



# Ascension Acolyte

May 2018

**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**

1801 East Cliff Road  
Burnsville, MN 55337

952-890-3412

Sunday Worship  
9:00 AM

Adult Bible  
Study  
10:30 AM

## What Now?!

*Jesus was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?" – Acts 1:9-11 NIV*

As the two mountain climbers approached the bottom of the last ascent to the summit they were met with an unfortunate sight. Their path, which should have been relatively easy after having come so far already, was blocked by a huge crevasse. The lead climber waited for his friend to approach before giving him the bad news. "There is no way for us to reach the summit from this side." With a look of dismay and desperation in his voice the second climber exclaimed, "What now?!" His question was met with silence as they both stared vacantly at the summit; so close and yet so far away.

As the news of a radical breakthrough in cancer research reached the ears of the lab technicians they began the long process of reprogramming their computer models and recalibrating their equipment. The research director encouraged them to keep up the good work since this breakthrough would most certainly bring about a cure for cancer. The technicians pulled double shifts, often working through the night, always with the hope of a cure just around the corner. And then the devastating news shattered their dreams as they discovered a molecular road block. "Unless we can change the laws of nature and redesign human cells, we can go no further," said one frustrated lab technician. Hanging his head and burying his face in his hands another technician simply said, "What now?!" His question was met with silence as the entire room realized they had been so close, and yet were so far away.

Continued...

## **Staff**

### **Pastor**

Rev. Joel Vano

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Cell: 952-999-2025

[office@ascensionburnsville.org](mailto:office@ascensionburnsville.org)

[pastorjoel@ascensionburnsville.org](mailto:pastorjoel@ascensionburnsville.org)

### **Senior Choir Director**

Mike Tomlinson 612-396-3658

[mtomlinson73@gmail.com](mailto:mtomlinson73@gmail.com)

### **Organist**

Nancy Schaffert 651-335-2235

### **Keyboards/Accompanist**

Cindy Lonquist 651-452-9258

### **Prayer Chain Leader**

Kristy Hesser 952-423-3953

[ascensionprays4u@ascensionburnsville.org](mailto:ascensionprays4u@ascensionburnsville.org)

The **PRAYER CHAIN** is available to everyone. If you have a prayer request for healing... peace...help...thanksgiving...etc., please call Kristy Hesser or use the email address. If you are interested in becoming a link in our chain, please give Kristy a call. New links are always welcome!

## **Lay Ministers**

Dan Dahl 952-894-6651

Joe Fellerer 952-890-5054

Peggy Lausen 952-432-6727

Don Pitzer \* 952-890-2839

Jim Skille 651-890-3669

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.



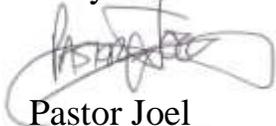
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A group of men were with their leader, the one who had given them a purpose for living, when suddenly He was taken from their midst. All the dreams and plans they had for their work together just floated away into the sky like a wisp of cloud. They stared blankly into the sky after Him; each one wondering, “What now?!” Their question was answered in a most unexpected way as angels said, (and I paraphrase) “What’s wrong with all of you? Quit standing around doing nothing. Get back to Jerusalem like He told you to do so He can give you the power of the Holy Spirit. You’re going to need that power in your life if you’re going to truly be followers of Jesus.”

A group of mostly life-long Christians gathers on a regular basis to worship their God. They have been believers in Jesus since before they can remember. They have heard the command of their Lord numerous times: “Go and make disciples!” Their Savior’s parting words ring in their ears: “You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!” But then reality sets in and these believers in Christ seem to have reached an impassable crevasse, an unchangeable law of nature, a world that seems so devoid of Jesus. In their hearts and minds these believers ask themselves, “What now?!” And the all too common answer that echoes in their heads is “Nothing.”

But then the silence is broken as Jesus Himself proclaims, “Come follow me!” His promised gift of the Holy Spirit comes alive each time the words are spoken: “I forgive you all your sins!” The joy of the resurrection (“Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!”) breaks us free from life as nominal Christians. And the daily remembrance of our baptism proclaims the words we need to hear each day: “Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). What now?! With the power of the Holy Spirit, let us become the fully committed followers of Jesus that He wants us to be.

Fully committed to following Jesus,



Pastor Joel

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -- MONDAY, MAY 14**

You may email your announcement or article for the  
**June/July** combined *Acolyte* to [office@ascensionburnsville.org](mailto:office@ascensionburnsville.org)

ABC has chosen *Paula*, by Isabell Allende, for their May meeting. When her daughter, Paula, became gravely ill and fell into a coma, the author began to write the story of her family for her unconscious child. Bizarre ancestors appear before our eyes; we hear both delightful and bitter childhood memories, amazing anecdotes of youthful years, and the most intimate secrets passed along in whispers. Allende has written a powerful autobiography with straightforward acceptance of the magical and spiritual worlds. Discussion will be at 7pm on Monday, May 21. Join us!

## May Birthdays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Evert, Carol	5/27
Holzacker, Richard	5/25
Larson, Joseph	5/18
Schaffert, Nancy	5/26
Semenchuk, Amy	5/7



*If your birthday is in May 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!*



**Christian Art Festival**  
Cross View Lutheran Church  
6645 McCauley Trail, Edina  
April 15 – May 20, 2018  
Tuesday-Friday hours are 10am-4pm  
and Sundays are 12-4pm  
Amy Semenchuk entered three paintings  
and all three were accepted!



*Sunday, May 13, 2018*

## *Sparkle & Shine*

The Women's Ministry at Redemption Lutheran Church (927 E. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington) is having a **salad luncheon and quilt auction** on Saturday, May 12, beginning at 11:00am. This is a fundraiser for Trinity First Lutheran School in Minneapolis. Join other Twin Cities LCMS women & friends for this great fellowship event that supports Christian education! Advance tickets are \$10 each. For your tickets, see Carol Evert.

**Join the Ascension Chair Yoga Class!** Every Tuesday and Thursday -- 10:30am at Ascension. If you're looking for a *no impact* exercise, this class is for you! No special equipment needed. It is only a half hour of your time. Everyone is welcome!

**Are you a Thrivent member? Outreach needs your help!** We need Thrivent members who can apply for a Thrivent Action Team. If you are a Thrivent member, you can apply for up to two action team activities per year. Applying for a team activity provides a \$250 Visa gift card to the effort. Funds are used for: welcome bags, Loaves and Fishes, Trunk or Treat in the fall, and other outreach activities.



# HELP WANTED!

## **SEEKING VOLUNTEER(S) FOR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AT THE ASCENSION CHURCH OFFICE**

Brenda Larson, our Office Manager for the past 28 and a half years, retired on April 27<sup>th</sup> of this year. We are looking for volunteer(s) to help in the office. The first choice for replacement is a member or members of the congregation.

Duties would include:

- A) Flexible part-time days and hours with some deadlines (i.e. bulletin & newsletter)
- B) Training on office equipment and various support roles that you need to learn will be provided.
- C) Various other duties such as ordering supplies, managing requests, making copies, etc.

If interested in helping in the church office with any of these opportunities, please contact Pastor Joel (952-999-2025) or Don Pitzer (952-250-0538). Please pray about this: **YOU ARE NEEDED ASAP!**