



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

15870 46th Avenue N, Plymouth, MN

Monthly Messenger

November 2019

Last Month in Review...



New Member Welcome! Mark, Mara, Lily and Emma Sikkink are becoming official members on October 20! Mark and Mara are from southeast Minnesota but lived in Utah for 13 years. Their family moved to Maple grove in the Summer of 2018. Lily is 9 and is in 3rd grade at Basswood Elementary School. Emma is 4 and is in preschool at daycare. Mark is an engineer at Northrop Grumman. Mara is an administrative assistant at Houston Engineering. They enjoy going to Minnesota Gopher football games in the Fall. Lily likes playing with her friends and swimming. Emma enjoys playing games and riding her bike.



Diaper Drive: We collected diapers and wipes for donation to Christian Life Ministries. They help many young families in crisis and in need.



Preschool Fall Festival: Was held on **Saturday, October 26th**. Thanks to all the bakers, volunteers and custom wearers. Fun was had by all. Our bake sale raised **\$200** for our preschool.



Second Harvest Thanks: Eleven volunteers worked together with others to package **7,993 lbs.** of carrots for the hungry in our community on Oct. 3rd. To God be the glory!



Call Returned: Pastor Roloff has returned the call to Martin Luther Church and will continue serving at Ascension. He is grateful for the prayers and encouragement he received and feels incredibly blessed to be your pastor. Please pray for Martin Luther--that the Lord would send another pastor to equip them to take advantage of the outreach opportunities in their school and growing community.

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 for more information. **So far we've raised \$108.45!**

| (763) 559-0579 | www.AscensionPlymouth.com |
Pastor Roloff: pastorroloff@AscensionPlymouth.com



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Treasurer's Report

07-01-19 Balance ..\$	(930)
Offerings.....\$	74,105
Other Receipts....\$	23,341
Expenses	\$ 97,743
09-30-19 Balance..\$	(1,226)

This Month's Preview...



Potluck: In celebration of the **November 3rd** Welcome Home Sunday, we will enjoy a potluck meal starting at **12:15 pm**. BBQ Pulled Pork and Buns will be provided by the church. Thanks to all who have helped put this homecoming together.



Picture Directory Updating Reminder: We will be taking photos on November 4th. Please contact Jill Siewert with any questions.



A Voters Meeting is scheduled for **November 10th** between worship services. This meeting will include a vote on the Constitution and Bylaws revisions, an update on the building expansion and loan, and updates from the elders on ministry activities.



Childhood Anxiety & Depression Talk: In an effort to build stronger families, Ascension has invited Heather Wegner, a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with Christian Family Solutions, to talk about these issues that are deeply affecting our young children. Heather's presentation looks at the factors that influence anxiety and depression, symptoms that are often displayed, and then identifies tips and strategies to effectively manage them.



Semiannual Red Cross Blood Drive: We will once again have the opportunity to show our love for our Savior and those in need by hosting a blood drive on **Friday, Nov 15th** from **noon-6 pm**. You can schedule a donation immediately by going to **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter code **ASCENSIONPLYM** or can also call **1-800-733-2767**. If you would like to volunteer as a "greeter" please talk to Pastor Roloff.



Interfaith Food Shelf: From November 1st 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.



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. Please sign up in the fellowship hall to bring a pie to share! *Invite a friend!*



Christmas Poinsettias: Christmas is just around the corner and it's time to decorate Ascension for the holiday season. Lynde Greenhouse & Nursery is offering the following Poinsettias for purchase:

Single Blossom (5-7 flowers) - \$10.00 each

Double Blossom (6-10 flowers) - \$16.00 each

All Poinsettias come in red, pink or white. Please consider ordering plants for Christmas, either for yourself or in memory of someone. **A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Fellowship Hall and the last day to sign-up is Sunday, November 10th as the final order is due two days later.** Please place your money in the envelope provided with the sign-up sheet when you order - all checks should be made payable to Ascension Lutheran Church. Please contact Beth Svendsen if you have any questions.

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From Our PreSchool ... GREAT NEWS!

From Mrs. Melott...

Our main focus at Ascension Preschool is to teach these children about God's grace and forgiveness. As we strive to do that, we hope to partner with the parents and teach them the importance of talking about God in their homes as well. We encourage the parents to have family devotions, pray together and attend church. As God says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." Please join me in praying that our work here at Ascension Preschool is doing just that so that we can all rejoice in heaven together.

This week the children are enjoying the pumpkin patch activities in our classroom. They are working on their math skills by having to pay to go on a wagon ride, play in a corn maze, buy pumpkins and buy different food items at the store. They are also working on waiting their turn to do some of the various activities. We are also exploring pumpkins. We are measuring their height and weight, taking out the insides and counting how many seeds are in a pumpkin, painting with mini pumpkins, and doing a pumpkin volcano experiment. These are fun ways that the Pre-K children can learn and work on various skills in the areas of math, literacy and science.

Our Fall Festival was a huge success on Saturday. Many families came to enjoy Pastor Roloff's pumpkin devotion, crafts, games, the pumpkin walk and cookie decorating. It was fun to see the variety of costumes as well. This is an opportunity for the parents of our preschool to socialize and get to know each other a little better, and for us as teachers to get to know them better as well. A good time was had by all! I would like to personally thank all the volunteers that helped. Without you it would not run as smoothly as it does. We are also thankful for siblings of some of our preschoolers that volunteered in the game room, you did an awesome job!

From Mrs. Tripp...

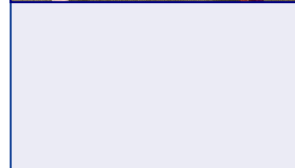
This last month the Pre-K class learned about the characteristics of living things. We shared lots of great thinking about what all living things have and don't have. Along with this thinking, we explored bats as a theme. We continue to work on letters and numbers exploring them with a hands-on approach. I have started to introduce simple sight words to my students. They have been introduced to "a" and "the". In math we have learned the numbers four and five by practicing these numbers and matching up numbers to dots and linking cubes.

The Preschool class made their very own take-home book about shapes. They glued shapes onto each page in the book to take home and practice with their parents. We have done a lot of work with colors in our workbooks. The students have gone from scribbling to trying now tracing horizontal and vertical lines. We are gearing up for our first work with letters.

Along with a visit from the Plymouth firefighters and firetruck, both classes experienced a field trip with Snapology. This was a fabulous opportunity to play with K'nex building sets. Both classes were given a diagram to follow and build a specific creature and then later given time to free play with the toys. What a fun experience this was!

The Bible stories this month have taught the students all about the life of Moses. God's plan for Moses was evident when he saved him as a baby and then prepared Moses to become the leader of the Israelite people, leading them out of Egypt, and caring for their needs in the desert. The children have learned about the 10 Commandments and how important they are in showing us our need for a savior.

To finish out the month we had a fun-filled, Fall Festival where students and their families showed up in costumes, played games, devoured treats and enjoyed some fellowship time together. I'm thankful for all the volunteers who put this event together and helped it become a great success!





I NEED MORE ...

I Need More... MONEY

Someone once asked John D. Rockefeller, "How much money is enough?" "Just a little more," he answered. At the time, he was one of the wealthiest men in the world.

Those who've heard that story and Rockefeller's answer, usually divide into two groups: they either think of him as a greedy miser ("He has more money than he knows what to do with!") or an honest pragmatist ("Hey, he's just telling the truth—even if you're rich, a little more is always nice."). Don't we all occasionally find ourselves thinking, "I need more money?"

There's nothing wrong with financial security, but how much is enough? If you are pricing a vacation home in Florida and feel frustrated that you don't have enough to buy a Ferrari too, that's one thing. If you lost your job and can't pay the bills, and it's getting tough to put food on the table, that's something else.

This is a complicated issue. It's not easy to properly distinguish between real needs and selfish greed. Do you really need more money? Maybe. Maybe not. When it comes to finances, the best advice comes from Jesus Christ. Our Savior said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

According to Jesus, a lot of folks expend an enormous amount of time and energy in pursuit of earthly treasure and financial security, but for what? In the end—if a bad economy, a poor decision, or unforeseen disaster doesn't claim it, time certainly will—you can't take it with you.

That makes heaven the only worthwhile investment. And here's the great news: Jesus lived, died, and rose again to provide all the heavenly treasure for you. Peace with God—now and forever—that's what he freely gives.

Put your trust in Jesus. Find in him real treasure and eternal security. What more do you need? Besides, Christians know that the Lord will always provide. We've got his Word on that: "Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31-33).

Do you really need more money? You don't need to answer that question. Put your trust in Christ—seek first his kingdom and his righteousness—and let him answer the question for you.

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