



Ascension News

One Church, One Body, One Spirit, Serving all People.
Una Iglesia, Un Cuerpo, Un Espíritu, Siviendo a todo los personas.
Ib Lub Tuamtsev, Ib Lub Cev, Ib Tug Ntsujplig Ua Num Rua Txhaus Tug Tuabneeg.

From the Desk of Pastor Bill

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last week I had someone relay a message to me from a group of ALC members who had gathered for lunch. The subject of worship services came up during their conversation. They specifically thought it was time that a Worship and Music Team be started up again. I think they're right. It would be quite helpful to have a Worship and Music Team, but I wonder how it should be established and how our cultural groups could be equally represented. I think it's vitally important that all our cultural groups be represented.

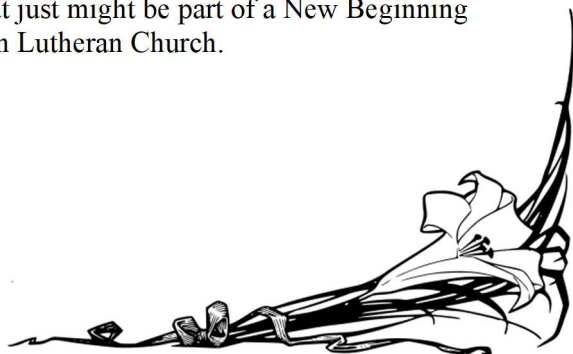
That got me to thinking. After going back to in-person worship, there have been several teams already in action. We have a Building Team that's overseeing the upkeep, repair, and use of our building. We have an HR Team that oversees the staff, hiring and releasing, and issues our employees experience. We have a Communications Team that is working hard on upgrading our website and putting together a new streaming set-up. We're in the process of putting together a Visitation Team. There is a team of volunteers who help with the Food Pantry.

And that got me thinking again. Are there any other teams we should get up and running? A couple come to mind. How about an Outreach Team? Or an Education Team for children? Or an Education Team for adults? Or a Hospitality Team to connect with new members or visitors? Are there other teams ALC has had in the past that got hit hard by the pandemic some time ago? Is it time to seek volunteers and energize a team from the past or even a new team for the future?

Please do some thinking about this during May. Drop a "Suggestions Note" into the offering plate after worship with your Team ideas. We'll share them with the congregation, discuss them with the Leadership Council. If something interests you personally, add your name to your "Suggestion Note." Not all new ideas have to come from the Pastor. I'm willing to bet we have a bunch of new ideas that just might be part of a New Beginning for the ministries of Ascension Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ's Service.

Pastor Bill



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Worship schedule

English: 9:00 am

Spanish: 10:15 am

Hmong: 11:30 am

Leadership Council Updates

Our Leadership Council meeting was held on April 19th. As always, there is a lot to review and discuss at these meetings. I am extremely proud of the current Leadership Team. Their dedication in helping us move forward and taking the next steps has been encouraging.

At this meeting we approved to move forward with the following:

- Installation of outside lighting and cameras, with the cost of cameras being shared with Street Angels
- Website development with LimeGlow Design, for which the contract has been signed
- Purchase of new microphones for the sanctuary

We have tentatively planned our congregational meeting for Sunday, June 5th. That Sunday we would have a Unified Service. We would plan the meeting for after the service. More information on this will be shared.

The pandemic has certainly changed our ways of doing things at church. I am happy to say that we are looking forward to getting back to normal again. Because of the many changes, several Leadership Council members have agreed to stay to help get through these changes and assist in moving us forward. With their knowledge, it will make it much easier. There will be a few openings that we need to fill.

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Hmong representatives (2)
- English representative (1)

If you are interested in joining the Leadership Council, please reach out to me at 262-993-8255.

Blessings,
Cheryl

Homebound Visits

If you are unable to attend church and would like a visit from one of our Homebound Visitors, please call me at 262-782-5680 or email me at jcnfx@aol.com and I can set up an appointment. These visitors can bring communion to you if you wish.

Blessings,
Jan Fox

Food Pantry Special Request

We will again be putting together a small hygiene bag for our recipients in May.

The items we are looking for at this time are:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Tissues
- Hand/Body Lotion

We do **not** need any of these items at this time:

- Dental floss
- Bars of soap
- Liquid hand soap

AMIS Invitation

On Thursday, June 2, AMIS will be hosting Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb from Palestine. The meeting will be at 7:00 pm at Ascension Lutheran Church. The purpose of the evening is to re-introduce the work of Rev. Mitri and Dar Al-Kalima University to the greater Milwaukee community and to build support for the mission work of Dar Al-Kalima in Palestine. After questions and answers, you will be able to order his new book "The Politics of Persecution: Middle Eastern Christians in an Age of Empire". After the presentation, we will gather in the Commons for friendship and light refreshments.

Please plan to join us.

Jan Fox, AMIS Coordinator.



Building Team Update

Good News! Spring weather has allowed work on the roof to begin again. Travelers on Layton Blvd. heading south can see the work in progress as shingles are removed from the roof above the sanctuary. The team is monitoring this ongoing project.

We also are continuing to focus on improving interior and exterior building safety. An onsite workshop led by a Milwaukee police officer was held in late March for tenants and staff to educate us in safe practices in the event of an active shooter.

Dead tree removal is scheduled for this summer and a contract for the installation of surveillance cameras on the exterior of the building is also in progress. An electrical contractor is awaiting materials that are needed to improve parking lot illumination with the goal of completing this project this summer.

Members of the Building Team are: José Guerrero, Tom Kaschak, Chuck Kudy, Diane Loppnow, Jack Loppnow, Art Maes, and Ed Riebe

Human Resources Update

Many thanks to Sue Kaschak for agreeing to be the interim chair of our Food Ministry. This ministry has been vital to families in our community during the pandemic and continues to support families during this time of economic challenges, so we are grateful that Sue and her crew of volunteers are sustaining this important work. Our Food Ministry is now serving 75 families, an increase of 25 needy families!

The distribution occurs on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Food is collected and stored in the gymnasium while we await completion of the roofing above the pantry room that suffered water damage. Once the new roofing is in place, the pantry will be restored so that food items can once again be stored in that room.

NOTE: June distribution dates will be the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

Diane Loppnow, Human Resources Chair

More Than a Roof Giving Options

There are several ways to give gifts to the *More Than a Roof* Fund.

- Write a check and note “Roof Fund” in the memo line.
- Write a check that combines regular offering with “Roof Fund” gift and note the amount of each (for example, \$10 – offering, \$10 – Roof Fund)
- Donate electronically using the Vanco app or contact Chuck in the church office to set up electronic giving.
- Cash works, too!

If you want to use *More Than a Roof* envelopes for your gift(s), see the usher stand at the back of the sanctuary or contact Chuck in the office.

La Familia de Arte’s Annual Fiesta and Art Sale!

Saturday, June 4, 2022

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Lori & Chris Gramling’s Garden
1030 South 26th Street

Join us for music, drinks and incredible food in the Gramling’s garden. Grab a map and take a neighborhood walking tour of some of our community artwork and enjoy shopping for your favorite handmade pieces for yourself, or as the perfect gift for someone you love. Our talented artists have created gorgeous salseras, mugs, planters...and NEW this year...hand-thrown luminaries!

Your support means so much to us and allows our family of artists to continue our mission of spreading Hope, Love, and Kindness throughout Milwaukee through the gift of beautiful community artwork. 100% of the proceeds go to stipends for our neighborhood artists and art supplies that support our community art projects.

Please visit

<https://familiadearte.com/shop>

for more information and to purchase tickets.



Communications Team Update

The Communications team is starting the process of updating Ascension's website and the team is excited to be working with LimeGlow Design, a Milwaukee-area company with a passion for working with non-profits. One of Ascension's tasks is to create content for the website and your input is welcome!

If you are interested in joining the Communications Team or the website sub-committee, the team would love to have you. The committee meets on the 4th Tuesdays of each month. Contact Jerry Vang, Charlie Kudy, or Natalie Villegas for more information.

Jerry: jvang083@gmail.com

Charlie: kudy826@gmail.com

Natalie: villegas18@gmail.com



Get it on the Calendar!

Contact Bonny Lopez in the church office with any church-related meetings, even if held virtually, or in a non-church location. Let's keep each other informed of our sacred work!

Bonny Lopez,
ascension53215milw@gmail.com

Ascension Contact information

Phone: 414-645-2933

Regular office hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Pastor Bill Mains (interim pastor)

Pastor Germán Novelli Machado

Chuck Ellingson (office manager)

Next Ascension News

June 1

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, May 20th**

Please email your group's content to:

Cindy Jackson, lead - cindy_jaxn@yahoo.com

Gail Brodersen-Heins, community - grheins@hotmail.com

Jacob Guerrero, Latino ministry -
jakeishere1122@gmail.com

Charlie Kudy, Ascension teams - kudy826@gmail.com

Ar Lee, Hmong ministry - lisab070520@gmail.com

If you know someone who would like a printed copy of this newsletter, contact Jan Fox at 262-782-5680.

