



Pathways and Passages

Jan
2012

January Special Events*

See the calendar in the center for our full schedule.

January 7	MODA
January 10	Sarah Circle
January 12	Martha Circle
January 16	Martin Luther King Day-office closed
January 29	Annual Meeting

Communion Worship every Sunday-9:30 AM.

LOOKING AHEAD...

- ◆ Our Annual Meeting is Jan 29 after worship. A potluck follows.
- ◆ Our Annual Report with the budget and committee reports will be available to pick up by Jan. 9. Constitutional changes and the nominating committee report on pages 8 and 9.
- ◆ Church office hours are changing—See page 11.
- ◆ AARP Tax-aide will be using Ascension's facility beginning February 1.

Church website: www.ascensionlutheran.com.
Watch for Council Minutes and Committee Reports
under Publications on our website.



Thoughts at the end, and the beginning, of the year.

Pastor Doug Vold

We were taking a nice walk in the neighborhood on a late fall day. The sidewalk had a kind of mottled appearance that, upon closer inspection, revealed more. The stains in the cement were the shapes of leaves. In places they were all jumbled together into a large dark blob, but in other places it was clearly the outline of the leaves that had fallen there, and been rained upon, this very season. It created an "artsy" effect that made the sidewalk look pretty interesting.

I don't consider myself an artist, but I have always enjoyed being around people who are. I appreciate those who have an eye for the subtle color palette of a certain landscape, for example, or for a fascinating pattern they've seen evidenced in something ordinary like a rock or tree (or sidewalk). I like it because it makes the world around us come alive. It alerts me to the beauty in which we live, which always seems like a good thing.

You may have heard me say that God is an artist; I think often of the fascinating artistry of God. But it goes much further than the beauty of the world around us (that we often fail to notice). It's an image that has even more to do with our hearts and lives. The spirit of God is at work on us, pulling together the various components, experiences, and energies. That spirit urges our lives toward wholeness, complexity, form, and beauty. Its narrative ties our lives together in such a way that everything can come to have its place in the wondrous creation of God that is "you."

As the last year ends and the next year begins we often are given to ponder the state of our lives and the nature of things. "2011 was quite a year," someone might say (I would!). "What do you suppose the new year will bring?" someone else might ask. We sum things up, prepare annual reports, vow new resolu-

tions, get our tax stuff in order, and do other kinds of things that mark the passing of the calendar. And we reflect, at least for a moment, on our past and our future as individuals, as families, and as church.

It's not a bad time to recall the artistry of God. Can anything that has transpired become part of a beautiful story? It can in the ingenuity of our God who heals and gives life and who can take even our saddest experiences up into a richer joy. It can in the inspiration of God whose creating work is not yet finished and who will be doing plenty more in the year to come. In ways beyond our comprehension this congregation and these lives of ours are not a finished product. God's creative and imaginative spirit will always be adding its artistry to who we are.

Stewardship notes for January!

Vicki related to me that you, the congregation, have honored the call of the Holy Spirit. The giving was greater than your estimate of giving. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. This has been a year of growth and visioning for the church council. This visioning leads us away from maintaining and toward mission and more active proclaiming of Jesus the Christ to our community. It has been my joy to see the Holy Spirit work within you and through you. Again, thank you for being "Gods work our hands."



Joyfully in Christ,
Howard Wagner, Stewardship chair

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2012 offering envelopes are here! Even though we ordered them in October, they didn't arrive in Medford until December 28th! Sorry for the delay.

Some of you have mentioned that you don't like to use the preprinted envelopes. If you don't wish envelopes, please notify the church office: 541-773-3594 or secretary@ascensionlutheran.com.

MODA JANUARY MEETING

MODA will continue its Bible discussion on 1 Samuel 17: 1-54 on Saturday, January 7th at the 7:30 am breakfast meeting in Blaar Hall. A light breakfast will be served. The bible study is open to all men of faith at Ascension.

Starting Again



Mark your calendars!!!

All our educational classes will be starting up again on January 8th!

Kids, it's the start of a new story and new workshops!

Middle School will be diving further into their study of the Bible.

High School...it's time to prepare for an adventure!

Adults, check out Adult Forum!

What if we took our lengthy lists of changes we want to make in the new year and narrowed them down — way down? Rather than making a half dozen or more commitments that we're unlikely to keep, how about zeroing in on a single word that captures the essence of what we want to achieve or become?

North Carolina pastor Mike Ashcraft encouraged church members to each find one word that points to or describes a characteristic or vision they wanted to achieve in the year ahead. The experiment turned into a movement, with ideas and testimonials available at myoneword.org.

What would your one-word resolution be?





BAZAAR 2012 MEETING—JANUARY 12,
AT 9:30 AM

It's time to start planning the 2012 Bazaar and look back at the 2011 Bazaar. We're looking for comments, improvements, and suggestions. All are welcome to attend, including the men who moved walls, set up tables, hung signs, gave a hand where needed, and helped restore Blaar Hall on Monday. ~ Peggy Skeelee 541-499-0161

ALCW News

On December 3rd, 49 Ascension Lutheran Church Women gathered for the annual Advent Luncheon. The theme of "And These Thy Gifts" was enhanced by a meaningful program presented by Debbie Wright. Six 30 gallon bags of Christmas gifts were donated to the Dunn House, a greater number than usual.

Election of officers was held with Jean Adams selected as Secretary. A volunteer is still needed for the position of President. The 2012 budget was approved; both the budget and ALCW annual report will be included in the Annual Report to the Congregation. Thanks to both continuing and retiring board members for their time and efforts during the past year.

The Luncheon was concluded with revealing of Secret Sisters and drawing names for 2012.
~Jean Adams

Crafters

This year the Monday morning crafters will not be meeting at the church. As always we encourage all those who create handmade items to donate to the Bazaar to continue working at home.

The Monday crafters have a varied supply of crafting raw materials that we would like to disperse. All interested crafters are invited to come on Monday February 6th to look over the supply of crafting "raw materials" and take what they think they can use to make items for the bazaar. The supplies will be on display in Blaar Hall from 10am-Noon.



Community Life

Each month we are featuring organizations in which members participate.



ACCESS helps people in need with food, housing, weatherization, energy assistance and more. The Food Assistance program's

mission is to provide healthy, nutritious food to feed hungry families and individuals in our area. This includes a Food Pantry Network, collection and distribution of perishable products from grocery stores, USDA supplemental food program targeting seniors, gardens, and plant-a-row encouraging gardeners to plant an extra row.

The Housing program provides rental assistance, education and counseling, foreclosure intervention, first-time buyers' assistance, and pre-purchase education. ACCESS also designs, funds, and manages affordable housing; to date there are over 200 units of quality affordable housing in the Rogue Valley.

The Energy/Weatherization program includes low-income assistance, energy education and low-income weatherization. ACCESS staff also provide information and referrals to seniors, people with disabilities and other vulnerable people. Medical equipment is loaned at no cost to residents.

How can we help? Ascension is a year round drop off for nonperishable food items. In addition, volunteers can work at a food pantry, pack emergency food boxes, work in the office, host a food drive, deliver Senior "Shoebboxes" during the holidays, work in the ACCESS Garden, and plant -a-row for the hungry. Of course, financial donations are always appreciated. For more information: 541-779-6691 or www.accesshelps.org.

~Carla

Community Life



Food & Friends Senior Meals Program provides nutritious meals and socialization to seniors in Jackson and Josephine Counties. The program plays a large role in the health and well-being of many seniors, especially those who are homebound. Of the clients served by Food & Friends, 50% are age 80 or older, live alone and are at high risk for depression and malnutrition. Food & Friends provides not only a hot, nutritious lunch but also contact with the outside world in the form of a visit from volunteers or time spent at lunch interacting with one's peers.

The Meals on Wheels portion of the program serves homebound seniors who are unable to prepare meals due to frailty, illness or disability. There are currently 51 home delivery routes serving these clients. Our volunteers bring a hot meal and friendly contact to homebound seniors (Monday through Friday in most areas), and they are a vital safety net between our clients and other services. Delivering meals offers a chance for the volunteers to notice health or safety concerns regarding our clients. As appropriate, they contact our office to request referrals or ask that assistance calls be made to family or emergency services.

In fiscal year 2010-2011 Food & Friends volunteers delivered over 180,000 meals to homebound seniors. We are the only program to provide such a service directly to seniors in their own homes in Jackson and Josephine Counties. For those able to visit one of our 12 congregate dining sites, we provided an additional 50,000 lunches and an opportunity to socialize.

Members of Ascension Lutheran have generously supported Food & Friends over the years through both volunteering and financial contributions. This support enables the program to meet the growing needs in the face of static government funding.

~Don Bruland

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

As required by the Constitution, the Nominating Committee announces the following nominations for the Congregation election. Additional nominations for the ballot will continue to be accepted until January 15. Please notify Carla in the office or any member of the Nominating Committee if you would like to run for office, or would like to nominate a potential candidate. Any nominations received after January 15 must be placed on the ballot by floor nomination. Floor nominations can be made at the meeting and the names placed on the ballot manually by the attendees as long as the nominee has accepted the nomination. The President of the Congregation will conduct the election process at the Congregation Meeting. The Chair of the Nominating Committee will move the election of new council officers and members, and will be available for any procedural questions. Unless uncontested, elections will be by written ballot. If only one candidate is available for the position, the election may be by voice vote.

Treasurer	Mary Ann Gum
Members-At-Large	Chris Johnson, Debbie Martin and Debbie Sumption
Synod Assembly	Marilyn and Bob Van Heuit and Brandy Koons

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Art Lundahl, Marilyn Van Heuit, Brandy Koons,
Dee Wittenberg, and Pastor Doug.

January Adult Forums

January 1: New Year's Day—no forum
January 8: Women of the Bible—Debbie Wright
January 15: Pastor Doug
January 22: Conversations with the Council
January 29: Annual Meeting

Worship Assistants, Ushers, Communion Set up
Cookies, Coffee Maker and/or cleanup, & Acolytes

PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY For January

Bylaw Changes

As required by the Constitution Bylaw changes are published 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Church Council proposes to make changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC). The proposed changes are summarized first; language changes in individual bylaws sections follow below. Proposed Changes: The most substantive change proposed is that of eliminating the Financial Secretary as an Officer of the Church Council. This does not eliminate the position of the Financial Secretary, but does remove it from a council position. In this respect the Council Officers configuration more closely resembles the configuration normally found in congregations of the ELCA. Since the language concerning the Financial Secretary is eliminated, you are referred to the proposed Constitution and Bylaws to look at language concerning officers of the council (Chapter 11).

The other changes can be considered more in the vein of “bookkeeping”, are summarized here, and presented with their language changes below: (A) In Bylaws section 11.02.02 we have modified language pertaining to the Nominating Committee. In short, our total number of representatives to the Synod Assembly can vary based upon our actual membership. Our current language specifies a set number of members; we have removed that language and replaced it with language provided by the Oregon Synod which allows for a changing number of representatives from ALC. (B) In section 13.03.03 we re-title the “Faith Formation” Committee the “Faith Formation and Education” Committee to more accurately reflect its function. (C) In section 13.03.04 we eliminate the “Evangelism Committee” and associated description in favor of the “Community Life Committee” and associated language. We believe this to be more inclusive of our activities and more descriptive of our sense of mission. (D) In section 13.03.08 we re-title the “Worship” Committee the “Worship and Music” Committee to more accurately reflect its function.

C 11.01. The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

*BL 11.02.02: The Nominating Committee will solicit sufficient potential nominees to stand for election for the open officer and council member positions. **The nominating committee also has the responsibility to present lay voting members, split as evenly as possible between males and females, in the number authorized by the Oregon Synod annually to attend the Assembly as voting members.***

*BL 13.03.03: Faith Formation **and Education** Committee: The principal role of the Faith Formation **and Education** Committee is to plan, implement, provide and evaluate life-long Christian educational programs for the Congregation and the community.*

BL 13.03.04: Community Life Committee: The principal role of the Community Life Committee is to seek, cultivate, and facilitate opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through service and outreach, by helping others and inviting into fellowship those in our neighborhood and community.

BL 13.03.08: Worship and Music Committee: The Worship and Music Committee shall work with pastor(s) to ensure that the Gospel is proclaimed in its purity and the Sacraments are rightly administered. Further, the committee works collaboratively with the Roistered Staff, and assumes responsibility for other Worship and Music Staff.



Thanks for Roland and Joan Buck of Hale Signs for refurbishing and reinstalling our entrance signage. Roland and Joan have always been very generous with providing Ascension with banners and signs. ~ Greg Applen

**Augustana College Concert Band
In concert on February 21st**

Ascension and the 1st Presbyterian Church are co-hosting the band in the Rogue Valley. Host families are needed for 70 students(35 homes) for the night of February 21st; signups will begin in early February. The concert will be held at the 1st Presbyterian Church at 7pm. Host families will pick up their students from the concert venue and return them the next morning after they have had an early breakfast. Plan now to host a pair of students and attend a fantastic band concert performed by a fine college concert band from one of the oldest Swedish Lutheran Colleges in the country. Diane Barnes and Doris Lundahl are proud to call Augustana their Alma Mater.

NAME OUR NEWSLETTER

We have published "Pathways and Passages" for more than 10 years. The newsletter has also been called "Crossings" and "Cross Currents." Let's try something new. Submit your ideas to the church office. The congregation will vote on a selected few entries at our Congregational Meeting, January 29. Let's have some fun!

== AARP TAX-AIDE ==

Ascension Lutheran Church will serve as one of the sites for the AARP Tax-Aide program this year. The program will provide free preparation and electronic filing of tax returns for low to moderate income taxpayers of all ages from February 1 through April 16. Volunteers who prepare tax returns receive three weeks of training and are required to pass an IRS test to become certified preparers. Greeters check to see that clients have all the necessary documents and direct the flow of clients to tax return preparers. We are in need of greeters; training is provided. If you would like to be a greeter or would like more information, please contact Susan MacKinnon or Georgia Kurz. AARP Tax-aide will be here Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays beginning Feb 1.

SMART BOOK SALE

The SMART Book Sale is scheduled for Saturday, February 11.

Start saving your books, but please don't bring them to the church until

Sunday, February 5 after the service. We don't have room to store them. However, we need the books here by Friday morning, Feb 10 in order to have them organized for the sale.

Thank you Hal and Jan Herdrich, who have stepped up as coordinators of the Book Sale. A huge thanks to Art and Doris Lundahl for their years of service.



**20 YEARS OF
MAKING READERS**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS TO CHANGE

Beginning in January the office hours will be

Monday-Thursday 8:00-3:00

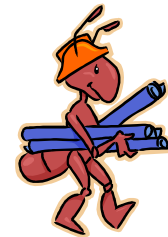
Friday 8:00-12:00

This change will allow me to be more available at the noon hour (M-Th) to run errands and conduct church business.

~Carla

MEN'S HANDYMEN GROUP

Our highly skilled men have been busy with repairs as needed and preparing a mechanical facilities operation plan. The next meeting will be Monday, January 9 at 9 am. Come and have a cup of coffee and help with our projects.



~Greg Applen

Heart felt thanks....

Pastor Doug and Linda offer thanks to each of you for your warm Christmas gifts and greetings. We have appreciated it very much.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p><i>1</i> New Year's Day Worship @ 9:30</p>	<p><i>2</i> Church Office Closed</p>	<p><i>3</i> Quilters @ 8:30 Knitters @ 12:00</p>	<p><i>4</i> Bible Study @ 9:30 Worship Mtg @ 10:30 Choir @ 6:30</p>
<p><i>8</i> Worship @ 9:30 X'n Ed @ 10:45</p>	<p><i>9</i> Handymen @ 9:00 Grace Notes @ 6:00</p>	<p><i>10</i> Sarah Circle @ 9:30</p>	<p><i>11</i> Choir @ 6:30</p>
<p><i>15</i> Worship @ 9:30 X'n Ed @ 10:45</p>	<p><i>16</i> Martin Luther King Day—Office closed Grace Notes @ 6:00</p>	<p><i>17</i></p>	<p><i>18</i> Finance Mtg @ 7:00 Choir @ 6:30</p>
<p><i>22</i> Worship @ 9:30 X'n Ed @ 10:45</p>	<p><i>23</i> Grace Notes @ 6:00</p>	<p><i>24</i> Council Mtg 6:30 pm</p>	<p><i>25</i> Choir @ 6:30</p>
<p><i>29</i> Worship @ 9:30 Annual Mtg @ 10:45 X'n Ed @ 10:45 Potluck @ 11:45</p>	<p><i>30</i> Grace Notes @ 6:00</p>	<p><i>31</i></p>	



Ned Thu Fri Sat

<p>udy @ 9:30 Mtg @ 4:30 6:30</p>	<p>5 Joyful Noise @ 9 :00 GS Leaders Mtg @ 6:00</p>	<p>6 ALCW Board @ 9:00</p>	<p>7 MODA @ 7:30 am</p>
<p>6:30</p>	<p>12 Joyful Noise @ 9:00 Bazaar Mtg. @ 9:30 Martha Circle @ 12:30 Girl Scouts @ 6:00</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>Mtg. @ 3:00 6:30</p>	<p>19 Joyful Noise @ 9:00 Girl Scouts @ 6:00</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>6:30</p>	<p>26 Joyful Noise @ 9:00 Girl Scouts @ 6:00</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

Get ready for Noisy Offering!
Color this picture and return it to Susan.

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD



Animals help people around the world who are poor and hungry.
Some animals provide eggs to eat. Others produce wool to
make clothes. Can you guess how each animal in this picture
can help a family in need?

www.elca.org/goodgifts



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.





A "Noisy Offering" is about to begin!

Starting in January, our children will be invited to participate in worship for a time of special giving! We are called to care for those around the world who live in hunger and poverty and this time of offering will be an opportunity for us to come together and respond to that call.

The children will carry cans....loud metal cans.... around to the pews!

The plan is to have folks drop some very noisy coins into those cans!

What a joyous noise it will make ... this sound of giving!

The money that is given will be used to purchase animals through our ELCA's Global Barnyard for those in need.

In January, the challenge will be to buy as many chicks as we can. \$10 buys 10 little chicks! Ten little chicks can make a huge difference to a family. The chickens can start to lay eggs in just one month ... eggs that can provide nutritious meals for that family. Extra eggs allow families to start small businesses selling the eggs.

On January 29th ... come to worship with your pockets filled with lots of coins!

Then let's count our chickens before they are hatched!



"NOISY OFFERING" WORKSHOP

On January 15th, right after Sunday School, there will be an opportunity to paint a can!

Kids, if you would like to create a "Noisy Offering Can" to be used each month in worship, just meet in Blaar Hall after Sunday School and **bring a can!**

There will be some light snacks to keep you going until you have lunch at home. All the painting supplies will be waiting. Just come and paint a can for our new Noisy Offering!

Questions: susanjdetwiler@aol.com or childrensministry@ascensionlutheran.com



Is someone watering our plants?

Indoor plants more often die from overwatering than drying out. So we need *one* person to water our plants, with me as a substitute when needed. I have a watering pitcher and plant food. Let me know if you can help out.

~Carla



Ascension's Girl Scouts want to thank everyone who contributed to the annual Holiday Shoebox drive.

Together we created 135 boxes to give out!

Watch this month for **GIRL SCOUT COOKIES**

Preorders begins Jan 7th. Delivery is in Mid-February.



ELCA Youth Gathering Update:

We have just received word that the study material will be ready for use at the start of the year! New Orleans here they come ... the teens will be using this material to ready themselves for the best possible experience in July. By preparing, they will be ready to more fully embrace what they will see, hear and do ... and what they will be able to bring back to Ascension.

M&M's tubes are still arriving weekly. If you have not returned yours, the red bin on the desk just inside the office door is waiting!



Thanks to all for this support!

Coming Soon Temptation! **Give-in to it!**

Beginning January 15th, you can come and be tempted! Daniel, Mackenzie and Samuel will be offering you tastes of what



BAKE SALE

is yet to come delectable sweets!

To raise funds for their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering, these three will have samples of their wares for the last three Sundays in January. Come, taste and be tempted!

Place your order and items will be ready for pick-up the Sunday before Valentine's Day, February 12th. Order some sweets for your sweet.... and a little something for yourself! Be tempted!

A THANKYO
THE WORSHIP AND M

Many unpaid volunteers serve our congregation each week. Below is a list missed anyone. Music volunteers are not listed here. Their acknowledgement is ye

Last Name	First Name	Acolyte	Bearer	Preparer	Server	Lector	Usher
Adams	Jim				x		
Barnes	Diane	x			x		
Bausano	Jim		x		x		
Bausano	Kathy		x		x		
Bolen	Grace	x					
Bolen	Lance	x					
Bones	Marsha	x	x	x	x		x
Branch	Elizabeth						x
Bruland	Don						x
Bruland	Margeret						x
Burt	Lois					x	
Byrd	Candace						
Cederwall	Jean		x				
Cheatum	Carrie		x				
Cheatum	Taylor	x	x				
Clausen	Kathy						x
Cline-Pike	Carrie					x	
Cruz	Jolisa		x				
Cruz	Michelle	x	x				
Cutler	Margaret						x
Dippel	Greg				x		x
Eiyнк	Cindi	x					
Eiyнк	Reilly	x					
Eiyнк	Skylar	x					
Eiyнк	Tucker	x					
Eliason	Bruce		x		x	x	
Eliason	Jeanette		x	x	x	x	
Fader	Karen			x			
Formanek	Barbara			x			
Gerlick	Jonathan		x				
Gerlick	Paul		x		x	x	
Germer	Jane						x
Gripp	Linda			x			
Guisler	Barbara		x		x	x	x
Guisler	Sam		x				x
Gum	MaryAnn		x		x	x	
Gum	Ron		x				
Gurr	Ashley	x					
Gurr	Lindsey	x					
Gurr	Melissa	x					
Hammer	Cherie			x			
Haugen	Phyllis			x			
Hedgpeth	Audrey	x					
Hedgpeth	Trina	x					
Helmling	Al		x				x
Helmling	Terri		x				x
Herdrich	Harold		x				
Herdrich	Jan		x		x		
Higgins	Linda			x	x		
Higgins	Perry				x	x	
Hicains	Scott					x	

YOU FROM
D MUSIC COMMITTEE

list of over 100 people and the roles they played. We apologize if we have
is yet to come. ~Bruce Eliason, Chair

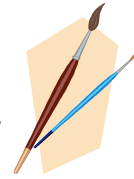
Last Name	First Name	Acolyte	Bearer	Preparer	Server	Lector	Usher
Holzcamp	Ron						x
Jenkins	Sydney	x					
Johnson/Bradley	Chris	x					
Johnson/Bradley	Molly	x					
Johnson/Bradley	Sarah	x					
Johnson/Bradley	Suzi	x					
Kurz	Georgia		x	x	x		
Lane	Charles				x	x	
Lundahl	Art		x				
Lundahl	Doris		x				
Mapes	Michael		x				
Menoid	Melanie		x		x		x
Menoid	Ted		x		x		x
Pihl	Deanna		x		x		
Pihl	MacKenzie		x		x		
Polehn	Culley		x				x
Polehn	Sheena		x				x
Rising	Cindy				x	x	
Risner	Bob			x	x		
Risner	Daniel	x		x			
Risner	Stephanie		x	x	x		
Risner	Vicki	x		x	x		
Rodriguez	Lanie	x	x				
Rodriguez	Sherri		x	x	x		
Ross	K Sandra				x	x	
Ruth	Bob			x			x
Ruth	Donna			x			x
Scheick	Pat			x			
Schnedler	Ann			x			
Schnedler	Charles		x				
Smith	Don						x
Smith	Marcia						x
Sumption	Darbi	x	x	x		x	
Sumption	Debbie	x	x	x			
Swenson	Don		x				
Swenson	Loretta		x				x
Taylor	Cara	x	x		x		
Taylor	DJ	x	x		x		
Taylor	Kendra	x					
Taylor	Savannah	x					
Timmons	Samuel	x					x
Timmons	Steve						x
VanHeuitt	Bob		x		x		
VanHeuitt	Marilyn		x		x		
Vold	Linda				x		
Wagner	Howard				x	x	
Wallender	Arnie					x	
Wehage	Dan						x
Wehage	Marie				x	x	
White	Brandon						x
White	Lauren						x
Wright	Debbie				x		x



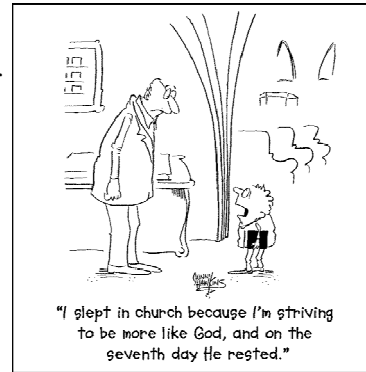
Prayer Shawls: If you have made a prayer shawl, you may leave it in the church office with a note "FOR PARISH CARE," or give it to Lois Burt or Lois Heinrich. Each prayer shawl will be blessed at the altar before it is given away. A helpful website is: www.shawlministry.com and there are more patterns in "The Prayer Shawl Companion," a book available in the church office.

Looking for something different to start your new year?

If painting your very own porcelain heirloom sounds interesting, give Sherry Cameron a call at 541-772-6800. She will be teaching a three week class at her Medford studio. The classes will be Saturdays, January 14, 21, and 28 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Sherry is offering her expertise for no charge except for a \$5.00 fee to cover materials. There is a limit of 10 people. Sherry will have a sample of the project displayed at the church during January. For more information or to sign up, call Sherry or Carla at the church office.



PRAYER CHAIN Ascension has an active prayer chain waiting to meet your needs. If you or a loved one has a need or is in crisis and in need of support and prayer please call Jeanette Eliason at 779-2912 or bjeliason@charter.net or the church office. Your prayer request will be shared with the members of the prayer chain. All information shared will be kept confidential.



"I slept in church because I'm striving to be more like God, and on the seventh day He rested."

NEW COFFEE BEING SERVED

Lutheran World Relief sponsored a coffee "taste-off" a few years ago. The winner was GUMUTINDO (goo-moo-TIN-do) which means "good coffee" in the farmers Lugisu language. The coffee is grown in Uganda. We are now serving Gumutindo during fellowship. We also stock it on our Coffee Kiosk. Enjoy!



~ Carla



FAIR TRADE CANDY

OOPS! We fear someone has been taking candy bars without paying for them. The price charged for the candy is actually what we pay to stock it...there is no profit built in. Unfortunately we can no longer stock candy. If you would like a special order call me in the church office.

~Carla

NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an overhand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.

Bible Quiz



In the book of Judges, a cycle is repeated many times: The Israelites do "what is evil in the sight of the LORD," God hands them over to an enemy nation, they cry out to the Lord and he appoints a judge, or political/military leader, for them. Under the judge's leadership, the Israelites conquer their adversary and prosper – until they start doing "what is evil in the sight of the LORD" all over again.

Who was *not* one of these judges?

- A. Deborah
- B. Ehud
- C. Esau
- D. Shamgar

Answer: (See Judges 3-5.)










"He's today's greeter."



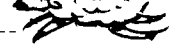






A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			

Her name in Greek

___ pdeesh		
___ dchilnero		
___ drove		
___ acehtr		
___ sarcos		
___ nusoatinm		

Ascension Lutheran Church

**675 Black Oak Dr.
Medford, OR 97504-8314
541-773-3594
www.ascensionlutheran.com**

**Communion Services every
Sunday at 9:30 AM**

Our Mission

We, the members of Ascension Lutheran Church, gratefully rooted in the Good News of God's Grace, proclaim our partnership with the whole church of God and give ourselves to worship, witness and service.

Our Vision

We are a community of believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit to support and serve one another.

We believe that we are called to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through our words and especially through our deeds toward all who live in the greater Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon.

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