



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

15870 46th Avenue N, Plymouth, MN

August 2019

Monthly Messenger

Last Month in Review...



Our Church Picnic! This event was on Sunday, July 14th. Many family gathered together to enjoy some fun in the sun. We played games, grilled some yummy food and enjoyed fellowship with one another. A special thanks to Randy Hebb for heading up this event.



VBS Thanks to all the youth and adult volunteers who made our Miraculous Mission VBS possible! Our VBS was held from July 22-25th with a program and ice cream social that Thursday night. **Pray** that God continues to use the words and love of Christ that were shared with the children to build bridges for his kingdom.



VBS Mission Offering - Each year our Vacation Bible School selects a different ministry to support. This year we shared the good news about the unprecedented mission opportunity we have with the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam. Our VBS families gave \$560.00 towards this ministry. God be praised!



Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ascensionplymouth/. Check out photos from our picnic and VBS along with worship info.



Ascension Lutheran Preschool is officially listed as a charitable organization on AmazonSmile. This is an easy way for everyone who uses Amazon to participate in on-going fund raising, at no cost to you. On your next Amazon purchase through an internet browser, first login to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you'll be prompted to select a charitable organization from the list of eligible organizations, select **Ascension Lutheran Preschool Plymouth, MN** or if you would prefer you can just type this into your browser: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1324218>. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.



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Treasurer's Report

07-01-18 Balance ..	\$(17,802)
Offerings.....	\$ 310,737
Other Receipts....	\$ 150,794
Expenses	\$ 443,994
06-30-19 Balance..	\$ (265)

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This Month's Preview...



Sunday School Meeting: There will be a meeting for all current/interested teachers, helpers, aides, crafters, musicians, etc for the upcoming Sunday School year on **Saturday, August 10th at 10:30 am.**



Want to go for a bike ride? Join us on our 2nd annual bike ride/ pancake breakfast the morning of **Saturday, August 24th.** Sign up on the Group Life board if you're interested! (Exact times TBD by the group.)



Singing Opportunities: Our choir director, Susan Decker, is looking to put together some singing groups like Adult, Family, and Children's choir. More information and signup is available in the fellowship hall. Contact Susan Decker with any questions.



New Ascension Website and App are in Development! Ascension Lutheran Church is moving into the 21st Century from a technology perspective! Ascension has engaged a company named Subsplash who will be guiding us through a complete redesign of our existing and very dated church and preschool websites. We expect our newly designed website to be more user friendly in terms of content and navigation as well as being optimized for use on mobile and tablet devices.

Along with the new website, we are also working with Subsplash on a customized Ascension mobile application. The primary goal of this new mobile application is to "Engage our Audience on Sunday's and Beyond". Audience refers to our current congregation as well as other interested parties in our local community. So, how will engagement improve with the new application? Following are a few examples we are exploring with Subsplash:

- Online Bulletins, Sermon Notes
- Sermon and Worship videos
- Q & A podcasts and blogs
- Online and automated giving
- Online Events Calendar
- Volunteer sign ups
- Instant notifications & congregation-wide updates

According to Subsplash, the average churchgoer in the U.S. spends three hours on mobile devices each day. In addition, 90% of media is consumed through apps versus mobile websites. Finally, churches using a Subsplash application see an average of 10,000 visits per month!

Additional information will be shared in our weekly newsletters as this project progresses. Look for hashtag **#AscensionEngagement** for these exciting updates.

From Our PreSchool ... GREAT NEWS!

From Mrs. Melott...

We are very excited to have Jennifer Tripp join our preschool staff this year! Jennifer will be teaching the 2-day 3 yr. old class and the 3-day 4 yr. old class. Jennifer has a reading specialist degree along with her teaching degree. We look forward to her expertise in this area and how it will enhance our program. We wish Jennifer God's richest blessings as she partners with us to teach God's Word to His precious lambs and their families!



Jennifer Tripp

Another thing we are excited about is the number of families God has brought to our preschool so far! The 2-day class is filled at 16, and the 3-day class currently has 9. Something new we started this year is a 4-day option in Tammy's class. Previous years the class was always 5 days from 9-1. Because of this new option, there are currently 15 children in her class with 10 being in the 4-day class. We are so thankful that this option has brought more families to our preschool program.

We are no longer offering half and full day options. Instead, we are offering after school care from 12-5 PM. We feel this will give the parents more flexibility to use as much or as little time as they need. We will continue to offer the before school care from 8-9 AM. We pray that these changes will continue to serve the families' needs in our community.

Our teachers are required to have so many continuing education hours per school year. This summer I did a 21 hr. video course through a company called Pre-K Pages. I am excited to implement the skills and knowledge I gained in my classroom! This company also offers a huge variety of preschool-based themes and curriculums that I will be researching as I plan out my school year. It's so nice to have a variety of online options available at our fingertips!

On August 27th and 28th we will be having parent orientation meetings. This gives the teachers a chance to meet the parents and the children enrolled in their classes. It also gives them a chance to talk about their classroom routines and what learning will take place throughout the school year. The children also get a chance to get to know their classmates. They play in their classroom together while the parents and teachers meet in another room. This is an important meeting where we can begin to build that teacher/parent relationship.

Our first day of school is September 3rd. Please keep our preschool staff and families in your prayers as we prepare for another year of bringing God's precious Word to the families entrusted to our care!



I NEED MORE ...

I Need More... SATISFACTION

"A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work" (Ecclesiastes 2:24).

That is what the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes said, and he said it three different times in his book. It sounds simple enough: Somehow find the ability to lean back in your hammock on your day off and say, "What a satisfying life this all is!"

But maybe your expectations for satisfaction in this life are too high. Maybe they are unrealistic. Maybe they are even wrong and pivot around your own self and ego.

The Bible says about God, "You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing" (Psalm 145:16). Many believers bow their heads and speak this verse before they eat their food. In prayer at their dinner tables they acknowledge that God is the source of their satisfaction. They recognize it too when they pray this part of the Lord's Prayer: "Give us today our daily bread."

The apostle Paul told a young pastor, "If we have food and clothing, we will be content with that" (1 Timothy 6:8). Perhaps those who demand more satisfaction from life are not thinking of the simple but sublime satisfaction that is the desire of many hearts. They forget that in their work—whatever it may be—they can glorify God with faithfulness and cheerfulness. Thankfulness that they have the ability to feed themselves and their family. Those are the aspirations of a loving God for our satisfaction.

Satisfaction in our lives does not come because of what we do but because of what God does. He takes care of us...body and soul. He feeds us. He sent Jesus to rescue us from his great dissatisfaction over our sin. He promises to be with us and bless the work of our hands. He says that what we do for him will not be in vain.

Be satisfied—truly satisfied—with that!