



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

In Between Reformation and Thanksgiving

Leaves are falling like crazy. Time to buy candy & turkey! Time to prepare and work in our backyards and gardens! Time to gather with friends and family! In church, it's the time in between Reformation and Thanksgiving and everything that comes with those two.

We just sang "A Mighty Fortress" and with that remembered that God justifies us, not by our own merits, but by grace through faith. We are forgiven on account of Christ's sacrifice. That's, in a nutshell, article 4 of *The Augsburg Confession*: "Justification."

Knowing that justification by faith is apart from works, that justification is a gift of God, and that we are pardoned, declared righteous, and adopted into the family of God should generate within us a heart of eternal thankfulness.

I'm so glad that my salvation isn't based on how well I perform religiously, but my salvation is sustained by grace. I fail many times. I catch myself trusting in myself too many times, but grace sustains me. Let us take a moment and thank the Creator for his grace.

Gratitude is the appropriate response to God our Creator, Lord, and Savior, who, in His goodness, redeems and sustains us.

Pope Francis once said: "*Gratitude is always a powerful weapon. Only if we are able to contemplate and feel genuine gratitude for all those ways we have experienced God's love, generosity, solidarity and trust, as well as his forgiveness, patience, forbearance and compassion, will we allow the Spirit to grant us the freshness that can renew... our life and mission.*"

In Christ,
Pastor Aida



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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.

Joyfully OUT(side)



On October 2nd, we welcomed Mikah Meyer to the Greater Milwaukee Synod as we celebrated being Joyfully OUT(side).

In 2019, Mikah Meyer claimed a world record for being the first person to travel to all 400+ national parks in the United States (including its territories) in one continuous journey (taking 3 years!) and another record for being the youngest person to visit all 400+ national parks. But Mikah's journey didn't end there (nor did it start there, but that's another story).

Prior to Mikah's journey, no company in the outdoor industry marketed to queer people or hired queer actors. Thanks to Mikah's journey and advocacy, in 2020 these companies finally started including a small amount of LGBTQIA+ marketing, goods, and actors, including Mikah! This was a big win, but it was short-lived. Following the Budweiser rainbow bottle fiasco in 2023, the outdoor industry became afraid, fired all queer folks (including Mikah), and stopped all marketing to the queer community. But it's not just the industry. Mikah shared with us the violence queer people regularly face at campgrounds and outdoor locations like our national parks and trails (where the potential safety of crowds, witnesses, and law enforcement that might otherwise

discourage expressions of hate is not present) including violence he received while running across Mississippi.

As I listened to Mikah's story, it was a loud reminder to me that I'm living in an oasis of faithful people in a country that is still filled queer hate; the transgender issues that have come to the forefront these past few years are only a part of a bigger picture of ongoing discrimination, hate, and violence toward our LGBTQIA+ siblings.

We know how important it is that we declare our churches to be RIC so that people know they are welcome here. The same is true in other spaces, like the outdoors. To help people do just that, Mikah created an outdoor safe space symbol - a rainbow tree with bark of many skin colors mikahmeyer.com/adventurepride.



If you are a hiker, biker, camper, or park visitor, please consider ordering one of these items to let people know they are safe to be their beautifully and wonderfully made selves around you.

Finally, if you were unable to join us for Joyfully OUT(side), that doesn't mean you have to miss out. Mikah's video, Canyon Chorus, is free to watch at mikahmeyer.com/documentary. Mikah's message in this video is so beautiful and important to hear. The moment that impacted me the most was when Mikah's mentor said, "You never ever, ever stop coming out. Every time that you meet

someone, it never goes away. You never stop."

As you can tell, I think Mikah is one of the most amazing queer people who is actively hungry for justice and righteousness in this world. If you ever have the chance to hear Mikah in the future, I highly recommend going. You won't regret it. Learn more about Mikah Meyer at mikahmeyer.com/about or youtube.com/@MikahMeyer

Rev. Tyler Rasmussen, interim
GMS RIC Ministry Team Chair



Trunk or Treat Photos



2025 Schedule of Events

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

Unified Worship Services

Sunday, 11/2, 10:00 am

- All Saints Day / Día de los Muertos

Sunday, 11/16, 10:00 am

Friday, 12/12, 5:00 pm

- Our Lady of Guadalupe Service

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: Ar Lee 414.405.9202

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



Community Partner Spotlight - LSS



Lutheran Social Services (LSS) will soon be expanding its Milwaukee-based programming to Ascension MKE, bringing new opportunities for community impact and collaboration.

Two of LSS's core programs—the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) program and the REACH Crisis Program—focus on serving children and adolescents in Milwaukee County. CLTS provides long-term case management for families, often working with them for a year or more, while the REACH Crisis Program offers short-term, intensive support for youth in crisis, typically lasting 90 days to six months.

In addition to these programs, LSS will also utilize office space at Ascension for its Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program, which provides outpatient and community-based mental health support for both children and adults. Sessions may take place in the office or in homes and community settings, depending on client needs.

LSS maintains strong partnerships across Milwaukee, including with the United Community Center—serving three schools with school-based mental health services—and Milwaukee Public Schools at Lincoln and Kagel Elementary Schools. A bilingual Spanish-speaking Family Coach will also work from Ascension, offering easier access for southside families seeking support.

While some staff will follow hybrid work schedules, several team members will be present at Ascension throughout the week, typically Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

We are excited to welcome Lutheran Social Services to Ascension and look forward to the positive impact their presence will bring to our shared mission of serving and strengthening our community.

submitted by Charlie Kudy

Immigration Issues Virtual Meeting Invitation

You are invited to a virtual informational meeting on current immigration issues on Wednesday, November 12th, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am.

This event is sponsored by the Religious Leaders Caucus of SOPHIA.

Registration and more information can be found at the link below.



<https://www.sophiawaukesha.org/events/religious-leaders-caucus-annual-education-event>

*Rev. James Holmberg
ELCA Clergy, retired*

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, October 19th, at the unified worship service, we officially welcomed Sterling Biggers and Elterine Jankowski-Biggers as new members of Ascension Lutheran Church.

We are so grateful you have chosen to become a part of our community!



Youth Hygiene Drive

Ascension's youth are collecting hygiene items for Street Angels.

Between now and early to mid-December, please bring the following items to church with you for donation: NEW brushes and combs, baby wipes, toilet paper, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, ChapStick, Kleenex, razors + travel-size deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, shaving cream and alcohol-free mouthwash.

submitted by Kou Thao



Greater Milwaukee Synod Events

Brews & Bias



Brews and Bias will begin with a virtual informational meeting this Saturday (10/25/25) from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and continue with a training from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 15th.

Brews and Bias, a synod-wide program, is designed to equip both rostered ministers and lay members to host sacred conversations around bias and racial/social justice with clarity, compassion, and joy, whether gathered in a living room, church, pub, or café corner... any space where your presence makes space for truth-telling, healing, and beloved community. (Its slogan is "Sip slowly. Speak truth. Seek justice." Brews and Bias is a faith-rooted dialogue initiative designed to help organizations:

- Confront and unlearn racial bias
- Build micro-communities of reflection and action
- Equip lay leaders to facilitate trauma-informed, joy-centered conversations
- Reframe racial justice as sacred, communal, and spiritually formative

Inspired by the early church's house-to-house gatherings (Acts 2) and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of Beloved Community, Brews and Bias turns everyday hospitality into a doorway for transformation. This is an opportunity to practice building community, equipping people to launch small conversation groups for the upcoming holidays. To register, folks should visit <https://milwaukee-synod.org/event/brews-bias/>. The registration fee is \$50; however, scholarships are available, and those interested in receiving scholarships should email Pastor Afi at afi.dobbins-mays@gmselca.org.

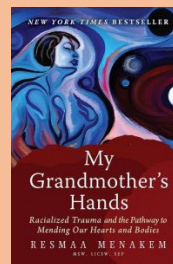


Book Discussions

The Greater Milwaukee Synod is hosting two FREE virtual book study discussion groups:



Valarie Kaur's *See No Stranger (A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love)* is for BIPOC (Brown, Indigenous, People of Color) rostered ministers and lay members and meets via Zoom from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Participants learn strategies for living, thriving, and loving, even while being hated by some others. To learn more or register, those interested can visit <https://milwaukee-synod.org/event/see-no-stranger-a-memoir-and-manifesto-of-revolutionary-love/>. (This group continues to welcome new members.)



Resmaa Menakem's *My Grandmother's Hands* is for everyone and meets via Zoom from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. Whether you attended the first discussion of this book or not, this is a chance for deep, meaningful discussion around this inspirational book. Learn more and/or register at <https://milwaukee-synod.org/event/my-grandmothers-hands-discussion-group/>. (This group continues to welcome new members.)



Treasurer's Report

	Through 9/30/25 Goal	9/30/25 Actual	2025 Budget
Endowment	\$75,000.00	\$96,159.30	\$100,000.00
Donations	\$153,750.00	\$143,623.21	\$205,000.00
Building Rental	\$103,264.89	\$106,303.56	\$137,686.52
Misc	\$23,062.50	\$6,995.21	\$31,250.00
Roof Donations	\$11,250.00	\$18,001.00	\$15,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$366,327.39	\$371,082.28	\$488,936.52

Administration	\$211,852.50	\$204,535.94	\$282,470.00
Ministry	\$23,550.00	\$24,136.12	\$31,400.00
Building	\$110,062.50	\$110,336.67	\$146,750.00
Utilities	\$46,162.50	\$57,910.55	\$61,550.00
Addtl Roof Prinp. Pmt	\$-	\$-	\$-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$391,627.50	\$396,919.28	\$522,170.00

Difference	\$(25,300.11)	\$(25,837.00)	\$(33,233.48)
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Charlie Kudy, treasurer

Next Ascension News

December 3rd

Articles are due by noon on **Friday, November 21st**.

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: 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.

Green Team Orientation Workshop

Sunday, November 16th
11:15 a.m.

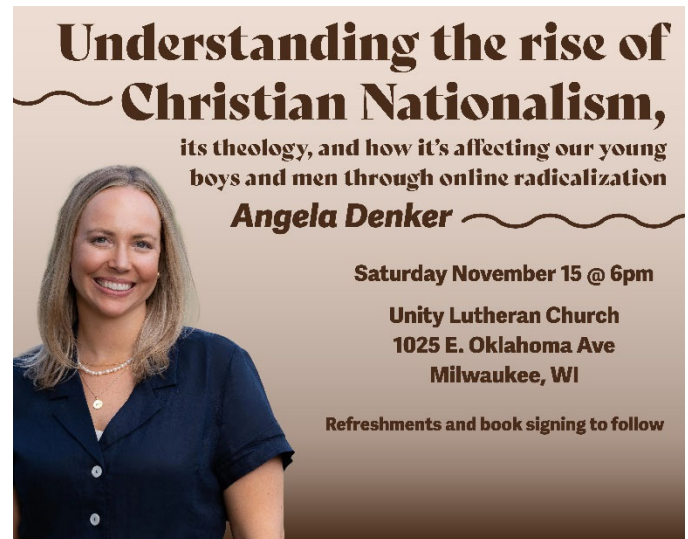
Ascension Lutheran Church

Discover how Faith in Place can support Ascension Lutheran Church's sustainability goals, connect with other regional houses of worship, and take action at all levels of government.

We'll also share valuable information on residential energy efficiency programs available through FOCUS ON ENERGY®.

submitted by Diane Loppnow

You Are Invited



Understanding the rise of Christian Nationalism,
its theology, and how it's affecting our young boys and men through online radicalization
Angela Denker

Saturday November 15 @ 6pm
Unity Lutheran Church
1025 E. Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Refreshments and book signing to follow

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

