

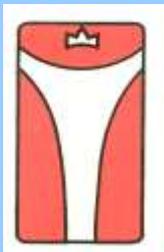


Ascension Acolyte

August 2017

**Sharing
Christ's
Love -
Growing in
Grace!**

Living by
God's grace,
we share the
love of Jesus
with our
neighbors and
grow together
in faith.



**Lutheran
Church of the
Ascension**

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Burnsville, MN 55337

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before faxing)

Time for Peace

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ...a time for war and a time for peace." – Ecclesiastes 3:1, 8 NIV

Last month in our Sunday morning Bible study we were studying Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. One theme that rose to the top was that the Last Day was quickly approaching. As we wait for the final Judgment and Christ's triumphant return there will be signs in our world that show us the imminence of that day. One of those signs which we can easily identify is that of wars and rumors of wars. In the midst of the many hundreds of small wars and several larger long term wars that plague our world there are always those who look for peace and make a valiant effort to meet for peace talks and attempted peace treaties. But there will also be those who refuse to even consider peace. Those people will continue to engage in war and desire the destruction of others. That's the way life unfolds in our world, as observed by wise King Solomon and recorded in Ecclesiastes about 3,000 years ago.

Each time I read through the third chapter of Ecclesiastes I can't help but hear The Byrds performing Pete Seeger's 1962 song "Turn, Turn, Turn." The cycle of life continues to turn as there is "*a time to be born and a time to die,*" something that Pete Seeger experienced himself several years ago as he finished his life on earth at age 94. During those years Pete Seeger saw much war and conflict, social unrest and political activism, as well as attempts at peace and reconciliation, unity and stability. Pete Seeger was well known for his ability to write songs that rode the waves of social change within our world and so he was familiar with the truth that there is "*a time for war and a time for peace.*"

This unchanging truth remains a reality for Christians as well. The time for war is each day that we awake to breathe the air God has given us. The battle rages on as we daily fight against the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature. But in the midst of these battles a danger exists for flesh and blood people. The Apostle Paul describes it this way: "*The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God*" (Romans 8:7). He reminds us that we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, are not subject to the desires of the flesh, but to the Spirit of Christ who lives within us. When we find ourselves listening to the wrong master then disaster strikes and we may end up waging war against God Himself.

Continued

Staff

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Joe Fellerer	952-890-5054	Jim Skille	651-890-3669
Peggy Lausen	952-432-6727	Jan Werner	952-890-0627

* Board Director

Random Angels

Random Angels are quietly at work among us doing household cleaning, visiting shut-ins, and other activities. If you know of someone in the congregation in need of a "Random Angel" or are willing to donate your time to be one, please contact Lorna Pitzer (952-890-2839) or Kristy Hesser (952-423-3953) or put a note in the Random Angels mailbox across from the pastor's office. Volunteers are always contacted to determine if an individual's needs meet their schedules.

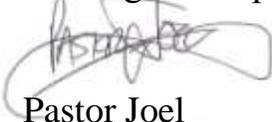


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Within the body of Christ this happens when “good” Christians desire to wage war against members of their own family of faith instead of focusing their efforts on resisting the devil, the world, and their own sinful nature. A common cause of these misdirected battles appears to be personal opinions and desires held up against the unchanging truth of God’s Word. If you find yourself choosing “sides” within the body of Christ then a problem already exists. There is one body of Christ and our congregation is a part of that one body. We are united by the power of the Holy Spirit into the one holy Christian Church. So, instead of waging war within God’s family we ought to desire peace.

However, peace remains an elusive goal for those who put their desire for war above all else. As I thought about the many wars going on in our world I realized the fighting exists because different groups of people want the same thing and want the other group destroyed. Until that attitude changes there will not be peace. Of course, people in the church may act the same way, claiming a congregation as “ours” or “mine.” Until that attitude changes there will be no real peace. This is a real problem, because God desires peace for HIS church. So until that Day when Jesus returns and establishes eternal peace for all of creation, *“I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Ephesians 4).

Seeking God’s peace,



Pastor Joel

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Ascension's 2nd Blood Drive of the year is set for Thursday, September 7, 1:00-7:00pm. Volunteers are needed to donate blood and we also need greeters to serve refreshments to the donors. If you are able to donate blood, can easily sign up online at givebloodgivelife.org - click on the state of Minnesota, then "click here to find a convenient donation opportunity" and type in zip code 55337 to locate our date for signing up for a time convenient for you. If you are able to help greet or serve refreshments for all or part of the time, please talk with Marlys Groshens. We will have a sign up in the narthex as we get closer to the date.



Congratulations to the Lutheran Church of the Ascension 2017-2019 Officers, Directors, Lay Ministers, & Nominating Committee Member:

President:	Dan Dahl
Vice President:	Steve Packwood
Secretary:	Judy Vano
Treasurer:	Kristy Hesser
Financial Secretary:	Gail Kramer
Board of Lay Ministry, Director:	Don Pitzer
Board of Lay Ministry, Member:	Dan Dahl
Board of Lay Ministry, Member:	Joe Fellerer
Board of Lay Ministry, Member:	Peggy Lausen
Board of Lay Ministry, Member:	Jim Skille
Board of Lay Ministry, Member:	Jan Werner
Board of Christian Education/Youth:	Daniel Friedrichs
Board of Christian Outreach:	Leila Larson
Board of Missions:	Jessica Anderson
Board of Properties:	Nick Anderson
Board of Stewardship:	Sue Drexler
Nominating Committee:	Nan Skille

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, AUGUST 14

You may email your announcement or article for the September *Acolyte* to office@ascensionburnsville.org or write it out and put it in Brenda's drawer in the library area at church.

ASCENSION'S GARAGE SALE

It's almost here!



Monday, July 31 is the last day to bring in your donations of sale items. The sale will be held 9am-6pm Thursday & Friday, August 3 & 4 and 9am-noon, Saturday, August 5. Saturday is ½ price and bag day. When you're not working at the sale, come & shop and bring your neighbors & friends.

We need **EVERYONE** to help to make this fundraiser run smoothly. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex. Questions? Contact Jennifer Ragborg and/or Sylvia Hasse. **Donations are being collected in the large fellowship room.**

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN TO PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR PEACHES !

Yummmm! Fresh peach pie...peach cobbler... peach muffins... peach preserves. These are just a few of the delicious creations you can make when you purchase a box (or two) of peaches. Until August 20, you can place your order in the narthex on Sunday or by calling the church office, 952-890-3412 or sending a message to office@ascensionburnsville.org. The cost remains the same as last year...**\$20 per single-layer box** (each box is approximately 15-24 peaches). **All orders need to be placed by Sunday, August 20**, so don't delay. **Everyone is invited to help sell the peaches to friends, neighbors, co-workers.** This year, if you sell the peaches, you are responsible for picking them up from the church and making the deliveries to the people who ordered from you. **We need to order at least 144 boxes.** Pick up an order form from the narthex on Sunday or the church office during the week. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Sloboden (651-454-2629) or Sharon Edinger (952-808-1251) or call the church office. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward the meals sponsored by Loaves & Fishes on the first Thursday of every month at the Creekside Community Center. Approximate delivery is after Labor Day.



August Birthdays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Ebner, Auden	8/23
Fellerer, Joseph	8/18
Grygiel, Brandon	8/11
Grygiel, Preston	8/3
Hanninen, Betty	8/19
Hart, Tammy	8/18
Henning, Eleanor	8/16
Olson, Nicholas	8/5
Husby, Kathleen	8/1
Monica Lane	8/16
Larson, Adam	8/29
Larson, William	8/4
Olson, Nicholas	8/5
Pitzer, Lorna	8/20
Tomlinson, Mike	8/25
Vano, Gloria	8/23



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If your birthday is in August and it is not listed here, it's because we don't have it in our member records. Please let us know, so we can wish you a happy birthday!



Our church has adopted Skyline Park on County Road 11 about a half mile south of the Church through the Adopt-A-Park program. 8 - 10 volunteers are needed each time. This involves cleaning up any debris in the park and adjacent woods. It takes less than two hours each time and the community will know what we mean by "Sharing Christ's Love and Growing in Grace". The time is from 10:00 AM to Noon. Any questions, contact Herb Gysler.

Upcoming dates are: Saturday, Aug 19
Saturday, Sept 16
Saturday, Oct 14