



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 Apostle to the Apostles

Part 2

Submitted by Pastor Aida

What we know about Mary of Magdala, for the most part comes from the Bible. Now... please understand that what we call the Bible is a collection of religious books that made it into the canon¹. Canon that, by the way, was selected and written by men. Please, if you feel like you're about to suffer a conniption, take a deep breath and remember that a couple of Sundays ago I said that the Bible/Scripture is but a **vessel** that holds the Word of God. Therefore, it is my opinion that our sister Mary needs to be reclaimed and freed from centuries of myth and distortion.

In our previous edition, I ended briefly mentioning that she was "labeled" a prostitute thanks to Pope Gregory I. Basically, she has been reduced to the patron saint of everything sexual. Well, did you know that in Ireland "Magdalene Asylums" were founded to house the so-called "fallen" women like prostitutes, girls and women rejected by their families?

The institution of the church, in its pursuit of minimizing her importance in the history of the Church, has reduced our sister to basically a sexual symbol. This is reflected not only on our taught understanding of her past before meeting Jesus, but also in her relationship with Jesus. *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *A.D. 16* depicts a Mary Magdalene in love with Jesus. The *Da Vinci Code* shows them married and in the *Last Temptation of Christ* Jesus has a "what if" vision of Mary as his wife and mother of his children... REALLY???

The noncanonical Gnostic² texts (not accepted in the Christian canon) repeatedly mention Mary Magdalene as a close companion of Jesus. How about stopping the madness and considering instead, for the love of all things holy, that PERHAPS Jesus preferred Mary's company intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally. Haven't you ever had a special connection with someone?

Mary Magdalene was favored by Christ as someone who understood Jesus' true message. A woman who did ministry alongside Jesus shouldn't be so difficult to digest, but it was. We need to assume that the "male" disciples wouldn't have been too comfortable with Mary's leadership, wisdom and voice. Let's talk about that in our next issue.

TO BE CONTINUED...

** Make sure you read the footnotes; they can help you understand some things. **

¹ An authoritative collection of books considered to be divinely inspired and forming the standard for Christian belief and practice.

² Gnosticism refers to a diverse set of religious and philosophical systems that were prominent in the early centuries of the Christian era.

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**Congregational meeting for
Leadership Council elections**
Sunday, August 17th
following the 10:00 am
Unified Worship Service

Sunday 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.

AMIS 6th Annual Plant Sale



Ascension Lutheran Church
Saturday & Sunday,
September 20th & 21st

AMIS (Ascension in Mission) is holding its Annual Mum Plant sale to raise money to help support mission projects, both locally and globally. Beautify your garden or home with a lovely, locally grown mum plant, and help to support AMIS mission work.

Beautiful large mum plants will be available for purchase, or you can **pre-order them by calling Marilyn Lange at 262-490-5892 or by emailing her at mlange8959@gmail.com.**

Pick up pre-ordered plants or purchase them in the gym on Saturday, September 20th, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, or on Sunday, September 21st, after the unified worship service.

Plants are \$12.50 each, 2 for \$24 or 3 for \$35. All proceeds will go to support mission projects.

Thank you to Thrivent for an action grant to help support this project.

Marilyn Lange

“Hope in Motion!” Outreach for Hope Ride Run Walk

Save the Date!



Connect with your neighbors to **ride, run or walk** together, creating a path to resources for our Ministry Partners - while having a great time!

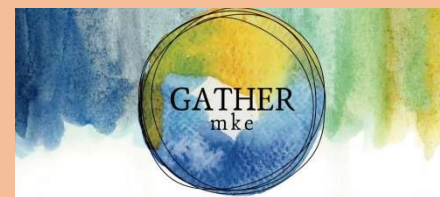
The 2025 Ride Run Walk takes place on the morning of Saturday, September 27th.

Scan the code below for more information.



Submitted by Pastor Aida

Gather MKE



Welcome to Gather MKE, a vibrant community of young adults (18-39ish) in southeastern Wisconsin building meaningful connections to our faith and our world. Join us for game nights, justice discussions, and worship, all with delicious food!

As an ecumenical group affiliated with the national ELCA Gather Network and the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA, we welcome people of diverse backgrounds and identities. This is a community for all to feel welcome and affirmed, to meet, to be, to gather just as you are.

Whether you have a home church you love or have never felt at home in organized religious spaces, we are here for you.

gathermke@gmail.com
linktr.ee/GatherMKE for
Discord, Instagram, and more



Submitted by Pastor Aida



S.W.A.G. Youth Visit Wisconsin Dells

The S.W.A.G. (Saved With Amazing Grace) youth group enjoyed a field trip to Wisconsin Dells on Saturday, July 26th.

Talk to Kou or Pastor Aida for more information on upcoming events!



2025 Schedule of Events

Plan now for these exciting events! *The following list of events is subject to change.*

Children & Youth

First Day of Sunday School

- Date: Sunday, 9/7

Trunk or Treat (Children, Youth, Family & Friends)

- Date: Saturday, 10/11
- Setup Time: 12:00 pm
- Event Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Place: Ascension Parking Lot
- Contact: PangNha Vang
414.336.8276

Unified Worship Services

Sunday, 8/17, 10:00 am

Sunday, 9/21, 10:00 am

- God's Work, Our Hands
Sunday

Sunday, 10/19, 10:00 am

Sunday, 11/16, 10:00 am

- Día de los Muertos

Sunday, 12/21, 10:00 am

Wednesday, 12/24, 4:00 pm

- Christmas Eve Family Service

HMoob/HMong 11:30 Service

Thanksgiving Lunch

- Date: Sunday, 12/7
- Time: After 11:30 service
- Food: Potluck
- Contact: KaBao Yang
920.246.5050

Xyoo Tshab/Hmong New Year Celebration 2026

- Date: Sunday, 1/4/2026
- Time: 10:00 am - Unified Service
- Lunch: After service
- Food: Hmong Ministry
- Contact: Ar Lee 414.405.9202



Treasurer's Report

	<u>Through</u> <u>6.30.25 Goal</u>	<u>6.30.25</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2025</u> <u>Budget</u>
Endowment	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00
Donations	\$102,500.00	\$94,211.64	\$205,000.00
Building Rental	\$68,843.26	\$69,827.02	\$137,686.52
Misc	\$15,375.00	\$3,767.20	\$31,250.00
Roof Donations	\$7,500.00	\$12,989.00	\$15,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$244,218.26	\$230,794.86	\$488,936.52

Administration	\$141,235.00	\$132,660.70	\$282,470.00
Ministry	\$15,700.00	\$12,708.59	\$31,400.00
Building	\$73,375.00	\$72,378.64	\$146,750.00
Utilities	\$30,775.00	\$42,711.59	\$61,550.00
Addtl Roof Prinp. Pmt	\$-	\$-	\$-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$261,085.00	\$260,459.52	\$522,170.00

Difference	\$(16,866.74)	\$(29,664.66)	\$(33,233.48)
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Charlie Kudy, treasurer

Get it on the Calendar!

Contact Bonny López or Chuck 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

Ascension Contact Information

Phone: 414-645-2933

Website: www.ascensionmke.com

Rev. Aida Muñiz: pastoraida@ascensionmke.com

Chuck Ellingson: officemanager@ascensionmke.com

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

If you know someone who would like a printed copy of this newsletter, please contact Jan Fox at 262-782-5680 or Chuck in the church office.

Ascension Picnic Photos



Next Ascension News

September 2nd

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, August 22nd**.

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

