 2:14*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, We need to talk. Ferguson, Missouri; Norman, Oklahoma; Madison, Wisconsin; Staten Island, New York; and Charlottesville, Virginia: recent events in these and other places prove we are not living in a postracial society. I know it's difficult to talk about race because too many Americans do not want to believe racism still exists in our country. Yet, as always, Christ promises to be alongside us, even in the most difficult of times, working for our reconciliation. Because of God's promise, we can and must have a deep, honest and even painful conversation about racism.

This past month our country commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March and its significance in the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Lutherans were in Selma to join more than 70,000 people to remember and honor the courage of the veterans of the civil rights movement. Selma symbolized the very best of the human spirit to work cooperatively for change at any cost. Conversely, it also demonstrated the lowest levels of hatred, violence and resistance to change.

Overt forms of racism are no longer legally sanctioned, but the legacy of racism, sadly, endures. Institutional policies and practices still privilege some while limiting access and opportunities to others. Today, the Voting Rights Act has been weakened by the removal of federal oversight of local voting laws and millions of poor and people of color fill the cells of our criminal justice system.

We have said, “Racism – a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice – is sin, a violation of God's intention for humanity.” (Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, 1993) Ongoing racial justice conversations are occurring and work is happening. But in cases where these are not, we shouldn't wait until another racial event is widely reported before we talk. Here are a number of ways:

- Listen to and learn from the experiences of people of color in your communities.
- Contact the Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries and the Racial Justice Ministries at the churchwide organization. Connect with your synod anti-racism team.
- Be in conversation with your synod bishop and staff. Many of our synods are equipped to help connect you with local resources on anti-racism education and racial justice ministries.
- Learn more about our ongoing racial justice work. This church has helpful guidance in our criminal justice social statement and in the race, ethnicity, and culture social statement.\*
- Advocate for local, state and federal legislation and regulations that guarantee to all citizens the right to vote. Join the ELCA e-Advocacy Network at [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy).

As a church called to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must continue to listen deeply, to speak out about racial equity and inclusion, to respect and uplift the dignity and humanity of every person and to join with others in organizing for change. In baptism we have become part of the body of Christ and in Christ there is no barrier between us. I pray that our Lord will use us and this moment to make this baptismal promise a reality in our lives and in this church.

God's blessings,

Elizabeth A. Eaton  
ELCA Presiding Bishop

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# Congregational and Community News

## Bread for All Food Pantry



The **Bread for All Food Pantry** is asking for assistance by way of food donations, cash donations or by volunteering when the pantry is open.

The pantry can always use more food—especially canned meat products (such as canned salmon, tuna, and peanut butter) are needed. Pull-tab cans are helpful. Macaroni and cheese, ramen noodles and the like are needed, too.

Please leave any food donations in the narthex of the church.

Thank you for your continued support in assisting in this important ministry!

## Easter Sunday April 5th

- 8:00 am Early Worship
- 8:30 am Breakfast
- 9:45 am Flowering of the Cross
- 10:30 am Worship



## Church Property Care



The **International Montessori House of Children** opened **March 23rd!** Remodeling will continue on the school building throughout the next few months.

A concrete sidewalk was completed for easier access from the parking lot to the Prayer Garden. Work will continue so that there is easier access from the Parish Life Center.

Repairs were made to the organ during the month of March.

A **Work Day** has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 4th**. This will mostly involve yard work.



Please watch for frequent updates on the improvements to the church property!

## 55th Anniversary Celebration May 17th, 2015

**Ascension Lutheran Church** will celebrate **55 years of ministry** this year!

Join us each Sunday as we look back and enjoy the memories of these 55 years of ministry! A photo presentation will be displayed in the church sanctuary 15 minutes prior to the worship service each Sunday — **April 12th through May 17th**.

In addition, please join us **May 17th** for a **celebration luncheon** in the Parish Life

## Upcoming Events

**May 1-3, 2015**  
**Synod Council and Assembly**  
*McAllen Convention Center, McAllen TX*

## March

*Offering  
Total*

Week	Mar 1	Mar 8	Mar 15	Mar 22	Mar 29
Offering	\$ 1715	\$ 1780	\$ 1180	\$ 1645	\$ 1368
Attendance	25	25	28	21	41

# Congregational News



## at Ascension



**Thursday, April 2nd**

**Maundy Thursday**

7:00 pm Worship

**Friday, April 3rd**

**Good Friday**

7:00 pm Worship

**Saturday, April 4th**

9:00 am Work Day

10:00 am Book Club

**Easter Sunday**

**April 5th**

**Resurrection of**

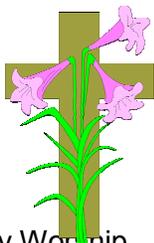
**Our Lord**

8:00 am Early Worship

8:30 am Breakfast

9:45 am Flowering of  
the Cross

10:30 am Worship



**Monday, April 6th**

**Easter Monday**

**Wednesday, April 8th**

9:30 am Dominoes

7:30 pm Choir Practice

**Saturday, April 11th**

10:00 am Book Club

**Sunday, April 12th**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

**Monday, April 13th**

7:30 pm Council Meeting

**Wednesday, April 15th**

9:30 am Dominoes

7:30 pm Choir Practice

**Saturday, April 18th**

10:00 am Book Club

**Sunday, April 19th**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

**Wednesday, April 22nd**

9:30 am Dominoes

7:30 pm Choir Practice

**Saturday, April 25th**

10:00 am Book Club

**Sunday, April 26th**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

**Wednesday, April 29th**

9:30 am Dominoes

7:30 pm Choir Practice



Wanda Block  
James Logan Brewster  
Rayne Jones  
Helen Kneten  
Mildred Lamb  
Nancy Matchus  
Myron McKelvey



Jim McBride  
Jennifer Obermueller  
Susan Schultz  
James R. Shannon  
James V. Shannon  
Benne Faye Simon

Patients and Staff of the Texas Oncology Center

## Ascension Lutheran Church

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### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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The Ascension Sanctuary  
Your Church at Home  
[www.ascensionaustin.org](http://www.ascensionaustin.org)

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Acts 10:34-43	Acts 4:32-35	Acts 3:12-19	Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Psalm 133	Psalm 4	Psalm 23
1 Corinthians 15:1-11	1 John 1:1—2:2	1 John 3:1-7	1 John 3:16-24
Mark 16:1-8	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:36b-48	John 10:11-18