



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

The Beloved Community

Part 1

A couple of weeks ago I attended ALC's Bible Study. During the bible study there was some conversation about the concept of "Beloved Community" and I thought it would be very appropriate subject for ALC to ponder on.

Jesus laid out the most basic Christian teaching of all when the young man asked him, "Which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He told him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:36-40).

Although the idea behind the Beloved Community is timeless, the phrase was first used by philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce (1855-1916) who founded the Fellowship of Reconciliation. It was then popularized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) and the civil rights movement. In a nutshell, we could say that the Beloved Community is the body within which all people can grow to love God and love the image of God that we find in our neighbors, in ourselves, and in creation. For Dietrich Bonhoeffer the "beloved community" is the essence of the Church. This community is formed of people who believe they are loved by God and that everyone around them is loved by God, too. They believe this so deeply that it shapes who they are, how they live their lives and how they deal with their own, and with others' brokenness.

During the Civil Rights Movement, Rev. Dr. King made it popular as a model of a new and achievable society. Here the result of non-violence would create the beloved community where there could be a new relationship between the oppressed and the oppressor.

For now, let's focus on how a "Beloved Community" can look like in ALC, regardless of whatever church worshiping group we might be a part of (9:00 am, 10:15 am, 11:30 am). How to build one community can be a particular challenge for our 3-in-1 community of faith. To achieve it, takes intentionality, persistence and curiosity.

In our next edition I will mention a few characteristics of the "Beloved Community" and how we could apply them here at ALC.

In Christ,
Pastor Aida

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Worship services

English: 9:00 am
Spanish: 10:15 am
Hmong: 11:30 am

10:00 am unified worship
services at least once a month.

For specific dates, see the
calendar under

News & Events at

www.ascensionmke.com

BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY

a stewardship program for our congregation



As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

How do we respond to God's call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God's love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside the church walls and our homes.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" is the title of our stewardship emphasis this year. The scriptural basis of this focus on our stewardship of all that God has entrusted into our care is I Peter 2:9, "*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light.*"

We begin by proclaiming all that God has done for us, hence the title "Because of God's Great Mercy." God has made us God's own people. We will also consider how generous giving is an important part of every Christian's life, and how our combined generosity can make even greater things possible through our congregation.

We will think together about how our giving to Ascension is an important part of our Christian faith, and how Ascension uses our offerings to do God's work within

the congregation's walls, in our community, and around the world.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will ask you to do two things. First, you will be asked to increase your giving to Ascension by at least one half of one percent of your household income. Second, you will be asked to consider using an automatic funds transfer program that Ascension already has in place for your giving.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will use mail, email, and time in worship to share information with you. Please make a special effort to watch for materials during this important time in our congregation's life.

In Christ,
KaBao Yang and Grace Thomsen,
Stewardship co-chairs

Trunk or Treat



Save the Date!

Saturday, October 12th,
2:00-4:00pm

Chili – treats – music!
Plan now for a spooktacular
afternoon at Ascension!

Lee Her

September Events

Silver City Fest

Saturday, September 7th,
Noon-5:00 pm

32nd-35th St., W. National Ave.

Come visit Ascension's table.
Meet our neighbors.

Annual AMIS Mum Plant Sale

Saturday, September 14th,
10:00 am-1:00 pm

Sunday, September 15th,
9:30 am-11:30 am

See the article on page 3 for
information on how to pre-order
plants.

Doors Open MKE

Saturday, September 28th,
10:00 am-5:00 pm

Ascension's sanctuary &
Commons will be open for tours
and to welcome the public.

Anyone interested in
volunteering for any of the
above events, please contact
Marilyn Lange at 262 490-5892
or mlange8959@gmail.com.



Farewell to Pastor Novelli-Angrisano

After five years as a long-term interim pastor at Ascension, it was with gratitude and thankfulness that we bade farewell to Pr. Novelli. It's incredible to think that he started working at Ascension in September, 2019. He served with us throughout COVID and all the changes that the pandemic brought. Though his interim call was primarily for the Latino Ministry, there was a period of time when he was the only pastor serving here.

Pastor Novelli was always available to help the entire congregation, no matter the language ministry. Confirmation & first communion classes were open to anyone from Ascension and included disciples from Santa Fe, too. During his stay, Pastor Novelli would open the building on Sunday mornings. And, thanks to the technology of his phone, Ascension was able to record, share and stream worship services online.

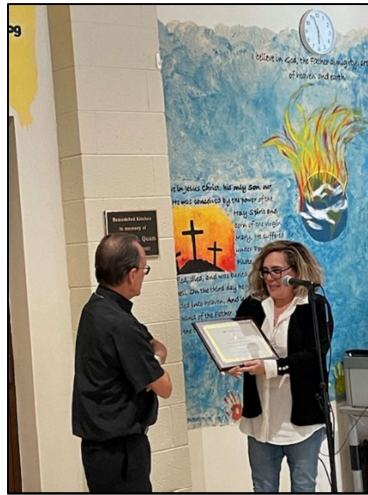
We celebrated his time with us in a farewell gathering held Saturday afternoon, August 10th, in Ascension's dining room. There were people in attendance from all three language ministries as well as some of Pastor Novelli's family and other special guests. Along with the delicious food, there was a sharing of testimonials and great fellowship, too.

Though we bid him farewell, Pastor Novelli is not far away. He continues to serve at Santa Fe/Faith Lutheran church just a couple blocks away.

We will miss you and are grateful for all you have done, Pastor Novelli-Angrisano. God bless you!

Gracias. Thank you. Ua tsaug.

Laura Ruiz



Doors Open Milwaukee



Ascension's sanctuary and Commons will be open for Doors Open Milwaukee, Saturday, September 28th, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Please stop by, and invite your friends to join you!

Plant HOPE



AMIS (Ascension in Mission) will hold its Fall Plant Sale September 14th & 15th.

Beautiful large mum plants for your garden, home, or to give as gifts will be available for purchase on Saturday, September 14th, and Sunday, September 15th, at the church. You may pre-order by contacting Marilyn Lange at 262 490-5892 or mlange8959@gmail.com.

Purchase or pick up plants at the church parking lot on September 14th from 10:00 am-1:00 pm or on the 15th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Plants are \$12.50 each, 2 for \$24 or 3 for \$35. Checks can be made out to AMIS or to Ascension Lutheran Church with AMIS in the memo line.

All proceeds from the Plant HOPE Plant Sale will go to support local and global mission projects. Thank you to Thrivent for an Action grant to help support this project.

Marilyn Lange



Volunteer Opportunity

If you're willing to volunteer to answer phones in the Ascension office from 9:30 am until noon on Monday mornings (or Tuesday, if Monday is a holiday), please call Chuck at 414.645.2933 or email him at officemanager@ascensionmke.com.

A Prayer for Neighborliness

O God, we pray for a broader vision of the needs of humanity, and a deeper compassion to fill those needs; for a planting of the seeds of concern for all humanity in our hearts; for a tapping of the wells of generosity.

May we live together as people who have been forgiven a great debt. May we be gentle, walking softly with one another. May we be understanding, lest we shall add to the world's sorrows or cause to flow needless tears.

May we be as anxious for the rights of others as we are for our own. May we be as eager to forgive as we are to seek forgiveness. May we know no barriers of creed or race or sex, that our love may be like Yours—a love that sees all people as Your children and our kin. May we be ministers of humanity.

Rev. Dr. Peter Marshall

AMIS News

The AMIS meeting was August 23rd. It was so enjoyable to sit outside in the Maes' back yard.

We discussed fellowship for September 15th. It is Joyce Henkel's 100th birthday. Her daughter is providing cake and ice cream, and AMIS will provide coffee and lemonade. No other treats are needed this time.

We discussed the mum sale. Pre-orders would be appreciated. The sale is September 14th and 15th. The cost is \$12.50 each, 2 for \$24 and 3 for \$35.

We discussed our next gifting. This time we will be generous with gifts of \$1,500 each for Bread of Healing Clinic, The Gathering at Ascension, Sojourner Peace Center, and suffering people of Gaza. During the month of September, we will be collecting hygiene supplies for Sojourner Peace Center. A container for items will be near the greeters' table. Items are needed for adults and children. They need large sizes of body wash, bar soap, face wash, shampoo and conditioner, body lotion, deodorant, razors, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

The next meeting for AMIS is Friday, January 10th, at the Loppnow's. We'd love to have you join us!

Jan Fox (262-782-5680)

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

October 1

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, September 20th**.

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

Ascension Contact Information

Phone: 414-645-2933

Website: ascensionmke.com

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

Pastor Aida Muñiz (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.

