



Ascension Lutheran Church // February 2024

# 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.

## Pastor's Message

Grace and Peace to you, dear friends.

February brings us Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. During Lent, Christians traditionally take part in some sort of spiritual activity that deepens their relationship with Christ. The most common practice is giving something up. I remember growing up, my grandmother gave up cheese for Lent, every single year.

Though giving up something you love, like cheese, is a great way to exercise your faith, I find that an even better practice is to pick something up. Some options include: doing a daily devotional, attending extra religious services, sacrificial giving, acts of kindness, advocacy, really anything that brings you closer to God or your neighbor.

Even if you choose not to participate in Lent in the above ways, the scripture, messages, and music during this season will remind us that we are on the road to the cross and tomb of Holy Week and eventually the empty tomb of Easter Sunday. I pray you have a blessed Lent. Please consider joining us on Ash Wednesday at 7:00 pm for worship. Pastor Novelli-Agrisano will be at Santa Fe for a 6:00 worship in Spanish.

Peace, Love, and Laughter,  
Pastor Casey

## Council President's Message

Dear Ascensionites,

With all that has changed at Ascension this past year, I want to say thank you to everyone who gave their Time, Talents and Teamwork to keep Ascension moving forward.

It was certainly a spirit of cooperation, contributions, and communicating with each other.

We need to continue moving forward in 2024. Share your ideas, volunteer, your time and talents. By bringing all groups together we enrich the decision-making process and open the doors to new possibilities.

Let's all work together! I appreciate all of you. 2024 is our year!

God's Peace,  
Cheryl

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## Worship services

English: 9:00 am

Spanish: 10:15 am

Hmong: 11:30 am

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## With Gratitude

WE HAD A TON OF FUN with the gifts you shared with us. We had a bunch of children at our Tuesday group and as you see from the photo, each child was able to select a Squishmallow ~ so much fun!

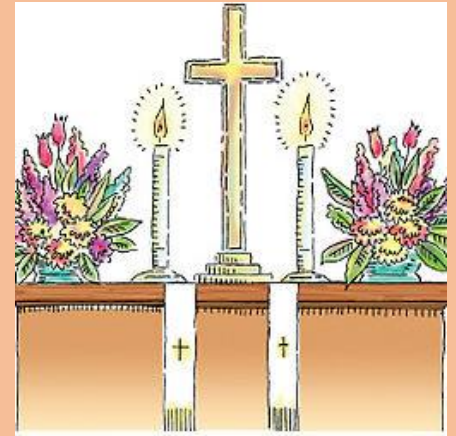
Thank you for thinking of us and for collecting and bringing all the toys, clothing, and Squishmallows over.



Please let those who made monetary donations know how much we appreciate their offerings—we had many expenses with families at Christmas time and meals during December, so their offerings truly helped.

Gratitude to all of you at Ascension!  
God bless you, Pastor Mary Martha

## Altar Guild



A few items to think about in the new year!

First, before COVID hit, Ascension members could purchase fresh flowers to put on the altar or near the pulpit, in memory of loved ones or in honor of special events. Are you interested in doing that again?

Second, the Ascension Church Altar Guild members are looking for new members and hopefully some younger ones. This is NOT a full-time job or commitment! The busiest times during the church year are Lent, Easter, and Christmas. Help is needed to hang banners, change altar cloths, keep candles lit, etc.

If you are interested in learning how to keep our sanctuary beautiful year-round, see Roberta or Nancy in church, or send an email to Roberta at [robertagraf3754@yahoo.com](mailto:robertagraf3754@yahoo.com)

Thank you!

Roberta Graf and Nancy Oshiro



## Unified Worship Schedule 2024

We are planning a 10:00 am unified service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month as well as a unified service on major holidays and celebrations. We also decided that we are going to try to bring back an Ash Wednesday service and some holy week services this year. Below is a list of potential unified worship services.

See you at worship!

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Ash Wednesday  
Service 7:00 pm

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** – Unified service

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** – Unified service

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** – Palm Sunday Unified  
service

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** – Maundy Thursday

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Good Friday

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** – Easter Unified service

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** – Unified service

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** – Pentecost Unified  
service

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** – Unified service

**July 21<sup>st</sup>** – Unified service

**August 18<sup>th</sup>** – Unified service

**September 1<sup>st</sup>?** – God's Work Our  
Hands/Rally Day Unified service?

**September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Unified service

**October 20<sup>th</sup>** – Unified service

**October 27<sup>th</sup>** – Reformation Unified  
service

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Dia Los Muertos  
Unified service

**November 17<sup>th</sup>** – Unified service

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** – Unified service

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Unified service

## TAKE HEART Campaign

We have an opportunity to support our siblings in the Bethlehem area. The war in Gaza has far-reaching impact in the West Bank as well. Local artisans have been busy making beautiful hearts fashioned from olive wood.

Maddie Froiland, daughter of Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland of Redeemer, Milwaukee, serves the Ev. Lutheran Church of the Holy Land & Jordan. Maddie initiated the Take Heart project to help alleviate the economic hardship in the West Bank.

Watch for more information on how you can be part of this project or talk with Rev. Gail Brodersen-Heins or Marilyn Lange.

## Holy Week Worship Schedule

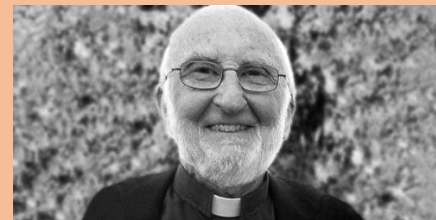
**Palm Sunday**, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Unified worship at 10:00 am

**Maundy Thursday**, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
English/Hmong service at 6:00 pm  
Spanish service at 7:00 pm at  
Ascension

**Good Friday**, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
English/Hmong service at 6:00 pm  
Spanish service at 7:00 pm at  
Ascension

**Easter Sunday**, March 31<sup>st</sup>  
Unified worship at 10:00 am

## Rev. Joseph Ellwanger Receives Award



*The Rev. Joseph Ellwanger  
Courtesy bendingthehearttojustice.com*

Rev. Ellwanger received the first annual Rev. Joseph Ellwanger Social Justice Award on Martin Luther King Jr. Day for his exemplary lifetime of social justice work.

Pastor Joe, a longtime friend of many at Ascension, and retired pastor of Cross Lutheran Church, began his social justice work with the early civil rights efforts in Selma, Alabama, and his efforts continue today. He and his wife Joyce are indeed role models of leadership.

Pastor Joe and Joyce are active members of Hephatha Church and active founding members of Breaking the Chains Ministry, serving incarcerated men in Milwaukee and Kenosha.

Congratulations, Pastor Joe!



## VIA's 11<sup>TH</sup> Annual "Phobruary"



VIA Community Development Corporation is excited to announce the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Phobruary. February has become a month of celebration and appreciation for locally owned businesses. VIA invites the community to enjoy a signature Vietnamese dish, pho (pronounced fuh).

What is pho? It's a soup native to Vietnam, common in Laos and Thailand, which delivers a complex combination of flavors that dance on the tongue's taste buds. It combines noodles with a choice of thinly-sliced beef, chicken, vegetables or shrimp, and also offers a multitude of garnishes and fresh herbs to tailor the soup to individual preferences. These typically include Thai Basil, sprouts, cilantro, limes, jalapeño, sauces, peppers, and other items. This delicious combination of flavors will satisfy your hunger by the time you get to the bottom of the bowl.

Phobruary has been a tradition that has taken place in Silver City for the past 10 years! This year for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Phobruary, participants include three international restaurants: Vientiane Noodle Shop, Thai Bar-B-Que, and Bamboo Restaurant located in Silver City. These restaurants will be offering specials throughout the month of February. See <https://viacdc.org/event/phobruary/> for more information.

### Ascension Contact Information

Phone: 414-645-2933

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

Pastor Germán Novelli-Angrisano (Latino Ministry pastor)

Pastor Casey Sugden (interim pastor)

Chuck Ellingson (office manager)

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

## Restaurants with Menu Specials

**Vientiane Noodle Shop** – Authentic Laotian and Thai Cuisine in Silver City District Since 2001  
3422 W National Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215 |  
414-672-8440

**Thai Bar-B-Que Restaurant** – The Best Thai Food in Town.  
3417 W National Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215 |  
414-647-0812

**Bamboo Restaurant** – Authentic, made-from-scratch Laotian & Thai Cuisines.  
3427 W National Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53215 |  
414-316-9023

### Get it on the Calendar!

Contact Bonny López 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 López, [bonnylopez@ascensionmke.com](mailto:bonnylopez@ascensionmke.com)

### Next Ascension News

**March 4**

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

Please email your group's content to:

**Cindy Jackson**, lead - [cindy\\_jaxn@yahoo.com](mailto:cindy_jaxn@yahoo.com)

**Gail Brodersen-Heins**, community - [grheins@hotmail.com](mailto:grheins@hotmail.com)

**Charlie Kudy**, Ascension teams - [kudy826@gmail.com](mailto:kudy826@gmail.com)

**Ar Lee**, Hmong ministry - [lisab070520@gmail.com](mailto:lisab070520@gmail.com)

