



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

Meet Pastor Aida Muñiz, Part II

Grace and Peace from the One and Triune God!

After almost three years of urban ministry, to then jump to five years in a very suburban one, to then go back to urban ministry again feels a little bit as if the last eight years have been a ride on a rollercoaster at the Kingdom of God's theme park. Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you during this transition; needless to say, I have been busy.

I know that there is a lot you would like to know about me, and there is a lot to share. In this issue I will share my call story. Sounds good? Well, here we go...

As you would imagine, God did not text me, nor did I hear a loud "male" voice calling my name. Sometimes God calls in subtle ways; at least that is how it was with me.

Church has always been part of my upbringing, specifically the Lutheran Church. I was part of the youth and young adult leaders in the Caribbean Synod. That experience changed my world view; the church had become part of my life. Little did I know that that was just the beginning.

When I was 17 years old, and as I was figuring out if I wanted to be a reporter, history professor or a psychologist, an annoying and persistent thought started picking into my thoughts: "What if I become a pastor???" I must be honest, it felt almost natural. I talked it over with someone that advised I should follow my initial plans and not to worry about it, because if God was calling, in time I would know for sure.

Well, 14 years later, and after a BA in Psychology, marriage, grad school, two toddlers, a painful divorce, a 3-year fit with God, a rollercoaster of a life, plus many life-learning experiences/mistakes, the ground was ready, and I was ready to listen, as well. It started just like an earworm (at this point I had become a Christer¹), and on Pentecost Sunday, I decided I would go to church.

I can't make this up!!!

(See the next page for the rest of Pastor Aida's story!)

¹ A Christer is someone that goes to church on Christmas and Easter.

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Worship services

English: 9:00 am

Spanish: 10:15 am

Hmong: 11:30 am

Trilingual unified services

July 14th – 10:00 am

August 18th – 10:00 am

Meet Pastor Aida Muñiz, Part II (*continued*)

That Sunday, the pastor compared the disciples waiting for their “GO” to a group of baseball players in the dugout waiting to go out and play. He said that there were people that God was calling who were ignoring the call. You can imagine how I felt as I sat all alone on that third pew from the left. Was God calling ME?! All-knowing God calling this sinner?? What could I offer??

That afternoon, I had a conversation with the pastor. I was freaking out, and I numbered each and every one of my obstacles: lack of time, a huge student loan I couldn’t pay, and no money for seminary. He said not to worry about money, to which I laughed... just like Sarah.

I started the process, and six months later I started my classes. It was January 2007 when this journey began. All I can say is that God has been faithful.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

Pastor Aida



Women’s Bible Study

Laura Ruiz, Marge Hendrickson, Roberta Graf, Sandy Maes, Susie Hess and I meet each month to discuss God’s word using the ELCA Gather magazine. We meet in each other’s homes with refreshments and conversation. The schedule changes each month. Call me if you are interested in joining us for study and friendship.

Our next Bible Study meeting will be **Monday, July 29th, 1:00 pm**, at Marge Hendrickson’s.

Jan Fox (262-782-5680)

Ladies’ Luncheon

All ladies of Ascension are invited to join together for a meal and discussion. We meet at various restaurants at 12:00. Our next luncheon will be **Monday, July 10**, when we will be gathering at Open Flame Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Edgerton. Let me know if you are interested in joining us!

Jan Fox (262-782-5680)

AMIS

AMIS members meet four times a year for a shared meal and discussion. Our motto is *We are blessed to be a blessing to others*. Our next meeting is **Friday, August 23rd**, at Art and Sandy Maes’ home. We will be discussing the Mum Plant Sale and what gifts we might make for those in need.

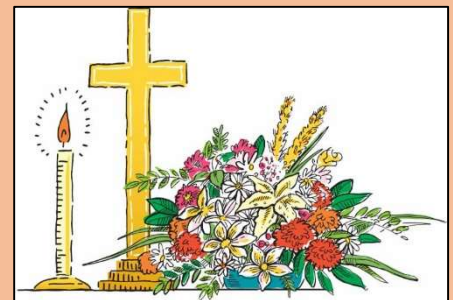
Call me if you are interested in joining us. Contributions to AMIS are always most welcome.
Jan Fox (262-782-5680)

Women’s Bible Study Supports Wisconsin Christians for Justice in Palestine

At our meeting on Monday, June 17th, we decided to donate our devotion money to Wisconsin Christians for Justice in Palestine. Susie, Gail and others have been attending that organization’s meetings. The amount we sent was \$350. Our next Bible Study meeting will be **Monday, July 29th, 1:00 pm**, at Marge Hendrickson’s. Let me know if you are interested in joining us.

Jan Fox

Altar Guild & Altar Flowers



Please contact Roberta Graf (at 414-312-3754, robertagraf3754@gmail.com, or by speaking with her on Sunday morning) if you would like to be a member of the Ascension Altar Guild. Please also contact Roberta if you are interested in purchasing altar flowers.



Because of You

Can you imagine a worship service without music? I cannot. Did not God create us with the ability to sing and make music? Music is an important part of worship and praise to God.

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.” Psalm 98:4

BECAUSE OF YOU, we are blessed with music at Ascension every Sunday! Thanks to your generous giving, we are able to sing and make music during worship in English, Spanish and Hmong! The children’s choir fills the sanctuary with joy when they perform for us during unified services, directed by Ar Lee. We are moved as José Guerrero plays the congas or a guitar with the Latino musicians. Our sister Gao McCrary’s beautiful voice lifts our hearts as she sings in English, Hmong AND Spanish! Sterling Biggers and his band provide the melody and harmonies as the congregation sings hymns. The beautiful sound of the native flute lifts our prayers heavenward. What a gift to hear and watch Roxanne Carloni lead the bell choir as they perform at worship several times during the year. We give thanks for Laura Ruiz’s skill at the piano and leading us in singing praises in Spanish.

BECAUSE OF YOU, we look forward with hope to the future of even more music at Ascension! A music director, to bring together and serve all three of our language ministries and worship services, is an identified need. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to hear our organ more often? With your continued generous giving, we will be able to grow our music ministry at Ascension.

“My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.” Psalm 57:7

Peace,

Grace Thomsen and Ka Bao Yang,
Stewardship Co-Chairs



Summer Ice Cream and Taco Social

AMIS invites everyone to a Summer Ice Cream and Taco Social.

**Thursday, August 1st
4:30-7:00pm
On the Patio**

This year, ice cream will be free while the supply lasts!

Upcoming Events

**Sunday, July 14th, 10:00 am –
Special Unified Service**

The July unified worship service will be the 2nd Sunday in July. We will give the youth and chaperones going to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans a terrific send-off!

**Saturday, August 3rd –
Ascension Picnic**

Minooka Park, #4
1927 E. Sunset Drive,
Waukesha

11:30 setup, 12:00 lunch
Daily parking permits will be available from Jerry Vang, July 28th as well as a carpool sign-up.

**Saturday, September 7th,
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm** Ascension
at the Silver City Fest, near 33rd
& National Ave.

**Saturday & Sunday,
September 14th & 15th, Annual
AMIS Mum Plant Sale** (hours
to be announced)

**Saturday, September 28th,
10:00 am – 5:00 pm**
Doors Open Milwaukee. Tours
of Sanctuary & History of our
101 Years Old Sanctuary



MICAH's We All Belong Campaign

Rally for Democracy - Sunday, July 14 (the day before the opening of the Republican National Convention), Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee WI 53211

We have an impressive lineup of national religious speakers.

Basically, we're fighting White Christian Nationalism, because it destroys democracy and the Beloved Community and hurts people we care about, including immigrants, Jewish people, Muslim people, Trans people, People of color, all our children, and more!

This event is receiving national attention and will have a major impact on the future of our country!

In peace and hope,
Sister Barbara Pfarr, Organizer
We All Belong Campaign
414-841-2762

WE ALL BELONG
A CAMPAIGN OF MICAH

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY

NATIONAL SPEAKERS | MUSIC | ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, JULY 14

1PM DOORS OPEN | 2:00 - 6:00 PM
HELENE ZELAZO CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
2419 E KENWOOD BLVD, MILWAUKEE, WI 53211

NATIONAL SPEAKERS

- Rev. Al Sharpton (National Action Network)
- Ms. Amanda Tyler (Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty)
- Rev. Bryan Massingale (Fordham University Center for Ethics Education)
- Rev. Jim Wallis (Georgetown University Center on Faith and Justice)

LOCAL SPEAKERS

- Rev. Dr. Richard Shaw
- Rev. Marilyn Miller
- Ms. Janan Najieb
- Rev. Joseph Jackson, Jr.
- Rev. Joseph Ellwanger
- Rev. Greg Lewis
- MICAH Task Force Leaders

General Admission Tickets \$5, available June 19. First come, first served. Livestream available. Visit MICAHmke.org for details.
Contact: (414) 264-0805 | weallbelong@wisdomwisconsin.org

Ascension Contact Information

Phone: 414-645-2933

Website: ascensionmke.com

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

Pastor Aida Muñiz (full-time pastor)

Pastor Germán Novelli-Angrisano (Latino Ministry 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.

Automatic Giving

Have you considered giving your offerings to Ascension electronically? More than two dozen Ascension disciples already use Vanco to give their offerings automatically. Most have their offerings automatically withdrawn from their checking accounts either weekly or monthly. In addition to giving offerings to Ascension's general operating fund, you can give electronically to the following ministries:

- Roof Fund
- AMIS (Ascension in Mission)
- Evangelism/Outreach

You can set up automatic giving with Ascension's office manager, Chuck Ellingson, who can be contacted via email at officemanager@ascensionmke.com or by calling the church at 414-645-2933 during Chuck's office hours, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If you prefer to set automatic giving up yourself, please visit <https://ascensionmke.com/giving/> and scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Donate here" to set up an online account for GIVE+ (also known as Simply Giving) to give a single or recurring offering to Ascension Lutheran Church. Donating electronically is simple and secure.

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

Next Ascension News

August 1

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, July 19th**.

Please email your group's content to:

Cindy Jackson, lead - cindy_jaxn@yahoo.com

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

Charlie Kudy, Ascension teams/Website - kudy826@gmail.com

Ar Lee, Hmong ministry - lisab070520@gmail.com

