

# ASCENSION ACCENTS

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

## Ascension Lutheran Church

Vol. 55 No. 5

May 2015

## ASCENSION PERSPECTIVES

In a few short weeks, we celebrate fifty five years of ministry here at Ascension Lutheran Church. In the lead up to the official day of celebration May 17th, we've enjoyed, courtesy of Cindy Mckelvey, a slide show of our collective history, from the early days right up until today. What a treat it has been, to remember the faces of those who have been a part of what God has been up to in the life of our congregation.

I chuckle to think that on more than a couple of Sundays we've gotten so caught up in the slide show that worship started late. I certainly haven't heard any complaints though! It has felt to me like those special times when the family sits together looking through old photographs, remembering fondly and sharing in holy conversations.

In fifty five years a lot has changed in our world not to mention for us as a congregation.

There were the early days as a mission congregation of Faith Lutheran Church on Woodrow, the handful of brave families who under the leadership of Pastor David Sieburg ascended the goat hills of what would become Northwest Hills to begin a new ministry. What impresses me most about those days is the spirit of cooperation and determination evident among God's people. The pictures from those days show a joy filled community building God's kingdom in their unique way, wielding shovels, pouring concrete, teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, praising God in worship and music.

Then in the mid seventies it was time to think about building again, this time a permanent place to worship. Under the able leadership of Pastor Henry Engling we built what is our current sanctuary. Dedicated in 1978 it has, in spite of the leaks, bees and the sometimes fickle HVAC systems, the building has stood the test of time to serve as a place to praise God for countless saints over the years.

The eighties brought changes too—the beginning of the Hand in Hand Christian Day School, the arrival of new families, the construction of our outdoor worship area. Pastor Michael Ensrude brought his unique gifts to share as we entered a brave new hi tech world.

Planning and construction of the Parish Life Center was one of the important steps taken to further our ministry in the nineties. I suspect that like so many churches back then it was assumed that a new building

would attract new people. When that didn't happen in the way people had hoped, there may have been a little disappointment, but in spite of that, I believe God had something new up God's sleeve with which to surprise us all. As you well know, today that same PLC literally serves hundreds of people every month, folks from the community who gather together for all sorts of reasons. Who could have anticipated such a great benefit back then.

Then in the early two thousands, yours truly rode into town and for the past fifteen years it has been quite a ride to say the least. We've faced our share of challenge, heartbreak and disappointment for sure, but through it all God has remained faithful, an ever constant source of strength, comfort and peace. Folks have come and gone. In faith we been emboldened to float new ideas and try new things, some successfully others, not so much, but as someone once said, "in the economy of God, nothing is lost."

As we approach the ripe old age of fifty five, I am grateful for the renewed sense of the Spirit at work among us, most recently through our involvement in the Missional River Initiative. Through this process of listening and experimentation we've been learning about what it means to think and to be more "missional" in our approach to ministry. In no way does that negate the past, rather I believe it clarifies the work of the Spirit for a new time and place, for new challenges and opportunities.

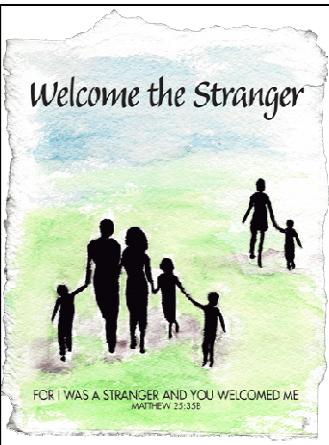
Clearly my friends, God is not finished with us yet. There is work to be done, lives to be touched as the Gospel to be told in new and relevant ways. So, please join me in giving thanks for all that God has done for and with His people in this place, for the good things that God has in store for us and through us for our neighbor both near and far.

Let the celebration continue and may our gladness know end.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Peterson

# Congregational and Community News



## 2015 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly

Will be held  
**May 1st—3rd**

In McAllen, TX

The theme of this year's assembly is "**Welcome the Stranger**," based on Matthew 25:35b.

**Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest** and **Lutheran Social Services of the South** will share the **offering** received at the assembly. The seminary program will use the offering to support its educational program, and LSS will use the offering to support children and women's shelters in the synod. *Please prayerfully consider a gift in addition to your regular offering support. Thank you!*

## Bread for All Food Pantry

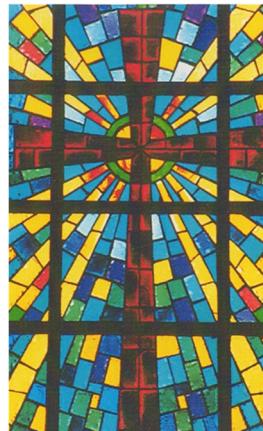


The **Bread for All Food Pantry** is asking for assistance by way of food donations, cash donations or by volunteering when the pantry is open.

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!



## 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 Center after worship.



**April** *Offering Total*

| Week       | Apr 5   | Apr 12  | Apr 19  | Apr 26  |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Offering   | \$ 2999 | \$ 1955 | \$ 1246 | \$ 1151 |
| Attendance | 53      | 27      | 26      | 23      |

# Congregational News

# May at Ascension

**Friday, May 1st**  
**Synod Assembly**

**Saturday, May 2nd**  
**Synod Assembly**

10:00 am Book Club

**Sunday, May 3rd**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Synod Assembly**

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship

**Wednesday, May 6th**

9:30 am Dominoes  
7:30 pm Choir Practice

**Saturday, May 9th**

10:00 am Book Club

**Sunday, May 10th**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Mother's Day**

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship



**Monday, May 11th**  
7:30 pm Council Meeting

**Wednesday, May 13th**  
9:30 am Dominoes  
**NO Choir Practice**

**Wednesday, May 20th**  
9:30 am Dominoes  
7:30 pm Choir Practice

**Saturday, May 23rd**  
10:00 am Book Club



**Thursday, May 14th**  
**Ascension of Our Lord**

**Saturday, May 16th**  
10:00 am Book Club

**Sunday, May 24th**  
**Day of Pentecost**

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship



Pentecost



**Monday, May 25th**  
**Memorial Day**

**Wednesday, May 27th**

9:30 am Dominoes  
7:30 pm Choir Practice

**Saturday, May 30th**

10:00 am Book Club

**Sunday, May 31st**  
**The Holy Trinity**

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship

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- ★ **Sunday, May 17th**
- ★ **Seventh Sunday of Easter**
- ★ **55th Anniversary Celebration**
- ★ 9:30 am Sunday School
- ★ 10:30 am Worship
- ★ **Luncheon after Worship**
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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

Jim McBride  
Myron McKelvey  
Jennifer Obermueller  
Margaret Ricke  
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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**Pastor Brian Peterson**

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**(512) 497-2833 (cell)**

**The Ascension Sanctuary**

**Your Church at Home**

**www.ascensionaustin.org**

## **SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

| <b>May 3</b>   | <b>May 10</b> | <b>May 17</b>       | <b>May 24</b>              | <b>May 31</b>  |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Acts 8:26-40   | Acts 10:44-48 | Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 | Acts 2:1-21                | Isaiah 6:1-8   |
| Psalm 22:25-31 | Psalm 98      | Psalm 1             | Psalm 104:24-34            | Psalm 29       |
| 1 John 4:7-21  | 1 John 5:1-6  | 1 John 5:9-13       | Romans 8:22-27             | Romans 8:12-17 |
| John 15:1-8    | John 15:9-17  | John 17:6-19        | John 15:26-27;<br>16:4b-15 | John 3:1-17    |