
❖ Ascension Connection ❖

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus... Come!

December 2009



*Come, O long-expected Jesus,
Born to set your people free;
From our sins and fears release us
By your death on Calvary.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
hope to all the earth impart,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of every longing heart.*

- Charles Wesley

Come, O long-expected Jesus. And he IS coming. Soon! Christ – the Anointed One. The One set apart for the very purpose of taking us out of this world, is coming! Leaving the fullness of his glory, the comfort and peace of his throne... for you, yes... for you! (And for me!) Submitting himself, humbling himself, welcoming the opportunity to

so much more rewarding, that we be about the days preparing our hearts and minds to celebrate the arrival of our Savior-King, Jesus the Christ, the Word in flesh.

“Come, O long-expected Jesus... Joy of every longing heart.” We prepare best for those we long to have come to us. We prepare by dusting off the shelves of our hearts upon which we have stored the comforting passages of Luke chapter 2: **“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree...”** We prepare by finding, taking hold of, and throwing out the garbage of our sin through repentance and renewal; a turning away from the self and back to our God with humble hearts and broken spirits, empowered and built up by the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. We prepare by

you, yes... for you! (And for me!) Submitting himself, humbling himself, welcoming the opportunity to right all our wrongs, and pay our debt. He comes. To suffer bitter sufferings – the rejection and condemnation of God the Father; to endure shame and death and hell so that we would never have to, he comes. To buy us back as his very own that no one else can claim. To take us away from hatred and anger and strife. To take us away from sorrow and pain, sickness and death. To take us away... to be *with* him in happiness, in awe, in rejoicing and feasting, in worship and praise, glorious, joy-filled praise! To give us life and healing, vindication and... Rest! *Eternal* rest at his side. He comes! Thank you Lord! He comes.

Adventus, in Latin. The approach or coming of one of dignity. It is the approach, the coming of Jesus, the One who saves his people from their sins. He's coming. Are you ready?

Advent, the very first season of the Church Year is a time of preparation. As we prepare our homes, our trees, our meals, and families to celebrate our own traditions – it is so much more important, and

broken spirits, empowered and built up by the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. We prepare by decorating our lives with the robe of Christ's righteousness, and garland of Christ-like love that moves us to live lives of love and good deeds. We adorn our relationships and trim our homes with the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. And then we wait, in patient, quiet, humble expectation. We wait, with ready hearts and hands, for the moment of his arrival. And our hearts long for his *adventus*.

And then, in the still darkness, the light dawns, the day comes! In the Holy Gospel of John, the Savior explodes onto the scene in a flood of light: ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”*** Jn. 1:1-5.

(See COVER ARTICLE on page 5)

 **PRAYER
REQUESTS** +

Your prayers are much appreciated!

The Brands and Rosenbaum Families... Ask the Lord's blessing and favor on these faithful servants of the Lord as they are trying to sell their homes and get settled in their new field of ministry. Pray that God fills them with peace in His abiding love, and patience as they wait for God's plans for them to come to fruition.

LaVerne Voss... Remember our sister in Christ in your daily prayers that God would fill her with that peace and joy that the world cannot give, and that God would ease any discomfort she may have. Thank God for all that He has done and continues to do through this special lady.

Our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary... Pray that God would continue to bless and preserve this gem among us, not simply as an institution, but as a means by which to equip a steady stream of gospel heralds for His Kingdom. Pray that God would give the leaders the insight they

DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

- 12/2 - Mabel Leber
- Jonathan Medico
- 12/4 - Melinda Lange
- 12/5 - Christa Medico
- 12/6 - Jayden Mielke
- Jarrett Mielke
- John Wacker
- 12/8 - Dick Zastrow
- Pastor Mielke
- Alexandria Bozinta
- Stanley P. Bozinta
- 12/9 - Rachel Mapp
- 12/12 - JJ McKay
- Reta Moehling
- Sue Zastrow
- 12/14 - Danielle King
- 12/15 - Joseph Adams

equip a steady stream of gospel heralds for the kingdom.
Pray that God would give the leaders the insight they
need to plan and prepare a curriculum that fits the con-
text into which the men will be sent.

Christmas for Kids... Pray that God would bless our ef-
forts to reach many new families, and many young hearts
with the life-changing Good News of Jesus' birth. Bless
the efforts of all our volunteers that we reflect the love of
our Savior Jesus in all we do.

Lisa Crump... Pray a prayer for complete healing from
her bout with pneumonia. This has been a long process
of recovery and tiring for her body. Ask the Lord to give
her strength to overcome and to return to a healthy life,
and a sense of peace and joy in the Lord's grace.

Bridgitte, 34-year-old friend of Lisa Crump in Maine, who
recently suffered a stroke. Pray for her complete healing
and strength for family to get through this.

***NOTE: All of these fellow Christians
appreciate your prayers, as well as cards,
phone calls, gifts, and visits. Thanks &
God bless you!***

12/14 - Danielle King
12/15 - Joseph Adams
12/16 - Carolyn Wieseler
12/17 - Raju Madidi
12/18 - Daniel Zabel
12/22 - Mary Christman
12/23 - Karen Bufe
12/25 - James Scarberry
- Craig Carbon
12/28 - Doug Zabel
12/30 - Carol Carroll
- Sandra O'Laire

GANNIVERSARIES

12/5 - Rick & Bev Herman
- Bill & Lori Carroll
12/17 - Tom & Doreen Leonard
12/21 - Don & Gloria Cosgrove
12/23 - Otto & Karen Bufe
12/28 - Richard & Chris VanDeusen
12/31 - James & Renee Scarberry

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
FOR SEPTEMBER**

	CURRENT MONTH	FISCAL Y-T-D	TOTAL BUDGET
Receipts			
Church	\$ 30,372.85	\$117,277.10	\$286,100.00
Other	1.65	677.48	2,500.00
School	19,843.29	58,312.06	341,400.00
Total	\$ 50,217.79	\$176,266.64	\$630,000.00
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 1755.14	\$5568.60	\$ 15,400.00
Religious Edu.	206.57	473.12	1600.00
Evangelism	211.00	211.00	1100.00
Fellowship	-	84.48	1000.00
SOS	-	110.00	600.00
Stewardship	-	55.50	27,200.00
Elders	235.00	262.50	1600.00
Payroll/Benefits	38,658.03	149,052.76	457,200.00
Elem. School	1435.51	6868.40	29,800.00
Preschool	181.39	2001.86	7800.00
Property	6913.80	25,813.60	86,700.00
Total	\$ 49,596.44	\$190,501.82	\$630,000.00
Surplus/	\$ 621.35	\$(14,235.18)	-

Recipe Corner

Mint Crinkles

Prep: 25 minutes Cool: 15 minutes
 Chill: 3 hours Oven: 350 F
 Bake: 11 minutes per batch

- 3/4 cup finely chopped layered chocolate-mint candies (about 4 ounces or 24 candies)
- 1/3 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- Layered chocolate-mint candies, chopped

Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$ 621.35	\$(14,235.18)	-
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Don't let your
worries get to
you; remember
Moses started out
as a basket case.

Layered chocolate-mint candies, chopped

1. In a heavy small saucepan, heat and stir the 3/4 cup chopped candies until melted and smooth. Remove from heat. Cool about 15 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, beat shortening with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar, baking powder and salt, beat until well combined. Beat in cooled chocolate, eggs and vanilla. Beat or stir in flour. Cover and chill 3 hours or until dough is easy to handle.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Using about 1 tablespoon of dough per ball, shape dough into 1-1/4 inch balls. Place balls 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake in the preheated oven for 10 minutes or until edges are set (tops should crackle). Sprinkle a few candy pieces onto cookies. Bake 1 minute more. Cool on wire racks. Makes about 36 cookies.

WORLD WIDE WORK WITHIN WELS
Peace in Jesus Lutheran Church, Boise, ID

Early Beginnings

Outreach to the Vietnamese began when members from area congregations in Nampa and Boise sponsored numerous Vietnamese families in 1992. For the next three years Mr. Robert Vinh Phan, a highly respected man in the Vietnamese community, served as interpreter for our weekly Bible classes.

In the fall of 1996, Vicar Daniel Kramer began a one-year feasibility study of this Vietnamese field. This work uncovered useful ministry tools and inroads into the Vietnamese culture. Kramer returned to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and in May of 1998 was assigned to serve the Boise Vietnamese Exploratory. Later, it was recognized that a team concept would be very beneficial for this unique cross-cultural venture. In the fall of 2001, Staff Minister Dave Malnes was called to serve Pastor Kramer in the areas of teaching, administration, and youth ministry.

Reaching Out

Since March of 1999, Peace in Jesus Lutheran Church has been leasing a storefront rental located between a Vietnamese restaurant and an Oriental market. This fa-

reach tool that incorporates the unique culture of Vietnam. Seven Steps on the Way is a visual presentation that shares law and gospel using Vietnamese proverbs. Dozens of Vietnamese, who came into contact with our church through English and Citizenship classes, have been exposed to this tool of outreach. As a result, several have continued their study in Bible information courses.

Peace in Jesus Lutheran Church

The ministry at Peace in Jesus focuses on bringing the gospel to the entire family, including all generations. Weekly worship services are offered in the Vietnamese language with an average attendance of thirty. A special service is typically conducted each month with a specific theme. After these services, there is a potluck of delicious Vietnamese food followed by activities for both adults and children. The attendance for these special services can range between 70-130 people or more. We currently have 42 souls (27 communicants) at Peace in Jesus Lutheran Church.

Rev. Daniel Kramer

Daniel Kramer grew up in New Ulm, MN. After graduating from Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School he went on to Northwestern College in Watertown, WI. He attended Wis-

has been leasing a storefront rental located between a Vietnamese restaurant and an Oriental market. This facility has served to establish an important link to the Vietnamese community by offering assistance to people in their day-to-day lives. Through American Citizenship and English as a Second Language classes along with assisting in translation work, our church has established a high reputation of trust and service within the community.

Seven Steps on the Way

Pastor Kramer spent several years in developing an out-

from Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School he went on to Northwestern College in Watertown, WI. He attended Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, including an additional vicar year to explore the Vietnamese community in the Boise, Idaho area. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Vietnamese exploratory in 1998. Daniel and Karis Westendorf were married August 12, 1995. Previously, Karis had served as teacher of upper grades at Lola Park Lutheran School in Livonia, MI. The Lord has blessed the Kramers with four daughters: Sylvia, Ella, Hannah, and Laura Hope.

Submitted by Mark Becker

The Fall Rally at Risen Savior was well attended by Ascension with 15 in attendance! Spring Rally will be March 13 in Ft. Myers.



We did mail approximately 100 Christmas cards to WELS Prison Ministries to be distributed. Thank you to the children and adults who helped. Remember to save your Christmas cards this year and bring them to church in January. The ladies will then prepare them for us to sign for next year. The Prison Ministries box is in the church narthex.

Teen Group News

Dec 5 (Sat)

Assist with Christmas for Kids

Dec 13 (Sun)

Lunch at Ascension & Caroling at Colonial Oaks

(COVER ARTICLE—Continued from page 1)

As the darkness is broken by the Light of the World, our souls are roused from the slumber of death, our eyes opened to the light of new life in the One who comes to save! The Spirit sings a new song, our attention is grabbed, and we lift up our heads. With the Psalmist we lift up our heads...

***Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory. Ps. 24***

And together we celebrate! The Savior is born – long expected, eternally praised. And we sing...

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and

Advent & Christmas Services

**Wednesday, Dec 2 – 7:00 p.m.
*Midweek Advent Service***

**Wednesday, Dec 9 - 7:00 p.m.
*Midweek Advent Service***

**Wednesday, Dec 16 - 7:00 p.m.
*Midweek Advent Service***

**Sunday, Dec 20 - 4:00 p.m.
*Children's Christmas Service***

**Thursday, Dec 24 - 7:00 p.m.
*Christmas Eve Service***

Friday, Dec 25 - 10:00 a.m.

room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n
and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and
nature sing!

May God bless your Advent preparations, and
Christmas celebrations!

Pastor Mielke

Friday, Dec 25 - 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Day Service

Thursday, Dec 31 - 7:00 p.m.
New Year's Eve Service

**Ascension is in
need of someone
to help manage our
website. Do you
have some extra
time to help us keep our site
updated? It does NOT require
HTML knowledge. Please
touch base with the church
office if you can!**



*For to us a child is born, to
us a son is given, and the
government will be on his
shoulders. And he will be
called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

From the Principal

Preparation: For What Purpose?

We are beginning the Advent season of the church year, a time to prepare for the news of our glorious Savior's birth. Advent gives us time to reflect on God's love for us. It allows us to be reminded of how he was willing to show his love for us by becoming a tiny babe in Bethlehem. May God grant you a blessed Advent season as you reflect on God's love for you!

Preparation is a key to success in many areas of our lives. In order for athletes to be ready for a competition, it is important for them to first practice. Pianists cannot just show up at the time of a performance and expect to be ready to play without having prepared the music ahead of time. Think about it – a pastor doesn't just show up on Sunday morning and expect the sermon to

must be kept in contact with the Gospel on a regular basis. The children must be reminded of God's unconditional love for them regularly. The children must hear that Jesus came to this world to live and die for all people. The children must be told that their sins were paid for by Christ's perfect life and death. The tiny babe that we are preparing for during the Advent season is the God who came to earth so that one day we will be able to live in heaven with him.

The preparation that occurs at Ascension Lutheran School and our other WELS schools is different in this aspect from public schools and many other private schools. We have the message that truly prepares a person for life. Thank God every day for the work that is taking place in the school and the preparation that is taking place by the students

Sunday morning and expect the sermon to be ready and learned for delivery to the members.

There is a phrase that was used a number of years ago for our Lutheran elementary schools that said, "Preparation for the Course Called Life." That is a strong statement. It says that we are preparing the students in our school for a life in the world and beyond.

We are here to prepare the students to be responsible citizens in the places that they live. We are responsible for preparing the students to be good workers in the many fields they will one day work in. We are responsible for preparing the children to think critically about issues and find solutions for various types of problems. But, our preparation at Ascension goes well beyond that.

We are most importantly responsible for helping to prepare the children for eternal life with God in heaven. We know the path that must be taken for this to occur. The children

the preparation that is taking place by the students.

May God continue to bless the work that is being done at Ascension Lutheran School so that each child who attends is truly prepared for life eternal!

Please join us for the Children's **Christmas service at 4:00 p.m.** on Sunday afternoon, **December 20.**

Daniel Brands

GREAT GIFT IDEA

The Youth Group is selling 2010 calendars now through the month of December. These calendars have stunning photography and a key Bible passage on every page. They are available for \$10 each. Thanks for supporting our Youth Group.



Children's
Christmas
Program

Sunday, December 20
4:00 p.m.

All school-aged children
(preschool to grade 8)
are encouraged to participate in the
program. Practices are taking place
during the Sunday School hour
beginning Sunday, December 6.

FAITH
EXPLORERS



Sunday, December 13,
after Sunday School.
We plan to have lunch
and go
Christmas caroling!

Advent Tea

JAIL/PRISON MINISTRIES-a workshop is being planned for our circuit for all who are interested in or would like further information on the WELS Jail/Prison Ministries. There are many opportunities to serve including several from the comfort of your own home. Attending does not obligate you in anyway. Doughnuts, coffee and juice will be provided upon arrival and lunch will be served compliments of the ministries program. The workshop should wrap up by 1:30.

If you are interested please contact Ed Mosshammer, Prince of Peace, Englewood at (941)429-6648 or ejmosshammer@verizon.net. We will determine a date and host church that would be most convenient to those expressing interest.

Advent Tea

Thursday, December 3
7:00 p.m. Fellowship hall

- A special time for ladies to gather with friends.
- A time to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Savior.
- A time for devotion, music, food, fun, peace and friendship.

Entertainment: Ornament Exchange (please bring a wrapped ornament if you would like to participate), Christmas Carols, and a poem by Pastor Mielke to name a few.

On the menu: Finger food, cookies, tea, coffee, hot cocoa

Ascension Lutheran Church is a congregation of Christians whose mission is to:

“Encourage our Family to Grow in Faith and Lead Others to Christ”

(We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Classes

10:15 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE

N. Martin Mielke, Pastor
Jill Fields, secretary
Deb Witte, secretary

Phone (941) 371-2978

Church Website:

www.ascensionwels.org

church@ascensionwels.org

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten
through 8th Grade

Daniel Brands, Principal
Brooke Carbon, Teacher
Sandra O’Laire, Teacher
Susan Zabel, Teacher

Phone (941) 371-5909

Church Office Volunteers

Karen Bufe
Helene Giebel
Reta Moehling
Gail Vidakovic
Bernice Zarder

PRESCHOOL

Sherri Medico, Director
Kandi Ross, Teacher
Tina Lange, Teacher
Raji Madidi, Teacher
Laura Thorin, Teacher
Denise Mielke, Secretary

Phone (941) 377-9670

The Ascension Connection

**Ascension Lutheran Church & School
800 McIntosh Road
Sarasota, FL 34232-2503**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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