



**ASCENSION**

LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

15870 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue N, Plymouth, MN

December 2019

# Monthly Messenger

## Last Month in Review...



CHRISTIAN FAMILY SOLUTIONS

**Childhood Anxiety & Depression Talk:** In an effort to build stronger families, Ascension invited Heather Wegner, a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with Christian Family Solutions, to talk about these issues that are deeply affecting our young children. Thanks to Heather we had an informative evening.



**Blood Drive Update:** Many thanks to those who volunteered and a BIG thanks to all who donated. We collected 15 pints of blood enough to save 45 lives! God be praised!



ADOPT A STREET

**Adopt a Street Helpers Thanks!** Thanks to Wayne Johnson for organizing the Adopt a Street clean up and to those that were able to come and help.



**Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Social:** Wednesday, November 27th, we will gather at 7:00 PM for our Thanksgiving worship service, The Songs of Scripture. After the service we will enjoy our annual pie social. *Invite a friend!*



Interfaith Outreach

**Interfaith Food Shelf:** From November 1<sup>st</sup> through Thanksgiving we will gather items for those in need. We have established a donation drop site in the hallway near the coat hooks on the cart.



**New Member Welcome!** Marcia Michalik became an official member. Marcia grew up in Bloomington. She went to St. Croix for high school and the University of Minnesota/St. Thomas. Marcia has a degree in accounting but worked in IT for most of her career. She currently works as an IT Application Manager for SunOpta. Marcia has been married 33 years and has 3 adult children. They are expecting their first grandchild on Christmas Eve.

### **PRESCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION OFFERING**



This year our offerings will be supporting Costa Maya Ministries in Mahahual, Mexico. We will be receiving regular updates throughout the year. You can also check out our mission board in the entryway or go to [costamayaministries.org](http://costamayaministries.org) for more information. **So far we've raised \$349.76!**

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### **Inside This Issue**

Last Month.....	pg. 1
This Month.....	pg. 2
Preschool.....	pg. 3
WELS Word .....	pg. 4



### **Treasurer's Report**

07-01-19 Balance ..	\$ (930)
Offerings .....	\$ 101,236
Other Receipts ...	\$ 58,533
Expenses .....	\$ 131,811
10-31-19 Balance...	\$ 27,028

## This Month's Preview...



**Sunday School Christmas Program Practice:** To help us prepare for the Sunday School/Choir worship services on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 and 10:30, all Sunday School children will be practicing on:

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 AM (children only)**

**Sunday, December, 8<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School**

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:30AM**

Everyone's help is needed and appreciated! Please plan on attending so that we can have a beautiful celebration of our Savior's birth!

### December Worship Schedule



<b>Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:30 &amp; 11:00AM Special Cantata Service</b>
Sunday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Worship 8:30 & 11:00AM S. S./Choir Service
Sunday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Worship 8:30 & 11:00AM Bible S. 10:00 AM
Christmas Eve Service	Candlelight Service 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Christmas Day Service	Worship Service 9:30 AM
Sunday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	Worship 8:30 & 11:00AM Bible S. 10:00 AM



**Preschool Christmas Programs:** The children have been working hard memorizing recitations and songs for their Christmas programs. The 2-day class will be on **Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**. The 3 and 4/ 5-day classes will be performing "Let's Get the Tree Ready, Let's Get Our Heart Ready" on

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**. The children would love to share the Christmas message with the members of Ascension as well, so mark your calendars and join us! Cake will be served after both programs. This gives the Ascension members a chance to get connected with our preschool families and make them feel welcome.



**Save The Date:** The Annual Ladies' Christmas gathering is scheduled for **Tuesday Evening, December 17<sup>th</sup>** at Jill Siewert's house, 4335 Fountain Lane N. Plymouth. Please mark your calendars. Details on the Sign-up sheet in fellowship area.



**Attention Kids & Teens!** Would you like to play a Christmas song for preservice before the Sunday School Christmas program? What a great way to praise God with music! There is plenty of Christmas music available to choose if you do not have your own music. Contact Susan Decker for details.



**Building Expansion Sign-ups:** As the expansion project continues we will need teams to help: Heavy Lifting, Worship Setup/Takedown, Altar Furnishings, Interior Design, and Landscaping. Signups are posted in the fellowship hall.



**Our website has been updated:** Some new features on the News & Events page include scrolling featured events along with the weekly news and monthly messenger. Explore the other features on our site.

# From Our PreSchool ... GREAT NEWS!

## From Mrs. Melott...

The 5-day class has been busy exploring their five senses. We are amazed at how God created each of our senses to discover different things in this beautiful world that he created for us. We learned that we can use our ears to hear pleasant sounds like bells ringing and birds chirping, and we can also use them to know when danger is near. We learned that the nerves in our skin help us to feel different things that are hard, soft, rough, squishy, hot and cold to name a few. Our nose can smell 10,000 different smells, some are good and some are bad. Our tongue has taste buds that taste sweet in the front of our tongue, salty and sour on the sides and bitter in the back. Mrs. Rau and I were surprised how many of the children actually liked the sour and bitter food! (They tried a lime and unsweetened baking chocolate.) We ended our study talking about our eyes and watching a volcano explode. We ended our discussion by thanking God that he gave each of them five working senses.

In preparation for Thanksgiving, the children have been making a My Thankful Book. Every day they draw a picture of something that they are thankful for. They've drawn pictures of family, a church, friends, food, their home, their teachers and playtime. While all of these are important, we talked about what we are most thankful for, and that is Jesus dying on the cross to take our sins away and rising again. They had to list three things that they are thankful for, and many of the children said God or Jesus first. I pray that they continue to be taught God's Word at home as well as here to keep their faith strong.

The children have begun practicing their songs and speaking parts for the Christmas program. All are invited to this program, and to enjoy cake and fellowship with our preschool families afterward. The children have been working hard and would love to have you come and enjoy their programs!

The Ascension preschool staff would like to wish you all a safe and blessed Thanksgiving as you reflect on all that God has done and continues to do for you!

## From Mrs. Tripp...

November is the perfect month to observe the different types of weather. In both classes we learned about the various weather patterns that God gives us here in Minnesota. The preschool students made weather collages where they represented snow, rain, cloudy and sunny days. Their fine motor skills were put to the test when they added doily pieces for snowflakes and cotton balls for clouds. The Pre-K class explored the weather through process art. They blew through a straw for wind painting, used a dropper over water colors for rain painting and used a mixture of Epsom salt and paint to do frost painting.

We ended the month with a focus on Giving Thanks to God. We made numerous lists of things we were thankful for. It's always amusing to listen to three and four year olds talk about what they are thankful for. Super heroes were a common theme along with grandparents and ice cream! This is one of the many reasons why I love my job so much!

During our Bible story time, the students learned about David the shepherd boy, Naomi and Ruth and about the birth of our Savior, Jesus. I'm so thankful to be able to share this good news with these students. My heart is full of joy as we practice our Christmas program, and hear the different Bible stories about the birth of our Savior.

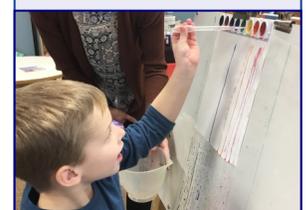
We have so much to be thankful for! I'm especially thankful for the staff here at Ascension. Their encouragement and support has made my work so much easier. Happy Thanksgiving!



*Preschool  
Christmas  
Program*

**2/Day**  
Thurs., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM

**3, 4/5 Day**  
Thurs., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM





# I NEED MORE ...

## I Need More... JOY

After hastily opening the wrapped package and making the obligatory thank you, it certainly didn't take long to turn away from the thoughtful gift as something ho hum.

Just then three-year-old Eleanor came along and stopping by the discarded item exclaimed, "Oh, my, what a beautiful gift! Is that yours? You must be so happy?" As she walked away I thought to myself, "Why don't I have the joy of that little girl?"

At times we have those feelings which cause us to cry out, "I need more joy in my life!" That is so often true at this time of year when for one reason or another we find ourselves lacking joy. There are indications everywhere that joy should fill our lives. Decorations are going up inside and outside. Christmas music surrounds us, and cards are arriving daily.

Some days the festive joy fills our hearts as we excitedly go about our holiday shopping and schedule planning. Yet deep down we know that this joy will not last. Planning becomes overwhelming, schedules start falling apart, and decorating gets tiresome. Above all, we know from experience, there will be no joy when we find we don't have enough money to purchase the perfect gift or when credit card payments come due. All of this leads us to shout out, "I need more joy! I need joy that will last!"

Here's some great news. Christmas brings us joy that does last—the true joy found in Jesus.

With a love that we cannot comprehend, our heavenly Father gave his only Son, born to be our Savior. With perfect obedience Jesus lived the life all of us are unable to live. Each and every evil thought, evil word, and evil deed we have done has been picked from us by our heavenly Father and placed on Jesus. On Calvary's cross, Jesus bowed his head in death declaring, "It is finished." These words of Jesus bring us true joy. They mean that all is done and Easter's announcement "He Is Risen!" guarantees that God our Father has accepted Jesus' life and death as payment in full for all our sins. True joy is the forgiveness of sins that is ours through faith in Jesus.

While we are in the midst of the season when it seems hard to keep joy in our lives, focus on the true Joy Giver. Ponder again the words of the angels to the shepherds, "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord." Come and worship the Babe born in Bethlehem and may God the Holy Spirit fill you with a joy that never ends.

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