



# Ascension News

One Church, One Body, One Spirit, Serving all People  
Una Iglesia, Un Cuerpo, Un Espíritu, Sirviendo a todas las personas  
Ib Lub Tuamtsev, Ib Lub Cev, Ib Tug Ntsujplig, Ua Num Rua Txhaus Tug Tuabneeg

## A Brief Story for Lent and Holy Week

In one of his “Cherry Log Sermons,” Dr. Fred Craddock describes a scene with which many of us can identify. A little girl falls down and skins her elbow, and comes running to her mother. The mother picks her up and says, “Let me kiss it and make it all better.”

She hugs her child, kisses the elbow, holds the little girl in her lap, and all is well.

Did the kiss make it well? Perhaps. But more likely, it was that ten minutes in the mother’s lap!

Dr. Craddock invites us to sit in the lap of love and see the mother crying. We might say, “Why are you crying? I’m the one who hurt my elbow.”

“Because you hurt,” the mother says, “I hurt” That does more for the child than all the bandages and medicine in the world.

“What is the cross?” Dr. Craddock asks. “Can I say it this way? It is to sit for a few minutes in the lap of God, who hurts because you’re hurt.”

## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

The ELCA Youth Gathering has a long history and an even longer lineage going back to 1902. Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

When the opportunity to attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering was brought up to our youths, they felt nervous, excited and scared. There were many questions, like “What’s this gathering like?” “What do they do?” and “Will we like it?”. Despite the unknown, they decided to be courageous, and instead of assuming what it’ll be like, they wanted to experience it for themselves.

This year’s theme is “Created to Be” and is centered on Psalm 139:14. We are beyond excited to send seven of our very own Ascension youths and two chaperones to join the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July! Attending this event will be: Keith Brown, April Chang, Yuna Chang, Madeleine Guerrero-Perez, Sebastian Mendoza, Samuel Thao, and Hannah Vang. Adults will include Kou Thao and Anna Xiong.

There will be many fundraisers in the upcoming months to help raise funds to cover the registration fee, travel, lodging and meal expenses. The first fundraiser will be a:

**Waffle Breakfast on Sunday, March 17th, 10:30 am – 12:20 pm**

Please stay tuned, and thank you for all the continual support!

## *In This Issue*

A Brief Story for Lent and Holy Week

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

Thrivent Choice Dollars

In-As-Much -  
All Year Long!

Easter Lily Plant Sale

Craft & Bake Sale

Altar Guild Update

Holy Week Worship Schedule

### **First Communion Class**

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:00

See Pastor Casey for more information

### **Congregational Meeting:**

Budget Approval

Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

---

## **Worship services**

English: 9:00 am

Spanish: 10:15 am

Hmong: 11:30 am

---

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Congratulations, Ascension Lutheran Church! One good act leads to another, and the impact grows. Thanks to Thrivent, that's what we've experienced through the Thrivent Choice® program.

In 2023, Ascension received \$722 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding from Thrivent members with qualifying products!

These funds help support the important work we do, and together we can do even more in 2024!

Don't forget: 2023 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Thanks for your continued partnership in 2024!

## In-As-Much - All Year Long!

Regarding the "With Gratitude" article from Pastor Mary Martha of Hephatha Lutheran Church in the February Newsletter, I thought I would just offer a suggestion... Whenever I am shopping at Walgreens during the year, I usually stroll down the aisle of toys and pick up something that stands out. I collect a couple of stuffed animals and gather them all year for the December gifts to Hephatha. I think I enjoy it as much as the youth at the church!

Susie Hess

## Easter Lily Plant Sale



We would like to ask for your help decorating the church for Easter with Easter Lily plants.

The cost of the plants: \$16.00 each

You may take the plants home with you after the Unified Easter Sunday worship service, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Orders must be in by Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

To order Easter lilies, fill out the bulletin insert form.

Contact person: Roberta Graf  
414-312-3754

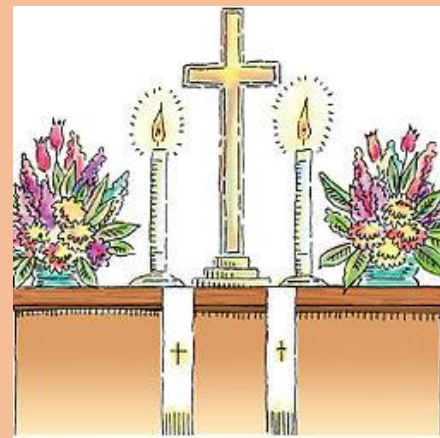
## CRAFT & BAKE Sale – Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

Beautiful craft items and lots of delicious baked goods will be available on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00-3:00 at Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee.

Grace is located just west of St. Luke's Hospital, at 3030 West Oklahoma Ave.

Pastor German Novelli, Jr. is the pastor at Grace.

## 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@gmail.com](mailto:robertagraf3754@gmail.com)

*Please note the corrected email address.*

Thank you!

Roberta Graf and Nancy Oshiro



## 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



# Holy Week

### 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

**April 2**

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, March 22<sup>nd</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)

### Ascension Contact Information

Phone: 414-645-2933

Website: [ascensionmke.com](http://ascensionmke.com)

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.

