

The Ascension Dimension

News and information for members and friends of Ascension Lutheran Church

The Pastor's Pen



MAY 2012

Dear Ascension,

By now, I hope that you have heard about SynodFest 2012. SynodFest will be held June 6 – 10 right here in Cincinnati. You are invited! It's an opportunity for you to take part in educational workshops, service projects, and many other events sponsored by the Southern Ohio Synod. The center of the SynodFest will be at the Crowne Plaza on Pfeiffer Road, just down the street from Ascension.

Complete information about SynodFest can be found at the Southern Ohio Synod's website, www.southernohiosynod.org. You can also check out the bulletin board in the narthex for more information. Below are some events that I'd like to highlight.

Glocal Event (June 6 and 7 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church): Come and learn about how the Lutheran Church is involved in ministry throughout the world and bring back a greater awareness and ministry ideas to Ascension!

Free Picnic and Concert (June 8 at 5:45 pm at Nisbet Park in Loveland): Come and enjoy a free picnic preceded by a worship service led by Bishop Holloway, capped off with a concert by Peder Eide. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex so that we can submit the number of Ascension members attending.

Dwelling in the Word Workshop (June 8 at the Crowne Plaza): Practice, understand, and adopt in preparation for sharing with our congregation a tested process for deep listening to God, one another, and your neighbor.

Kings Island Meet and Greet (June 9 at Kings Island): Get discounted tickets to Kings Island and meet Bishop Holloway and the Southern Ohio Synod staff at the Picnic Shelter from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

Lutheran Day at the Reds (June 10 at 1:10 pm vs. the Detroit Tigers): Sections 434 – 436 at Great American Ballpark have been reserved at a discounted price of \$16 if you purchase them by May 10.

There are many, many other workshops and service projects being held throughout the city. For example, Ascension will be hosting the Mother's Ministry Project on Saturday, June 9 from 2 pm – 3 pm in the fellowship hall. Participants at this service project will assemble tote bags for the Mother's Ministry at Vida Eterna-Iglesia Luterana (Eternal Life Lutheran Church) while learning about some issues facing Latina women and children. Vida Eterna is the Lutheran Latino mission church in Butler county.

I hope that you can participate in one or more of these events!

Peace,
Pastor Josh

The Wheel of Friendship

The Wheel of Friendship will meet April 11 at 10 a.m. at the church. The Bible Study will be: "A Wholly Different Week." All women are invited to attend and a baby sitter is provided.



DONATIONS

N.E.E.D.S.
For May
lemonade, fruit juice, and peas

The Wheel of Friendship: collects pop tabs, pill bottles, wrapped soap, eye glasses, and soup labels (Campbell's, Swanson, Prego, V8) .

Women of the Red Eye: collects pennies and loose change.

First Lutheran: collects pants, jeans, sweaters, sweat-shirts, underwear, and socks for men and women; wash cloths, towels, and deodorant. Please send these items only, as storage is a problem.

Matthew 25: collects empty pill bottles to send to third world countries to help distribute medications.

NICU University Hospital: collects receiving blankets, onesies sleepers, and 4 oz. baby bottles.

The Choir: collects aluminum cans to raise money for the music fund.

The Ascension Dimension
is published monthly by
Ascension Lutheran Church
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Southern Ohio Synod
SynodFest 2012

SynodFest 2012

You and the entire Southern Ohio Synod are invited to the first annual SynodFest, being held June 6-10, 2012 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

What is SynodFest? It's a synod festival for all members of Southern Ohio Synod congregations. A time to come together as one body to celebrate, worship, learn, share, serve, and take care of synod business. Activities are available for all ages. SynodFest is a come-and-go-as-you-please event, offering attendees the opportunity to participate in everything or just one thing, between June 6 and June 10, 2012. Pricing has been kept low to allow as many people as possible to attend.

Below is an overview of what attendees can choose to participate in while at SynodFest. Most activities will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5901 Pfeiffer Rd, Blue Ash. Other activities will be held in and around the Cincinnati area.

June 6-7: ELCA Global Event

June 7-8: Rostered Leaders Event with guest presenter The Rev, Dr. Peter Steinke

June 8: Dwelling in the Word training with Pat Ellison, PhD

June 8: Synod-wide worship service, dinner and concert

June 8-9: Service Projects with Graceworks Lutheran Services, Matthew 25: Ministries, Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity and Vida Eterna Mother's Ministry

June 8-9: Workshops for everyone!

June 8-9: Vendor Fair featuring various individuals and businesses specializing in products and services for congregations

June 9 Morning: Synod Assembly

June 9 Evening: Meet and Greet at Kings Island picnic area

June 10: Lutheran Day at the Reds (Cincinnati Reds vs Detroit Tigers)

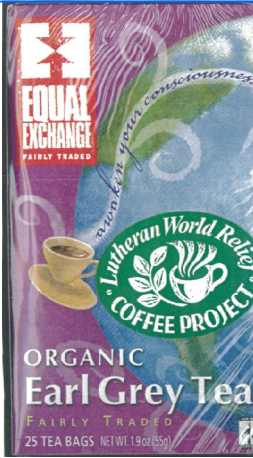
TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!



As a culminating activity at Synod Fest, there will be Lutheran Day at a Reds ball game on Sunday, June 10th. Bring the family and come on out to the ballpark for an afternoon of hits, runs and errors and maybe a hot dog or two. We have reserved View Level Box -- Sections 434-436 for Southern Ohio Synod and Indiana-Kentucky Synod members. The Reds will take on the Detroit Tigers for a game that's sure to be worth your time. Tickets are only \$16 if you order by May 10, 2012. Tickets must be ordered through the synod office. Go to www.southernohiosynod.org and click on Lutheran Day at the Reds in the section about Synod Fest.

VEIL Mother's Ministry Service

In the spirit of extending hospitality to strangers and welcoming others with Christ's love, Ascension has been asked to host the VEIL Mother's Ministry Service Project for Synod-Fest on Saturday, June 9 from 2-3 p.m. Vida Eterna Iglesia Luterana (Eternal Life Lutheran Church), the ELCA's Latino Mission Church in Butler County, is beginning a new ministry to mothers. As part of our new Mother's Ministry, we hope to have gatherings with devotions, Bible Study, information shared, mutual support, meals and child care. In order to encourage participation in our new Mother's Ministry, and to show hospitality, we are compiling totes for the families at this Service Project full of items that we believe would be helpful for them. As we assemble the totes, we will learn about some of the current issues facing Latina women and children in our area. The VEIL Ministry Team thanks the members of Ascension for hosting this Service Project. We are grateful for your partnership in sharing the Gospel of Jesus with our neighbors. As you are able, please join us at Ascension in fellowship hall on Saturday, June 9 from 2-3 p.m. Please call the church office at 793-3288 if you have any questions about the Service Project.



Fair Trade and Organic Tea

Most teas come from large plantations where workers have little say. Join us in building a different system that values the voice of small farmers, their products and democracy in trade. Our new line of 12 teas comes from our small farmer partners in India, Sri Lanka, South Africa and the U.S. Finally, a tea line you can feel good about: from the source to the cup.

English Breakfast Tea

This malty, full-bodied cup is a blend of black teas from Sri Lanka and India. A fine morning tradition, add a splash of milk and sweeten for a truly English experience. 20 bags per box.

Black Tea

You're different. You take your tea strong and you take it seriously. Enigmatic in its simplicity, this bold signature brew was made for you. 20 bags per box.

Earl Grey Tea

This tea bursts with the fragrant citrus notes of bergamot. Add a lemon wedge for extra zest and enjoy if as you brave the challenges of our day. 20 bags per box.

Darjeeling Tea

Experience the headiness of the Himalayas. Sip slowly and savor this elegant tea which evokes misty mountains and exotic locales. Transcend. 20 bags per box.

Chai

This exotic brew is infused with a unique blend of spices from Sri Lanka. Add milk and sugar to enhance your experience. 20 bags per box.

Green Tea

A satisfying, delicate green tea with a social conscience. 20 bags per box.

Jasmine Green Tea

A sultry, soothing blend of green tea leaves and the fragrant essence of jasmine. An elixir for the mind and soul. 20 bags per box.

Mint Green Tea

Revive yourself with the cooling combination of green tea and peppermint. Invigorate your senses. 20 bags per box.

Rooibos Tea

Naturally Caffeine-Free

This botanical infusion of the rooibos plant from South Africa has the flavor of tea but is surprisingly caffeine free. 20 bags per box.

Vanilla Rooibos Tea *Naturally Caffeine-Free*

Sweet, inviting vanilla accents this red bush tea from South Africa. It's almost like dessert in a cup. 20 bags per box.

Peppermint Tea *Naturally Caffeine-Free*

Restore yourself with the invigorating aroma and flavor of peppermint. Cooling and sparkly. 20 bags per box.

Chamomile Tea *Naturally Caffeine- Free*

Calming Egyptian chamomile soothes the mind and quiets the spirit. Find your inner peace. 20 bags per box.

You are invited to purchase these organic tea selections for \$4.00 per box. Quantities are limited. These would make lovely Mother's Day gifts. If there is enough interest, these teas can be purchased in bulk. The price per box would be lowered to only \$2.75 per box (containing 20 bags per box).

Music at Ascension Spring Season

**May 5 The Classical Guitar Ensemble
of the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music**

**May 26 The 5th Annual "STARS OF TOMORROW" Concert featuring some
of Cincinnati's most brilliant
and talented young musicians ages 16 to 19.**



run. walk. Crawl

benefit for Kate's Cupboard

Saturday, June 2nd

race begins at 9:00am

race day registration opens at 7:30am

Will begin at
Trinity Lutheran Church
1553 Kinney Avenue
Mount Healthy

Strollers welcome
fully automatic timing

Kate's Cupboard was established in memory of Katy Rocklin. Katy, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, was killed in 2003, along with her unborn child, in a tragic automobile crash. Katy had so eagerly anticipated the birth of her child.

Today, Kate's Cupboard is a memorial and a resource for other young mothers. Kate's Cupboard is a free-store of equipment and encouragement designed to help improve the child care mothers can provide. It also decreases moms' level of fear and anxiety, knowing they can provide the safe, clean, basic necessities for their infants. The Kate's Cupboard Mission Statement is: Kate's Cupboard is an Outreach Ministry designed to strengthen God's family and our community through emergency assistance to mothers of infant children.

To date, over 600 moms have been served —that's thousands of diapers! That also means hundreds of car seats, cribs and mattresses, and a myriad of other clothing, layette supplies and equipment ranging from bouncing seats to strollers have found their way to young women and babies who need them. Each client receives a crib, mattress, car seat, and diapers. After the baby arrives, the client may return for diapers monthly for a year.

Kate's Cupboard depends entirely on donations to provide items. 100% of the money raised goes directly to assisting mothers in need.

Kate's Cupboard is a resource for young mothers which serves to help increase the level of child care mothers can provide and decrease their level of fear and anxiety, knowing they can provide the safe, clean, basic necessities.

For more information visit:
<http://www.katescupboard.org>



Kate's Cupboard 5K Classic

Race Details:

- **Official chip timing provided by The Registration Spot.**
- **Course accurately measured by Track and Field Coach from the University of Cincinnati.**
- **Open to runners, walkers, and those with baby strollers.**
- **Awards for top male and female finishers; and first place awards for each age group. (14 and younger; 15-20; 21-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; 70 and over)**
- **Racers may pick up race packets on race day (June 2), beginning at 7:30 a.m.**
- **Because the race goes through Arlington Cemetery, no pets are allowed.**

**Race Location: The race starts and ends at:
Trinity Lutheran Church
1553 Kinney Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45231
(ample parking provided)**

3 ways to register:

- **Online: go to <http://theregistrationspot.com/> Then click on Kate's Cupboard 5k Classic**
- **By mail: fill out form on the bulletin boards in the Narthex or call 522-3026 to request form**
- **Day of race, arrive early to register**

Early registration (must be received by May 21)

With T-shirt = \$25.00

Without T-shirt = \$15.00

Race day registration = \$25.00

(T-shirts , as available for \$10 each)



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

April 10, 2012

**Ascension Lutheran Church
7333 Pfeiffer Rd
Montgomery, OH 45242-5842**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every Easter Sunday evening, the church's lectionary treats us to what I think is the one of the most moving stories in all the Gospels — the supper at Emmaus (Luke 24:1-49). Imagine yourself as one of those two bewildered, grieving disciples trudging away from Jerusalem, where all your brightest hopes had been nailed to a cross and buried in a tomb. And then you meet someone along the way who wants to hear your story — and turns it around to show it back to you in a different light. Who is this stranger who turns sorrow into hope? Could it be ... ?

The answer to the disciples' unspoken question is revealed in the breaking of the bread, and the answer is yes. Yes, it really is. Alleluia, he is risen; he is risen indeed, alleluia!

That profound experience of discovering hope where there had been sorrow, joy where there had been grief, love where there had been fear is the essence of life with our risen Lord. And you who help bring that hope, joy and love to others through your giving to ELCA World Hunger are continuing his work. Thank you.

We are a church that is known for rolling up our sleeves and getting to work. Because of your generosity, a mother in Cambodia is discovering that what she's learned through a farmers' co-op and rural development program can help her earn a steady income from her family's vegetable garden. Because of your generosity, a young woman in Haiti is discovering new meaning to her life as she learns the construction skills that will empower her to help her country rebuild. Because of your generosity, a widow in India is earning a living with her special puffed rice recipe and a little start from a microfinance and training program. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger helped nurture all their new hopes. Thank you.

Thank you for your dedication and generosity to ELCA World Hunger, our church's ministry with people who are hungry in nearly 60 countries around the world. You really do make a difference in people's lives. Thank you.

Together in service to the risen Christ,

**The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger**



Sochele Banou one of countless women who have suffered loss from the effects of malaria.

ATTACKING MALARIA FROM ALL SIDES

By Emily Sollie

During a recent visit to Mali, I asked the women sitting around me if they had ever gotten malaria, and they all giggled.

"You should ask us how many times we've had it, not whether we've had it at all," one woman spoke up.

I'd never thought of it that way. But malaria is so prevalent in Mali — more than a million people were infected in 2010 alone*

— that it really is a part of many people's everyday lives.

But that doesn't mean it isn't devastating. While visiting Mali, I met many people whose lives had been scarred by malaria. Sochele Banou lost her son, Aly, when he was just 3 years old.

"My child had malaria but I didn't know quickly enough," she told me. She eventually sought treatment for him in a hospital, but it was too late. "There was nothing the doctor could do for him."

This story plays out again and again across sub-Saharan Africa every minute. And if I had to pinpoint the reasons for these senseless deaths, I could easily identify two: poverty and lack of information.

Lutheran World Relief is addressing both by partnering with national and community-based organizations in Mali to help farmers protect themselves from malaria while also building strong livelihoods through agriculture.

Malaria awareness is absolutely essential. Many people living in Mali simply don't know the symptoms of malaria, how to protect themselves or the importance of timely treatment.

Through video and radio messages and community outreach, we are spreading the word. By getting out simple yet life-saving messages — malaria comes from mosquito bites, sleep under insecticide-treated bed nets to protect yourself, seek out treatment for fevers — we've reached more than 619,000 people so far!

But for many families, the cost of medical care is an additional burden. Many live in remote areas, far from medical centers, and simply don't have the money for transportation, testing and medicine. In Mali, there are few resources to help.

That's why LWR, with a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development, is working with local organizations to establish Community Health Solidarity Funds (CHSF) that help farmers pay for malaria prevention and treatment.

Our partners organize to create and gather the funds, made up of contributions from participating members. The funds are a great help to many families.

"When our children get malaria," one mother told me, "the doctor will do a test and give us medicine. We pay 25 percent [of the cost]."

By pairing education with the opportunity for financial stability, we are attacking malaria from all sides. Farmers and their families stay healthy and are better able to go to school, work, earn incomes and build stronger futures.

Become a part of this life-affirming work by joining the Lutheran Malaria Initiative! By working together, we answer God's call to help our brothers and sisters in need.

And we also make a bold statement — that any death from malaria is one death too many.

Emily Sallie is LWR's Director for Creative Services and Media Relations.

*World Health Organization, 2011 World Malaria Report



JOIN HANDS DAY Servant Event! SATURDAY, MAY 5th, 2012



Attention Youth Groups And Adults Alike!

Join us in serving our Over-the-Rhine neighbors! This event provides a wonderful opportunity for youth and adults to work together in service to our community.

Details:

What: Painting, Cleaning, Activities w/ Tender Mercies residents
Lunch is provided

Where: Tender Mercies (providing housing for the homeless),
First Lutheran & Prince of Peace

When: Saturday, May 5th, 2012
9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. (partial day volunteers welcome!)



Why: *“The King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40*

Quilting & Prayer Shawl Ministries - Please contact us if you have any quilts or prayer shawls that you would like to donate to the residents of Tender Mercies. What a visual of Christ's love all year around!

Game Leaders!! - We need a few fun loving people to lead Bingo or any other game you prefer for the residents of Tender Mercies from 1p.m. to 2p.m.

Please contact Craig Holocher or Susan Bennett at 513-771-3991 or susan.bennett@thrivent.com for more details and/or to volunteer. You will be glad you did!
We look forward to serving together!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Worship and Music 7:00 p.m.	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	3	4 Administrative Assistant's Day Off	5 Join Hands Day 9:00 a.m. Music at Ascension 7:00 p.m.
6 WORSHIP 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. WORSHIP 11:00 a.m. Pastor Josh preaches at Twin Lakes Retirement Community	7 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	8 Evangelism Committee 7:00 p.m.	9 Wheel of Friendship 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	10	11 Administrative Assistant's Day Off	12
13 WORSHIP 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.	14	15 OneHeart Prayer 9:30 a.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m.	16 Women's Bible Study 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Administrative Assistant's Day Off	19
20 WORSHIP 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.	21	22 Weavings 10:00 a.m.	23 Women's Bible Study 9:45 Deadline for Reregistering for SynodFest 2012	24	25 Administrative Assistant's Day Off	26 Music At Ascension 7:00 p.m.
27 WORSHIP 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.	28	29	30	31 		
MAY 2012						

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service	8:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Adult Forum	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service	11:00 a.m.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

FAREWELL LUNCHEON
FOR MARTHA MIKER

SUNDAY, JUNE 10 to FRIDAY, JUNE 15

MISSION TRIP

MONDAY, JULY 16 to FRIDAY, JULY 20

LOMO DAY CAMP
FOR CHILDREN

Summer Worship Schedule begins on June 3rd

**Beginning on Sunday, June 3rd, there will be one
worship service at 10:00 a.m.**