



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

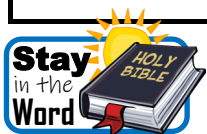
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Weekly News Feb. 16 – Feb. 23 2020

Sunday, February 16th		Worship with Holy Communion	8:30 & 11:00 am
		Sunday School/Confirmation Class	9:45 am
		Adult/Teen Bible Study	10:00 am
		Outreach	11:00 am
Monday, February 17th		Worship with Holy Communion	7:00 pm
		Church Council Meeting	7:15 pm
Wednesday, February 19th		Sisters in Sharing	9:30 am
		Choir Practice/ Small Group	7:00 pm
Thursday, February 20th		The Talk: Addressing the Future w/The Aging	6:30 pm
Saturday, February 22nd		Ice Skating	6:00 pm
Sunday, February 23rd		Worship	8:30 & 11:00 am
		Sunday School/Confirmation Class	9:45 am
		Adult/Teen Bible Study	10:00 am
		Dodgeball	11:00 am



Decision-Making Bible Study: Be Willing to Follow Where God

Leads – In the previous lessons we were reminded that we do not know our future, but God does, and we also know that he wants us to mature in our faith as he guides our lives to our eternal home. All of this demands faith, that is trust, that when we prayerfully place our decisions in God's hands they may not "succeed" they way we had hoped, but he will make them work for our eternal good. *Thanks to Pastor Ladner for leading our study this morning!*

Ash Wednesday / Lent Begins - Join us for Worship & Fellowship -

Scripture is full of images and descriptions of our Savior Jesus as the warrior who fights and defeats sin, death, and Satan for us. Each of our **six** Lenten services will focus on an aspect of our Savior-warrior as he is promised to us, fights our enemies for us, and triumphs over them for us. *We will worship at 7:00 pm each Wednesday evening with light refreshments following the service.*

Ash Wednesday, February 26 – Worship Theme: The Promised Warrior



Coming Soon... Ascension App! Our app is currently in the final stages of review. It will soon be available for download in the GooglePlay and Apple Stores. The app will help us stay connected and up to date on congregational happening and events. We plan on having more interactive sermons (with live study questions and room for personal notes), podcasts, and more!



Year-End Giving Statements: Thank you all for your generous support of our Ascension ministry this last year! 2019 giving statements were e-mailed to everyone. If you have any questions or would like a paper copy put in your church mailbox please contact Eric Fehlhaber: efehlhaber@gmail.com or (715) 965-6382.



THE TALK: On **Thursday, Feb. 20th**, Patti Reagles, a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker with Christian Family Solutions, will be presenting on the difficulties of talking with ageing parents about the realities of future health care, lifestyle and financial decisions. Free childcare provided upon request. Please RSVP online at www.AscensionPlymouth.com.



Ice Skating: Group Life Ministry invites you to enjoy ice skating on **Saturday, February 22nd at 6:00 PM** at the Central Park of Maple Grove. Skating is free and skate rental is available for \$6.00 or feel free to bring your own skates. A sign up sheet has been posted on the Group Life bulletin board.



Youth Dodgeball: All Ascension youth grades 6 - 12 are invited to join us for a fun-filled afternoon of dodgeball action at St. Croix Lutheran Academy on **February 23rd**. See Pastor with any questions.



Choir Practice Change Ash Wednesday through Lent: With Lent fast approaching choir will be moving practices to 6:15 - 6:45pm starting February 26th. Please note that the changes are updated on our calendar.



Lenten Meal and Snacks: On **Ash Wednesday, February 26th**. The Confirmation Class has will host a spaghetti supper from 5:30 - 6:30pm. A freewill offering will be collected. This Lenten season, members can sign up in the Fellowship Hall to bring a dessert or snack to share following Lenten services.



Divine Call Update: After much prayerful deliberation, I have decided to return my Call to Divine Savior Academy. I am excited to continue my ministries at West LHS & Ascension! Thanks to all who shared thoughts, prayers, and notes in my church mailbox as I considered where my gifts could best be used in God's Kingdom at this time.



Church Cleaning Schedule: We are so thankful for all of the hands that work together to keep Ascension clean and welcoming!

Feb. 21st: Ron & Mary Swift, Mike & Jennifer Tripp

Feb. 28th: Phil & Patty Trier, Dennis & Deb Ulman



SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHISM LESSONS FOR TODAY:

- PreK & K: Jesus and Matthew
- Grades 1-5: Drama
- Grades 6-8: Spiritual Gifts (Memory Work/Story due)

PRESCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION OFFERING

This year our preschool and Sunday School offerings will be supporting evangelism and outreach through Costa Maya Ministries in Mahahual, Mexico. Check out our mission board in the entryway or go to costamaya-ministries.org for more information. **So far we've raised 527.04!**



Shepherding Flock Thank You: A special thanks to Flock #2 for serving our congregation this week. Don't forget the sign up is in the fellowship hall!



Special Thanks for the gifts to the Piano and Chancel Furnishings Funds!

Classic Grand Piano: Total Donations: **\$750 of \$4900!**

Initial artistic renderings of the new altar, baptismal font, and lectern have been posted by the building plans. The design committee has since refined some details as we await updated information.

Chancel furnishings Fund: Total Donations: **\$200 of \$13,000.**

If you would like to give to either the piano/chancel furnishings fund, please indicate it on the "other" box of your offering envelope or select "other" and write a note for online giving.



Pajama Drive: We are collecting NEW PJ's (Newborn thru Teen sizes) for families in Minnesota until **February 21st**. There is a pack 'n' play in the entryway for those donations.



Women's Event: Unplug & Recharge: Come join women and girls (age 10+) of faith as we gather to unplug from the stressors of life and recharge with God's Word. Speakers from Holy Hen House will be sharing encouragement for women to consider in addition to several recharge options. **Saturday, March 21 at 11:00 - 4:00 pm** at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Shakopee.



Synod Prayers: *Commission on Inter-Church Relations* – Lord God, bless the WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations as they work to preserve and strengthen the bond of confessional fellowship with church bodies already united with us and to extend the bond of fellowship with churches where we find unity in doctrine and practice. Thank you that in the past two years so many church groups from Africa, Asia, and Latin America are requesting fellowship with our synod. Continue to build your church around the world, Lord Jesus, and guide our Commission on Inter-Church Relations as it works diligently to strengthen these relationships. Amen.

**From the Stewardship Committee:**

As we start a new year and a new decade, your Stewardship Committee would once again like to remind you of several special giving opportunities at Ascension:

- **Tuition Assistance Fund:** This fund is designed to support Ascension members who are attending Martin Luther College or Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary with the intent of becoming a teacher or pastor. Although we do not currently have any students studying for the public ministry, we invite to consider contributing so funds would be available for future workers from our congregation. You can designate special gifts to the "Tuition Assistance Fund".
- **Endowment Fund:** This fund was established to provide an alternate revenue stream that could be used to supplement special projects or programs not included in our regular budget. The Fund currently has \$30,000 in assets which is invested through WELS Investments. An additional \$55,000 donation will be arriving soon. Individuals often contribute assets to endowment funds in connection with wills and estate planning but cash donations may be made at any time. If you would like to contribute please direct your donation to the Endowment Fund or contact Dan Fischer.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** If you have investments or insurance through Thrivent, you may be able to direct funds to the church or non-profit organization of your choice. Undesignated 2019 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2020. Go to Thrivent.com to check your Choice Dollar balance or designate funds. Please note that Ascension is listed under Minneapolis rather than Plymouth.

Lastly, we want to encourage all members to **periodically review/revise their financial support of our congregation and synod** especially for significant changes in income or expenses. Our congregation has historically been very blessed for which we give thanks to the Lord whose goodness and mercy endure forever.

Thank you for all of your support of Ascension through time, talents and treasures.



Parent Information Night: Join us on Tuesday, March 10th

Annual Gala: Join us on **Sat., April 4th**. This years theme Aloha, Komohana. Dress is Hawaiian casual, or whatever you're comfortable in! This year's proceeds will provide valuable tuition assistance to our families and help purchase a new school bus for activities.



Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for **one regular part-time Accounting Clerk - Accounts Payable**. A comprehensive description of this position can be found at mlc-wels.edu/hr. Interested individuals should apply online. Applications will be accepted through 12:00 pm (noon) on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Additional information and details can be obtained by contacting the Martin Luther College Human Resources Office at 507-354-8221.
