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# ❖ Ascension Connection ❖

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You Belong.

October 2009

***“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.” - Ephesians 2:19***

Nearly each of us has felt it. And although we try not to think about it, many of us can’t forget it. Perhaps you felt it when the captain for a kickball team picked you last. Perhaps you felt it when your grades were lower than everyone else’s. Perhaps you felt it when your clothes weren’t as nice as others’ or your physical appearance did not fit the standard for what others considered “good-looking.” It’s that catch in your throat and that wave of unease that washes over your body. It’s the terrible feeling that says within you, “I don’t belong.”

And let’s be candid. That feeling does not simply haunt the playgrounds and schooldays of your past. There can still be awful moments or periods of your life

alone? That simply means you’re like the rest of us. Just remember the blessing you possess in Jesus Christ: You belong.

*Devotions like this one are available to you each and every day on the new WELS website. Check it out at <http://beta.wels.net/>*

**O**ctober Greetings to you who belong to Jesus and to us in the family of Ascension! What a blessing it is to be a part of such a diverse yet blessed community of believers who are there, Sunday after Sunday, to encourage each other and rejoice in the gift of fellowship we have through a common faith in Christ! To God all praise and honor!

Did you know it is officially FALL?!! I pray the com-

haunt the playgrounds and schoolyards of your past. There can still be awful moments or periods of your life when you find yourself among a group of people and that sad, familiar voice speaks again within you; the voice that says, "I don't belong."

But in Jesus, you *do* belong. Being *in Jesus* makes all the difference. Apart from Christ, we are all foreigners and aliens, as God's Word says. We could win all the popularity contests we want, but apart from Christ we have no meaningful relationship with others and we have no meaningful relationship with God.

But connected with Jesus, everything changes. The blood he shed on the cross not only washes your every sin away; it also binds you to him and binds you to your brothers and sisters in God's family.

Now, do we always feel that closeness? Do we always feel that bond? No, we don't. As long as we are still in this fallen world, our Christian brothers and sisters are bound to let us down, we are bound to let them down, and our flawed emotions will often fail to perceive the close, intimate bond we have with Christ and with each other.

But make no mistake. You belong. You belong to Ascension—you belong to us. We belong to you. And by faith we all belong to God through the precious blood of his Son.

Are there still times when you feel left out and

Did you know it is officially FALL?!! I pray the coming months provide for you a renewed and refreshed spirit as the summer temperatures begin to cool and give way to some of the most beautiful times we have here in Florida!

I just wanted to share a few bits and pieces of things coming up in the month ahead.

- If you haven't seen or heard yet, we have a **whole new series of Bible classes** and Sunday School lessons underway. Our new curriculum "**Bible walk**" explores the origins of the sacred Scriptures, takes an in-depth look at the historic songbook called the Psalms, helps you map out a practical daily plan for personal time in the word, and much more. Grab some coffee and join us! (Leave the cinnamon rolls for me. ;-)
- Discussions are currently underway to reconsider the **Sunday morning worship and Bible study schedule**. The Elders are exploring the possibility of keeping one service on Sunday mornings and adding another service on a weekday evening, such as a Thursday or Monday evening. Please give it some heartfelt thought, considering not just personal opinion, but what is best for the ministry and be ready to share those points.

(See **COVER ARTICLE** on page 5)

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 **PRAYER REQUESTS** 

*Your prayers are much appreciated!*

**Northern Friends Returning...** Give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of our northern friends who come and breathe a breath of fresh air into our family of believers. Pray that God would keep them safe as they travel, and shelter them as they spend their winter months with us.

**Our Synod...** Ask the Lord's blessing and favor on our synod and our district, that we would continue to see and appreciate the blessings of being united together in a body of believers which enables us to do things we could never do as a single congregation.

**LaVerne Voss...** As LaVerne was recently diagnosed with a tumor giving pressure on her brain, pray that God would fill her with faith in her Savior, and an overflowing sense of peace in the knowledge that her times are in His eternal and loving hands. Ask the Lord to provide people willing and able to help LaVerne, and bless our efforts to provide the level of care she needs.

**OCTOBER**



- 10/1 - Tina Lange**  
**Analise Pavlisin**
- 10/2 - Paula Mapp**
- 10/7 - Bob Rodgers**  
**Nicole Wieseler**
- 10/8 - David Zabel**
- 10/12- Judy Becker**  
**- Abbigail Ross**
- 10/14- Jane Ellis**
- 10/15- Shelly Adams**
- 10/16- Pat Morenz**
- 10/19- Adam Brands**
- 10/21- Todd Batchelder**  
**IT Fields**

provide the level of care she needs.

**Avery Lynn Rann...** Newborn baby girl of Russ and Barb Rann and granddaughter of our members Gene and Kathy Rann, was baptized in a private baptism yesterday here at Ascension! Give thanks to God that He has adopted this precious girl into His family and made her an heir of eternal life. Pray that God would guard and keep Avery in her baptismal grace all the days of her life.

**Don Cosgrove...** Ask the Lord to give Don renewed strength, ease the pain in his shoulders, and fill him with a peace of heart and mind knowing that God has forgiven his sins and given him life eternal through faith in Christ.

**Lisa Crump...** as Lisa recovers from pneumonia, pray the Lord will cause the medicine to be effective and her body to fight the illness. Thank the Lord for renewed health and for His abiding love in Lisa and Roger's life.

**Brenda Rosenbaum...** As Brenda moves to her new home in AZ, ask the Lord to help and bless her through this new chapter of life, and to fill her and her family with joy and peace in the opportunity to serve the Lord there.

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

- 10/21 - Todd Batenfelder**  
**JT Fields**  
**Christin Wacker**  
**10/24- Eva Stender**  
**- Kelsey Wacker**  
**10/25- Roger Crump**  
**10/27- Adrian Brands**  
**10/29- Ken Leber**  
**10/31- Elizabeth Hannon**  
**Ryan Mapp**

## **OCTOBER**

# **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10/11 -Gene & Faith Anderson**  
**10/12 -Martin & Tina Lange**  
**10/17 -Ed & Betty Camp**  
**10/19 -Bill & Lisa Hannon**

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS  
FOR AUGUST**

	CURRENT MONTH	FISCAL Y-T-D	TOTAL BUDGET
<b>Receipts</b>			
Church	\$ 37,654.52	\$ 61,363.79	\$286,100.00
Other	3.76	673.76	2,500.00
School	13,497.94	26,354.04	341,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 51,156.22</b>	<b>\$88,391.59</b>	<b>\$630,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration	\$ 571.94	\$ 1701.29	\$ 15,400.00
Religious Edu.	160.00	266.55	1600.00
Evangelism	-	-	1100.00
Fellowship	84.48	84.48	1000.00
SOS	-	60.00	600.00
Stewardship	19.00	24.00	27,200.00
Elders	-	-	1600.00
Payroll/Benefits	33,947.93	71,701.30	457,200.00
Elem. School	1085.39	4411.01	29,800.00
Preschool	640.54	1088.69	7800.00
Property	6028.00	10,858.34	86,700.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 42,537.28</b>	<b>\$90,195.66</b>	<b>\$630,000.00</b>
<b>Surplus/</b>	<b>\$8,618.94</b>	<b>\$ (1,804.07)</b>	

# Recipe Corner

## Blueberry Oat Bars

- 1-3/4 cup Quaker Oats, uncooked**
- 1-1/2 cup all purpose flour**
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, firmly packed**
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts**
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
- 3/4 cup butter, melted**
- 2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries**
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar**
- 3 tablespoons water**
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch**
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice**

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.

Surplus/  
(Deficit)

\$8,618.94

\$ (1,804.07)

Be Ye Fishers  
of Men...  
You Catch'em  
He'll Clean'em!

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Grease 11 x 7-inch baking pan.
3. Combine oats, flour, brown sugar, nuts, baking soda and salt.
4. Add butter, mixing until crumbly.
5. Reserve 3/4 cup of mixture; press remaining mixture onto bottom of prepared dish.
6. Bake 10 minutes.
7. Meanwhile, combine blueberries, granulated sugar and 2 tablespoons water in medium saucepan.
8. Bring to boil, simmer 2 minutes, uncovered, stirring occasionally. Combine remaining 1 tablespoon water, cornstarch, and lemon juice, mix well. Gradually stir into blueberry mixture; cook and stir about 30 seconds or until thickened.
9. Spread over partially baked base to within 1/4 inch of edge; sprinkle with reserved oat mixture. Press topping down into blueberries slightly.
10. Bake 18-20 minutes or until topping is golden brown.
11. Cool on wire rack, cut into bars. Store tightly covered.

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**WORLD WIDE WORK WITHIN WELS**  
**Apostles—Dardenne Prairie, MO**

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**Reasons to Give Thanks**

Apostles Lutheran Church has many reasons to give thanks to our Lord. We recently celebrated having held public worship since 2000, and now are looking forward to having a new facility soon. We have six acres of property and have been granted “Building Authority.” Under “Phase 1,” our floor plan includes a full gymnasium, multipurpose room, and classroom space. As we raise money to build and carry out our ministry, we invite our Mission Partners to team up with us and help us realize our goal of having a facility in which to worship, educate, and reach out to the community. We trust that we will continue to see God’s work in action!

**Ripe Fields**

Apostles is in Dardenne Prairie, a burgeoning community commingled with the city of O’Fallon, about 30 miles straight west of downtown St. Louis. Our target area includes Wing Haven, a planned community being built to house an industrial park that includes the world money headquarters for MasterCard International. Wing Haven houses nearly 4,000 families! This, along with many other subdivisions, makes the fields ripe for the

- Parent/Child Power Hour: A seasonal program of interactivity between parents and pre-school age children.
- Golf Tournament: Members are encouraged to collect a foursome of friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Our last tournament had 88 golfers.
- Soccer Camp VBS: With the help of players and former player from Wisconsin Lutheran College, Apostles offers a quality, fun soccer experience, and campers hear a daily devotion about Jesus. Our last camp included 102 children.
- Trivia Night: Unique to Missouri, tables of eight people match wits to answer questions in various categories. It was the first time we did this and it brought us into contact with 124 people.

We look forward to utilizing our new facility for expanding these kinds of efforts: camps, leagues, fairs, blood drives, etc. The sky is the limit when you are committed to sharing Jesus with the world!

**Sharing with Friends and Family**

Programs and facilities can help attract interest in a congregation, but personal relationships and friendship witnessing is the best tool to extend God’s Kingdom. An example:

Haven houses nearly 4,000 families! This, along with many other subdivisions, makes the fields ripe for the harvest! We find so many families of all demographics—especially young families—that are satisfied physically but lacking the one thing needful—Jesus their Savior!

### **Programs**

Apostles Lutheran is currently 75 communicants and 115 souls in a rented Knights of Columbus Hall. Our outreach efforts include door-to-door and phone canvassing, mass mailing, door hanging invitations, Bible Carnival, Easter and Christmas for Kids, Vacation Bible School (VBS), participating in a softball league, and handing out material in a local high school homecoming parade. Apostles also hosts other community events:

gation, but personal relationships and friendship witnessing is the best tool to extend God's Kingdom. An example: Mike willingly shared his faith with friends on his softball team and offered invitations to worship. Kevin and Amanda worshiped a couple of times in the summer of 2005. In October 2005, Pastor Shevey presided at their wedding. In November, Kevin and Amanda, along with Roy and Amy and Chris and Carina began Bible instruction. Roy and Amy had Isabella baptized in December. Chris and Carina had Jackson baptized in January 2006. All are now members and motivated to serve in the Lord's Kingdom, with the excitement of our new church on the horizon. Not bad for simply playing some softball and sharing your faith. God's work in action!

*Submitted by Mark Becker*

## LADIES GROUP PLANNING MEETING



A planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. to help reorganize and redefine a Ladies Group here at Ascension. No strings attached! Just come and share your thoughts.

Hope you can join us and bring your ideas!

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## Fellowship Committee

*(COVER ARTICLE, continued from page 1)*

A meeting was held on Wednesday, September 16, at 7PM to discuss establishment of the proposed Fellowship Committee and desired fellowship activities for the coming year.

Following an opening prayer by Pastor Mielke asking the Lord's support and blessing on the meeting activity, the members enthusiastically tackled the meetings objectives.

A proposed outline of the Fellowship organization and potential group activities were discussed. Basically, the fellowship activities would be organized into four categories or groups; general church activities, adult activities, youth activities, and Member Shepherds activities.

Volunteers to serve as coordinators for each of these groups were solicited, and the following members graciously agreed to serve as lead coordinators on the respective committees:

Adult activities co-coordinators, Judy Wolff and Janet Rodgers

- The Council has been busy in the last months **crafting job descriptions** for the various areas of ministry we have set forth in our long range ministry vision document. The goal is to have those position descriptions done in the next couple months so we can begin to place people into positions in which they would like to serve beginning close to the first of the year.
- Progress has been made in trying to formulate a **new group for the ladies** of the congregation. After some initial feedback and an informal meeting, the ladies have set a start-up meeting date for 7PM on Monday, **October 12<sup>th</sup>**. All women of the congregation are encouraged to come to voice their thoughts and share their opinions. This initial meeting is just to brainstorm and map out a vision for what the ladies group might focus on – no commitments or strings attached! Just come and share in the discussion.
- On Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> **Pastor Paul Ziemer** will be with us to preach in the service and present information to us about the WELS military chap

Adult activities co-coordinators, Judy Wolff and Janet Rodgers.

Women's Group co-coordinators, Pat Morenz and Joyce Lewellen.

Young adults group coordinator, Kevan Main. Kevan will need a lot of help in this effort and would appreciate participation by a few more energetic members.

A number of suggestions for new fellowship activities were presented for consideration by the groups in their planning efforts. Some of the overwhelmingly popular suggestions were potluck brunch/lunch/dinners. Other suggestions were beach picnics or dinner cruises on Le Barge or Marina Jack's, overnight campout with worship service, and a progressive dinner.

It was agreed by all that increased participation by members in organizing the events, as well as participation in scheduled activities, is urgently needed.

Please let the Fellowship committee director, Kenneth Leber, know what ideas you have, and how you can help in this important church function.

*Ken Leber, II*

be with us to preach in the service and present information to us about the WELS military chaplaincy work. Pastor Ziemer will be the featured speaker for the Tampa area LWMS rally the day before. We are grateful to have him come, and I hope and pray you all will be sure to be present that day for both the worship and Bible study hours. (*Our own Sun Coast Circuit LWMS Rally will now be hosted by Risen Savior at their new facility on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.*)

- Looking ahead a bit, Ascension will be hosting the area **Reformation Service** on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. We have invited Prince of Peace – Englewood, Peace – Brandenton, and Risen Savior – Lakewood Ranch, to join us for the afternoon service. Details are still being worked out and we will let you know asap.
- Finally, also in November, we are looking forward to a very special **visit from** the President of our WELS Seminary, **Pastor Paul Wendland**, on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mark your calendar and reserve the weekend – you won't want to miss him!!

God bless your month,  
*Pastor Mielke*

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# From the Principal

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## Hand in Hand with Christ

Do you have photos that you like to look back at every now and then? I'm sure many of you do. It's fun to look back at photos of times past to relive the memories of the actual events that took place.

Married couples may look back at pictures of their wedding day to enjoy the day all over again. Moms and dads may look through a baby book with a child to show the child what he or she looked like as a baby or to remember the "early years." Many people take pleasure in seeing pictures from the past.

It wasn't too long ago that I was looking at some of our family pictures, and I came across a picture of Joshua, our twelve-year-old son, and a cousin of his named Drew, now an eleven-year-old. The picture was a shot from behind of Joshua and Drew walking along the beach in Clearwater, Florida, while they were holding hands. It is such a cute picture!

It's not the cuteness of the picture that I want you to remember today. I don't want you to go home and take out all of your pictures and review them with

I encourage you to do the same. Find a time in your busy schedules to slow down and walk "Hand in Hand with Christ." Enjoy a cup of coffee while reading your Bible or Meditations each morning. Meet with your fellow Christian friends for one of the Bible Study opportunities here at Ascension throughout the week. There are many ways that we can "Walk Hand in Hand with Christ" during our time here on earth.

I urge you to give up your sinful pride, hold out your hands, and let the hands of Christ lead you. He will guide you, he will help you, he will never forsake you. God be with you always! Enjoy your hand in hand walk with Christ!

Please note the following dates for October:

- October 5-8 Standardized Testing Week for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- October 9 Kickball Day at Peace in Bradenton for the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders

to remember today. I don't want you to go home and take out all of your pictures and review them with your families, although that might be an enjoyable experience. I want you to remember something else from this short article today.

That picture of Joshua and Drew holding hands reminds me of how we ought to live our lives with our Savior. Joshua and Drew were not forced to hold hands with each other. They were not prodded for a cute picture. They just wanted to walk down the beach holding hands with each other so they could stay together.

Neither are we forced to walk "Hand in Hand with Christ" during our life on this earth. But we do it! Why? Because our Savior loved us so deeply that he stretched out those HANDS on the cross and died for us. He stretched out his HANDS to save us from an eternal life in hell. Christ is the only one who can lead us during this time of struggle, our life on earth.

We began our school year with an opening service on August 20. We have chapel with the school children each Friday morning. We begin our school days with a devotion and religion class. We teach all of the subjects in the light of God's Word. We do all of this to remind ourselves and the children who it is that should be leading us each day of our lives. We are doing it to remind the children to hold out their hands and to let Christ lead them home.

- October 10 Movie Night for the preschool and school families. Congregation invited.  
5:00 Sloppy Joe dinner  
6:00 Movie
- October 14 Half day of school (noon release) because of Teachers' Conference
- October 14-16 Teachers' Conference in Clearwater (no school on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>)
- October 22 Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- October 23 End of the First Quarter
- October 30 Parent/Teacher Consultations (no school)

*Daniel Brands*



# 2010 Entertainment Books

*Once again  
at the low, low  
price of*

# \$30

Many different venues—from restaurants to automobile services to movie rentals to travel and almost anything in between—are featured and offer substantial savings. Your investment will be paid off in no time. Check it out!

Proceeds Benefit our School!  
On SALE Soon!

**FAITH  
EXPLORERS**



**Fall Party**  
**Friday, October 23**  
**6:45 p.m.**

**Teen Group News**

Sunday, October 4  
Paint and decorate Teen Room  
(Noon - 3:30)

Sunday, October 11  
Attend Youth Service and BBQ at Abiding  
Love in Cape Coral  
(8:30-3:00)

Sunday, October 25  
Lunch & Bowling  
(Noon-3:00)

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](http://www.ascensionwels.org)**

**[church@ascensionwels.org](mailto: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  
LaVerne Voss  
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

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Sarasota, FL 34232-2503

*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED*

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