



# 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 2

The “Beloved Community” has certain characteristics:

1. In the “Beloved Community”, conflict still exists, but it is resolved peacefully, nonviolently, and without hostility, ill will, or resentment.
2. The “Beloved Community” recognizes, appreciates, and values the worth of all people, animals, and ecosystems.
3. Kindness, compassion, and love for all life motivates our actions. So, we work together to peacefully end hunger, prejudice, poverty, homelessness, climate change, environmental destruction, factory farming, and violence and injustice of all kinds.
4. The “Beloved Community” is committed to unconditional and all-inclusive kindness and goodwill.

Now, let’s think about ALC’s journey as a community of faith on Layton Blvd. How could we apply these four characteristics to our congregation? I want to dedicate this issue to the very first one: CONFLICT.

Interestingly enough, and maybe contrary to some ideas, a “Beloved Community” model for a congregation does not imply a perfect all-loving group of people. If the church involves humanity, the church will always be flawed because of sin. Conflict is a reality; the key is how to deal with conflict. Ignoring conflict is as dangerous as having a ticking bomb hidden in the Commons.

Also, looking at conflict in a healthy way is necessary. A conflict might bring crisis, in turn crisis can bring change, and change can be a good and needed thing. A little bit of Scripture and a lot of love for your neighbor does the trick:

- **Go to the person:** According to Matthew 18:15, the first step to resolving conflict is to go to the person you have a disagreement with in private and try to restore the relationship.
- **Seek outside help:** If you’re stuck, you can seek help from one or two impartial witnesses or bring the issue to church leadership.
- **Be a peacemaker:** Even if you feel you’re not at fault, God calls you to be a peacemaker. (Romans 12: 18)
- **Be humble:** Solving conflict requires humility and a desire for peace over personal victory. (Genesis 26:21-22)
- **Find common ground:** Compromise and find common ground that’s bigger than your differences.
- **Focus on the issue:** Focus on resolving the problem, not attacking the person.
- **Maintain a calm tone of voice:** A soft answer can turn away wrath, while a harsh word can stir up anger.
- **Listen:** Listening is a great tool to help resolve issues.

## *In This Issue*

The Beloved Community  
Because of God’s Great Mercy  
Thank you from AMIS  
New Ministry – Furniture  
Ministry  
Communications Team  
Ascension in Photos  
Trunk or Treat  
Hephatha’s Mission Partner  
Appreciation Day  
We Love All 2024 Event

---

## Worship services

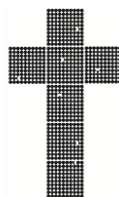
English: 9:00 am  
Spanish: 10:15 am  
Hmong: 11:30 am

10:00 am unified worship  
services at least once a month.  
For specific dates, see the  
calendar under  
News & Events at  
[www.ascensionmke.com](http://www.ascensionmke.com)

---

# BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY

*a stewardship program for our congregation*



November 17<sup>th</sup> is Giving Sunday at Ascension Lutheran Church. We will gather in the sanctuary for a unified service at 10:00 am. During worship the three Sundays leading up to Giving Sunday you will hear testimony from other Ascension disciples how “God’s Great Mercy” has blessed them and the work of our church.

“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.”*

As the sunny, warm days of summer come to a close this fall, I am reminded of God’s abundant love for our earth, for all living things, for each one of us. Soon the days will shorten, and the darkness of winter will set in. This is a time of seasonal transition, and it is also a time for us to remember we are children of the light! Let us proclaim all that God has done for us. Let us count those blessings!

We at Ascension have a long history of giving generously. Our continued presence here on Layton Boulevard, on Milwaukee’s south side, is a blessing to this community. We know that our combined generosity can make even greater things possible through our congregation.

During the next few weeks, “Because of God’s Great Mercy”, we will ask you to do two things. First, you will be asked to increase your giving by at least ½ of 1% 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.

We are blessed to be a blessing. We thank you for your faithful consideration and prayers as we work together at Ascension, remembering we are “God’s own people.”

In Christ,  
Ka Bao Vang and Grace Thomsen,  
Stewardship Co-Chairs

## Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who purchased mum plants at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual AMIS Plant Sale. Your generosity helped AMIS raise over \$900 to help support mission programs and projects locally and worldwide.

Mums are hardy in zones 5-9. If you plan to add your plants to your garden, it is recommended that you plant them in late September to early October to give them a chance to get established before cold weather sets in. Remember, mums like sun and plenty of water. Enjoy your beautiful mums.

Marilyn Lange

## New Ministry – Furniture Ministry

A new ministry is bringing together congregations from across the synod to collect gently used furniture and household items to share with people in need.

The ministry started with Holy Cross, Menomonee Falls, who sourced beds to share with Hephatha, Milwaukee. The ministry now collects furniture donations from many sources including from the estates of those who have passed away. Recently Outreach for Hope has helped expand the ministry and Faith/Santa Fe provides a truck to pick up and deliver furniture donations.

Are you downsizing or replacing gently used furniture? Consider the Furniture Ministry. Contact Andy Dederich at [shareourbest@holycrosslutheran.org](mailto:shareourbest@holycrosslutheran.org)

*~submitted by Marilyn Lange*

## Communications Team

Do you like posting to Facebook or updating websites? Or perhaps you like to help set up events. Or maybe you really like coming up with new ways to tell the story of Ascension! If so, we would love to have you join our team! We do meet monthly, but that is not a requirement. Talk with Pastor Aida to get connected to a member of the Communications Team!

Cindy Jackson



## Ascension in Photos



Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Joyce!



Fun at the Church Picnic



Ascension at the Silver City Fest on September 7<sup>th</sup>



Laughter during the Children's Message

## Trunk or Treat



Join us for a Spooktacular afternoon at Ascension's Trunk or Treat! Get ready for a hauntingly good time filled with candy, laughter, and community spirit! Enjoy delicious chili to warm your soul, indulge in gooey s'mores by the fire, and sip on hot chocolate as you mingle to the beat of festive music! Dress up in your favorite costume and come vote for your favorite trunk! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm** in the church parking lot.

Let's make this a Halloween to remember!

Lee Her



The Greater Milwaukee Synod's  
Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team Presents:



**NOVEMBER 9, 2024**

**8:30 TO 3:30**

**ADORATION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3840 W EDGERTON AVE, GREENFIELD, WI**



**JOSIAH CRAWFORD, KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Josiah Crawford-Olesen is a Madison-based educator, presenter, and clinician, focusing research on creating inclusive spaces that haven't been traditionally welcoming to the queer community, namely classrooms and churches. Previous presentations include the South Dakota Music Educators Association Annual Conference during his undergraduate work, the Wisconsin Music Educators Association Annual Conference in October of 2023, as well as various regional churches. When not researching and presenting, Josiah is a music educator, and lives in the Madison area with his husband, Hunter.



**Register by Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm to guarantee a meal.** If you register after this (online or at the door), you may need to find lunch on your own. Registration is \$15.

<https://milwaukee-synod.org/event/we-love-all-2024/>



### MISSION PARTNER APPRECIATION DAY

Please join us:

**+ Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> +**

**3:00 p.m. in person worship**

**followed by dinner**

**Please share this invitation WIDELY!!!!**

*We thank God for you! We are grateful for your serving in the Gospel with us and we hope you can join us for this special time of giving thanks to God and honoring you, our mission partners.*

*(hephatha100.com will contain a "one click" link to join the worship by ZOOM)*

**God's peace to you,  
Hephatha Lutheran Church  
1720 W. Locust Street  
414-264-0234 (please RSVP by October 25 if possible)**

### 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)

### 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 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.

### Next Ascension News

**November 4**

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, October 25<sup>th</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/website - [kudy826@gmail.com](mailto:kudy826@gmail.com)

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

