



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

15870 46th Avenue N, Plymouth, MN

October 2019

Monthly Messenger

Last Month in Review...



New Member Welcome! Nathaniel Richards became an official member in September! He grew up in Waynesville, Ohio. He is the oldest of three. Nathaniel works as a data scientist in Plymouth. In the past, he has served the Lord through teaching Sunday School, helping with VBS, and contributing to evangelism events. He joins flock #4. Please introduce yourself to him.



WELCOME HOME: *Welcome Home* Sunday is intended to be a celebration of the blessing of Christian community our God gives to us. He intends his church to be just like a home: a safe place where we can live without fear. He intends believers to love and treat one another as kin. Our goal is to have 100% of our members in attendance on **Sunday Nov. 3rd**. It is the perfect Sunday for someone who has been away from church for a while to come back.

Do you know someone like that? They used to come, but for whatever reason, stopped. Reach out. Offer to pick them up. If they are afraid, assure them that is unnecessary. We are all sinners. We are all redeemed. We are all family. That day everyone receives a warm "Welcome home!"



10 for 10 Stewardship: Our giving is an act of worship that shows the trust, honor, love, and gratitude we have for what Christ has done for us. Generous giving is one of the ways that faith-filled hearts respond to the riches of God in Christ. As God's children we should be constantly on the lookout for his many kindnesses and regularly reassessing how we can say, "Thank you!" for his love by how we use his blessings (that is the practice of Christian stewardship). Focusing our hearts on returning to God of our treasures. We have started three weeks of encouragement in special worship services and Bible studies followed by a challenge to increase our offerings for 10 weeks.

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 \$46.00!**

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Treasurer's Report

07-01-19 Balance .. \$	(930)
Offerings	\$ 47,713
Other Receipts ... \$	432
Expenses	\$ 56,397
08-31-19 Balance .. \$	(9,182)

This Month's Preview...



Second Harvest: Volunteer opportunity **Thursday, October 3rd** from **6:00-8:00 pm**. We will be packaging food as a service to our community. This is a great way to volunteer. Please plan to meet at 2nd Harvest Heartland (7101 Winnetka Avenue N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55428) at 5:50 pm to register. Space is limited to 20 volunteers per group. Sign-up is posted on the Group Life Board.



Financial Basics Presentation: Tim Peterson is a retired CPA with decades of experience in financial matters. He has created a presentation designed to help individuals and families take more control of their financial affairs and plan for their future. The information in this presentation is applicable to everyone, regardless of age or family status. This is an information only presentation. No products or services will be offered for sale. The presentation is about 90 minutes including 20-30 minutes for Q & A. It will be offered at **Ascension Church at 7 PM on Thursday, October 10th, or 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 12th.** All are welcome to attend (free child-care will be available upon request). No registration fee, but please pre-register online at our website or by signing up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



Preschool Fall Festival Volunteers Needed!: The date is **Saturday, October 26th @ 10 AM**. We have various stations that need to be supervised. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall. We welcome children helpers as well. We are also having our 2nd annual bake sale at the same time. If you would like to donate items, please indicate on the sign-up sheet what you would like to bring. We ask that you plate the items and drop them off on **Friday, October 25th**. This is open to children in our congregation who are ages 3-5 as well, and they can wear their Halloween costumes. If you would like to come and join the fun, please sign your children up by Sunday, October 13th so we can plan accordingly. If you have any questions, please talk to Tammy Melott.



Volunteer Opportunity: For several years, Ascension Church has adopted Vicksburg Lane between Schmidt Lake Road and Rockford Road to periodically pick up litter and other debris. We are looking for a lead volunteer to coordinate three annual clean-up events. These events typically would be in April, July and October but the actual dates are flexible. If you are interested in leading this effort for a couple years, please contact Group Life Elder Randy Hebb at 612-237-9145 or randyhebb@gmail.com for more details.



Divine Call Received: Pastor Roloff has received a call to serve as the second pastor at Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Please ask the Lord to give him wisdom as he deliberates where to best serve in God's kingdom.

From Our PreSchool ... GREAT NEWS!

From Mrs. Melott...

The 5-day class has been very busy during the month of September. Our Bible stories have been focusing on sin in the world and our need for a Savior. The children are learning that they sin every day and need to ask God for forgiveness. They are also learning that God loves them no matter what. One of their favorite songs is "Nothing Can Keep Us From the Love Of God".

In math the children have been working on AB patterns, graphing, one-to-one correspondence, making designs with pattern blocks and writing the number 1 and 2. The children love the hands-on learning, and are very excited when it's math time. In reading/literacy we have been working on putting a line under a picture and drawing a connecting line from left to right. The children don't realize that when they are doing these things they are actually getting ready to read. We are also working on writing and recognizing the straight line letters, and on the concept of big, medium and small.

Every week we have a theme, and we do activities that go along with the theme. For our apple theme we talked about the different parts of an apple, and then we cut them in half and used them to make apple print windsocks. We also made yummy applesauce. Now that we are in the season of Fall, we have been making things with leaves. Our favorite project was making leaf prints with real leaves. Along with this theme we played different math counting games and worked on tempo as we recited the rhyme. We also worked on our fine motor skills by making small balls of playdough to "fill a bucket with water".

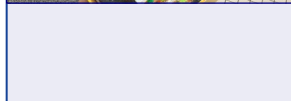
This year's mission focus is Costa Maya Ministries. During Parent Chapel on October 1st & 2nd we showed a video to introduce our parents to this ministry. Afterwards the parents helped the children make cards with their child's picture and information to send to the children in Costa Maya.

From Mrs. Tripp...

We have almost a month of preschool under our belts and the children are adjusting to the routines and habits of school. It is a blessing for these children to begin their school years in this Christian environment that exudes love and encouragement. The students have continued their learning of the Bible with the important Old Testament stories of Noah, the Tower of Babel and Abraham. Pastor Roloff captures the attention of the students with his weekly chapel that includes a message filled with images on a screen that conveys the Bible message.

The Pre-K class has begun the work of writing letters and numbers. We have used multi-sensory approaches including playdough and wood pieces to help us think and feel how the letters L and F are made. The children are hearing the sound of the letters, while they make the letters. This class has learned about how apples grow, and have listened to the legendary story of Johnny Appleseed. We are exploring Space and practicing the numbers 1 and 2 with crayon rubbings. They created their own planets with watercolor paints and coffee filters. Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, We're Going to the Moon was a favorite song we sang.

The Preschool students are beginning to identify their names! This has been a big focus for us and some parents have been impressed. One parent commented how her child knows his name begins with the letter "A". She said, "and now he will be learning Chemistry and Algebra?" Not quite! Our learning has included the theme of apples, sorting them into small, medium and large, thinking about their color and how they grow. Recently we have focused on colors. The Little Red Hen was the book of choice on red day. Their fine motor skills have been encouraged through scribbling, coloring and using a Q-tip to glue.



I NEED MORE ...

I Need More... FAITH



"I Need More faith." I can't imagine any honest Christian who wouldn't say a hearty "Amen" to that statement. Because of the common weakness of our sinful, human nature, the fervent request that a greatly distressed father made to Jesus regarding his son's great need and his own weakness of faith has often struck a chord: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24)

Notice how that statement is punctuated with only a semicolon regarding his faith, but an exclamation point with regard to his unbelief. Unfortunately, that's the reality of the faith-life of God's people. We wish our own faith was punctuated with an exclamation mark or at least a simple period. But we know a question mark suggesting uncertainty or doubt gets in the way too often.

Just about every Sunday the worshipers in our churches make a confession of faith with the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. The key truths of the Christian faith are very briefly and yet adequately summarized in those statements. There are no exclamation points in either of those great, ancient creeds— just commas and periods that acknowledge the basic scriptural facts. That's an important aspect about saving faith: knowing the truth about the true God and the Savior he has given us.

Since this faith is totally a gift, we need to keep going to the Lord with this request, "Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" We keep having a problem with unbelief because it's such a natural part of us. Faith is a supernatural thing, and it is kept alive and strong only with the supernatural Word of our supernatural God.

The most important thing to remember about faith is that it derives all its strength from its object, that on which it rests. As a famous preacher once said, "It is not your hold on Christ that saves you; it is Christ. It is not your joy in Christ that saves you; it is Christ. It is not even your faith in Christ that saves you, though that be the instrument. It is Christ's blood and merit." There might indeed be many instances where our trusting faith is shaky, but the Savior and his promises are rock solid. With this subject of faith, it's most important to hear him speak with exclamation points, "I love you! I have saved you! I will never let you go!"