



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 3

Submitted by Pastor Aida

In the Apocrypha¹, we can find that there were tensions between the Twelve and the women and especially between Peter and Mary of Magdala. These texts were not taken up by the Church, but the allusions to these conflicts are too numerous not to pay attention to; they must contain at least some part of truth. It shouldn't surprise us that the Twelve were "OK" with women following the Teacher with them, in spite of Jesus' wishes.

Many texts have been lost, but the ones remaining are truly eloquent like Pistis Sophia, Gospel according to Phillip, Gospel according to Mary Magdalene, and particularly the Gospel according to Thomas.²

In the Gospel according to Philip, Peter complains that Jesus loves Mary more than them, the male disciples. In the Gospel according to Mary Magdalene, Peter is shown to be jealous that the Lord has spoken privately with her and not directly with them, the Twelve. In the Gospel according to Thomas, Peter demands that Mary Magdalene leave the group, because "women are not worthy of life." This is just a sign that seems to reflect that there was a certain atmosphere of tension, which very likely could have been accentuated after the ascension of Jesus.

The disciples can't handle that a woman received Christ's favor. And certainly neither can history, men have been discrediting her reputation ever since, and the gospels highlighting her spiritual authority were banned from the Christian cannon.

What's notable about Mary of Magdala is her spiritual leadership; her insight and wisdom, her role as a first proclaimer, her devotion as a tomb-tender, and her appointment as witness. She is the one Christ entrusts with his presence and his most precious news of resurrection.

Unlike Peter, who denies Jesus, unlike Judas, who betrays him, unlike the disciples who fall asleep in the garden and who flee the scene at Jesus' arrest, unlike the male disciples who lock themselves in an upper room for fear of the authorities, Mary of Magdala persists. She continues to follow even after his death. In all four gospels she is among the first to witness Jesus' resurrection, and in John, Jesus appears first to her alone. She is the first to proclaim the resurrection to the disciples, making her an "Apostle to the Apostles" a title officially recognized by the Catholic Church in 2016.

¹ The Apocrypha are a set of books recognized in Catholic and Orthodox canons, but not in many Protestant or Jewish canons. These texts are not recognized in Scripture.

² Tunc, Suzanne. *También las mujeres seguían a Jesús*. Sal Terrae Editorial. 1998.

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Congregational meeting for Leadership Council elections

Sunday, September 28th
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, from 10:00 am – 11:00 am.

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

AMIS Sets \$2000 Goal to Help with Synod Flood Relief Fund



On Sunday, August 17th, with fewer than 50 people in attendance for the Unified Service, \$494 was raised in a matter of minutes as two simple brown bags made their way through the pews. A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Flood Relief Fund.

This effort is being coordinated by the Greater Milwaukee Synod in response to the historic flood that struck Milwaukee and surrounding communities damaging homes, churches, roads and other structures.

If you were not in church on August 17th, you can still participate in this effort to reach AMIS's goal of \$2000. Checks can be made out to Ascension Lutheran Church with AMIS Flood Relief Fund noted in the memo line. Cash gifts can be placed in an envelope with a note for AMIS Flood Relief Fund.

Donations can be placed in the offering basket the next few weeks or mailed to church (mail checks only, please). The need is urgent and your contributions are greatly appreciated.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1-4

Marilyn Lange

Blessings upon Blessings



On Sunday, September 7th at the 11:30 am worship service, Pastor Aida will preach on blessings and then school children will have their backpacks blessed and hunters will receive blessings for a safe and successful hunting season. Everyone is welcome!



A Confirmation Class kick-off meeting will be held after the 11:30 am worship service.

See Pastor Aida with any questions.



Church May Be the Answer to Our Latest Epidemic

submitted by Marilyn Lange

As a social worker for 4 decades, it is nearly impossible for me to ignore the social concerns and issues that affect all of us. I hope you will find this article both informative and helpful.

Loneliness was classified as an epidemic in 2023 by the former Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Vivek Murthy.

According to Gallup data, 1 in 5 adults are feeling loneliness. Intentional or not, people are on their own more often. It is harder than ever for adults to make friends. We are living in the so-called “Century of Solitude.” Loneliness and isolation are linked to higher risks of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, addiction, self-harm and suicide. Humans rely on one another for survival. Social connection is as essential as food, water or shelter according to former Surgeon General Murthy. The impact of loneliness affects people of all ages from kids to the elderly.

Church may be an answer.

Churches historically have been a social connector for all ages. Many of the things that go on in churches provided social activities and church was a great place to make new friends and get involved. Church today can and should be helping to fill the need for social connection. Ascension has many opportunities for social activities, friend-building, and purposeful and meaningful engagement. *Come, join in.*

Getting involved is easy to do. You may not be aware of all the groups and opportunities at Ascension. The list below is not all-inclusive but is intended to give you some idea of

what is available. Where possible, a contact person’s name and phone number are provided to call or talk to at church for more information and details about where and when they meet, etc. If no contact is listed or if you are wondering whether a group you would like exists, you can call the church office 414-645-2933, Mondays – Thursdays, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Youth Groups: S.W.A.G. youth group. Talk to Pastor Aida or Kou 414 645-2933

Women’s Groups: Church Ladies Lunch Bunch and Women’s Monthly Bible Study. Contact Sandy Maes 414-758-1651 for information about both of these groups.

Older Adult Groups: Weekly Dominoes, Sandwiches & Fun. Open to men and women, 10:00 am – 1:30 pm, Thursdays at church. Questions? Contact Joyce Henkel 414-325-3534

Fellowship = Friendly association, especially with people who share one’s interests.



2025 Schedule of Events

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

Children & Youth
<p>First Day of Sunday School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date: Sunday, 9/7 <p>Trunk or Treat (Children, Youth, Family & Friends)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<p>Sunday, 9/28, 10:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congregational Meeting <p>Sunday, 10/19, 10:00 am</p> <p>Sunday, 11/16, 10:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Día de los Muertos <p>Sunday, 12/21, 10:00 am</p> <p>Wednesday, 12/24, 4:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Eve Family Service
HMoob/HMong 11:30 Service
<p>Thanksgiving Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date: Sunday, 12/7 Time: After 11:30 service Food: Potluck Contact: KaBao Yang 920.246.5050 <p>Xyoo Tshab/Hmong New Year Celebration 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

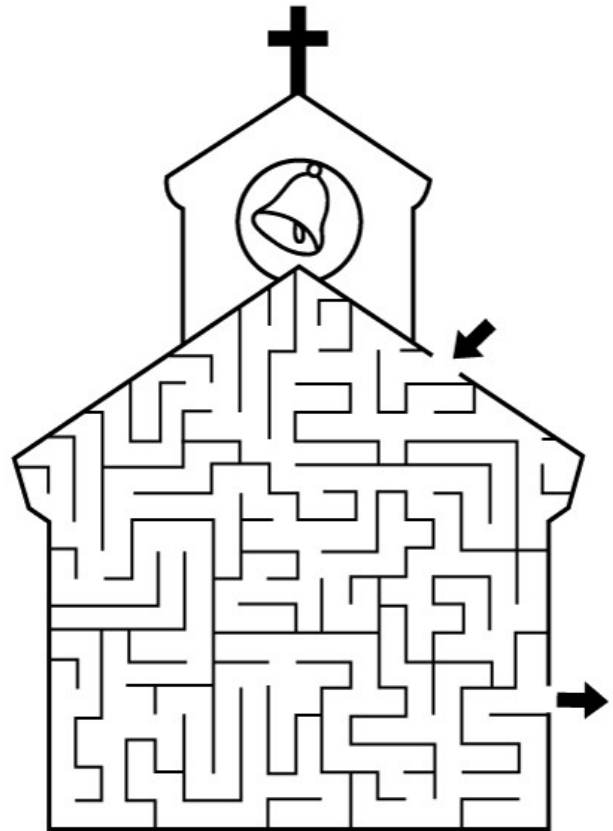
	<u>Through</u> <u>7.31.25 Goal</u>	<u>7.31.25</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2025</u> <u>Budget</u>
Endowment	\$58,330.00	\$66,666.64	\$100,000.00
Donations	\$119,576.50	\$104,427.29	\$205,000.00
Building Rental	\$80,312.55	\$82,664.87	\$137,686.52
Misc	\$17,936.48	\$11,092.53	\$31,250.00
Roof Donations	\$8,749.50	\$12,989.00	\$15,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$284,905.02	\$277,840.33	\$488,936.52

Administration	\$164,764.75	\$158,124.11	\$282,470.00
Ministry	\$18,315.62	\$14,274.99	\$31,400.00
Building	\$85,599.28	\$88,878.74	\$146,750.00
Utilities	\$35,902.12	\$46,810.01	\$61,550.00
Addtl Roof Prinp. Pmt	\$-	\$-	\$-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$304,581.76	\$308,087.85	\$522,170.00

Difference	\$(19,676.74)	\$(30,247.52)	\$(33,233.48)
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Charlie Kudy, treasurer

Just for Fun



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.

Next Ascension News

October 1st

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, September 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

