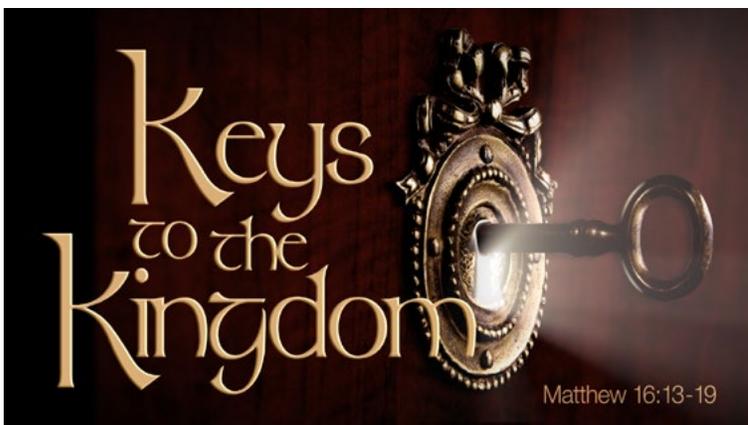




June 7, 2019 Issue

Come Experience the Power of Grace



*"And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven."* Matthew 16:19 (The Message)

Keys allow you access to places that are not accessible to the general public. When you give someone keys to your possession, whether it be a house, car, or an office, you give them authority to enter. A key can also be something that gives an explanation or identification or provides a solution such as a key to a riddle or an answer key for a test. Here Jesus is giving His listeners both an explanation and authority regarding the kingdom of heaven.

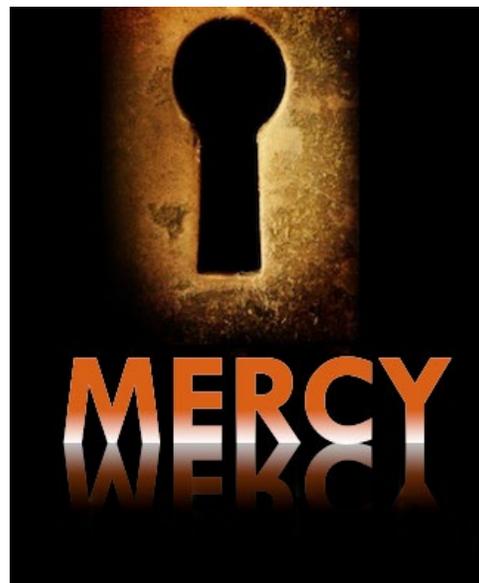
The conversation that leads up to this promise began as a casual one. Jesus asked His disciples who did men think He was. There were several names that came up. Some thought His was John the Baptist while other names that were thrown around included Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Then Jesus made the question a little more personal. "Who do you think I am?" Peter steps up to the plate and proclaims that Jesus was the "Christ", the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.

According to Jesus, Peter experienced what the church would be built on; revelation knowledge. Jesus explained that flesh and blood did not reveal this to Peter, but it was direct revelation from the Father. It was this revelation knowledge that Jesus would build His church on. Now many believe that Jesus was saying that He was building His church on Peter, but if you do a study on this verse you will see that He is using a play on words. The two words used here for rock, petros (Peter) means small stone while petra means foundational boulder. This revelation knowledge that Jesus is the Son of the Living God would be so powerful that the gates of hell would not be able to prevail against the church.

As with all things, knowledge is good. But if you lack wisdom, you will know information but not have the understanding to use the information. I can know how the brain works, I can also know how to cut things and I can know how to sew things together. However, I don't think it would be wise of you to allow me to perform brain surgery on you. The church would need more than just knowing that Jesus was the Messiah. The church would need a true revelation of what that meant and know how to operate and walk in the authority of the kingdom of God. The key to doing this is where we find our promise today.

This key has been repeated over and over in our promises; the power of our words. Whatsoever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven or in the spiritual realm. Likewise, whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in the spiritual realm. If you are speaking confusion, unbelief, lack, and sickness, these are the things that you are setting loose in the spiritual realm. If you bind those things, they will not run rampaged in your life. Use your keys to walk in the authority that God has given you.

*I know that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. I also know that He has given me authority to walk in His power. I rejoice and I am grateful for the promise that whatever I bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatever I loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. I choose to bind strife, confusion, and bitterness. I choose to loose faith, hope and, above all, love. In Jesus Name, Amen.*





### HEALTH CONCERNS:

Irene Ahl; Sharon Algar; Bill Amspaugh; Richard Ashbaugh; Linda Bennett; Carroll Boettcher; Maun Boettcher; Angie Breitbarth; Scott Brister; JR & Debbie Bromley; Heidi Buchholz; John & Joan Burns; Ralph Chambers; Linda Cirelli; Moose Creighton; Larry Dahl; Richard Dahl; Ashlyn Dahnke; Elaine Durham; Robin Engdahl; Dianne Ewald; Harriet Feree; Ed Fowler; Walt Goedecke; Richard Greene; Karen Hammel; Gizelle Hayes; Katie Hayes; Jane Heine; Carl Heldt; Evelyn Horst; Annette Idso; Christopher Idso; Wally Jakubin; Marco Jerez; Susan Jerez; Donna Koelling; Denny Laue; Keith Leikel; Richard Lohr; Alice Masherella; Donna McCullough; Myles McHugh; Howard Morrow; Tom Mortonson; Chris Murphy; Jackson Myerscough; Lily Navarro; Tanner Nelson; Wayde Nelson; Beverly Osier; Bob Ott; RJ Ott; Leslie Owens; Helen Perrodin; Ben Petersen; Virginia Potter; Martin Radloff; Shirley Radloff; Antonia Rafter; Steve Ratz; Esther Riesen; Oliver Shaw; Estelle Sykes; Annie Walsh; Joe Wells; Wally Wentzel; Marie Wood; Jane Wright; Pat Zanta

### MILITARY:

Isaac Jackson; Tim Mace

### CALLED HOME:

We give prayers of sympathy and compassion to the family and friends of of dear, sweet Lily Harrison, a young teen who loved the Lord with her whole heart, who was recently called home and is now spending eternity with her Savior.

### SPECIAL REQUESTS:

We ask God to be with the doctors and surgeons as they perform back surgery on Dennis Dobberful on June 18.

### THANKSGIVING:

We give God thanks for our beautiful weather! We pray for those who are not as fortunate as us: those having to pick up the pieces after hurricanes, tornados and floods. May the Lord hold them in his loving hands. We thank the Lord for the wonderful sponsors, donors, and volunteers that supported the Family First baby shower last Saturday.



During this week of Pentecost, we might be feeling some of the same things as the apostles in the Room. During the past few weeks, we've heard comments of fear, uncertainty, and even threats. But there are still people worshipping every Sunday; and we praise the Lord that God provides just the people and resources at the time we need them.

What will happen during this transition? There are those who have been through a vacancy who can attest that the Lord always provides. Others remember the last time Ascension was without a permanent senior pastor. People stepped up and as a body of Christ, with every member, we are here today to say, "We made it. We survived." And with God's grace and your commitment, we will stand firm for Christ, as we share our time, resources, and talents to the Glory of God!

# President's Update

## Previously Announced Before Services Two Weeks Ago:

- ✦ Pastor Thelen did not have his name on the call list, but our Bishop, being guided by the Holy Spirit, asked Jim to specifically consider this call.
- ✦ We are incredibly blessed to have our Bishop and our Pastor put the guidance of the Holy Spirit—the will of God—before all else.
- ✦ The Office of the Keys is not held by a man, but is placed with the Body of Christ at Ascension.
- ✦ Pastor Doug will assume many of Pastor Thelen's responsibilities in the interim. Additionally, both Jim Schultz and I have agreed to step up our active time spent serving at Ascension.
- ✦ We have procedures in our Constitution and Bylaws that will guide the call process. And we are in consultation with both the English District and our Circuit Visitor.
- ✦ MMG, your church governance board, is charged with the Call process as laid out in our Constitution which is available on our website.
- ✦ In advance of this call, we have been planning a celebration of Pastor's **30 Years of Ministry Service**. This will be combined with a farewell sendoff on **Saturday, June 8, at 6 PM**.

## Update:

- ✦ MMG approved a motion to appoint Pastor Doug Duy as our Interim Executive, as guided by our governing documents.

**The Holy Spirit can use this time for us to truly be The Body of Christ. Will we trust Him? Will we be united, empowered, and step up with the heart of a servant? This is our prayer:**

**Heavenly Father, we thank you for the 8 years of faithful service and leadership that Pastor Thelen has provided to your body of Christ at Ascension. We rejoice with our brothers and sisters in Christ at 1C Church in Columbus, Nebraska, that they will be receiving a new pastor whom you have allowed us to help prepare for them. Watch over and protect Pastor Thelen and Kristin as they prepare for this move. We also know that you have been preparing the right person to shepherd us in the future, and we wait expectantly for him to be revealed through your Spirit. Give us the unity, wisdom, and strength to carry through this transition time, knowing that you use all things for good for those who love you and are called according to your purpose. We ask these things in the blessed name of Jesus. Amen.**

Noel Robinson,

Servant of God and Congregational President

# SERVANT SUNDAY

Ascension celebrates the fifth Sunday of the Month with a servant event. During these warm summer months, we will be inside and speed-dating at a senior home near Ina/ La Cholla. June 30 is a great opportunity for the young and their families to visit with these ladies (two are 100 years old!) who aren't able to get out. Each visit is only 5-7 minutes. Scripts will be provided. Please contact Jo at 742-2882 if you have ideas for future events and/or for directions to the event.



Giving thanks for the over 60 guests at the Family First Baby Shower last week. We are inventorying and transporting the gifts so stay tuned next week for a report on how the Lord showered this ministry to reach those young and old through the sanctity of life.



Just a couple of views from the Gospel Rescue Mission Dedication. Sylvia and Ibis at the door of one of our adopted rooms. And the giraffe that peaks into the window of the Children's Care area, another of our adopted rooms. Thank you for your participation!

# Kids... They Need Us!



Christian Family Care is on the front line of caring for Arizona children whose lives have been impacted so severely that they are in need of either Foster Care or Adoption. In a recent report from Mark Upton, the President, we learned that CFC served more than 1,500 vulnerable children during the last year. A whopping 194 children were brought into loving Christian families through adoptions! Counselors spent 4,200 hours offering hope and healing to children and families.

Two youth in foster care entered CFC's new youth in transition program, Project Starfish. It was never God's intent for children to be without a family, but it's part of the broken world we live in. For many children, adoption isn't in their future. More than 900 children will age out of foster care each year. That's where, with our help, CFC can step in and help set them up for success with mentors and the Starfish Program. By empowering young adults to build successful lives as independent adults we will help eliminate a cycle of future homelessness, substance addiction and incarceration.

The Safe Families for Children provides a secure, temporary home for children whose parents are in a crisis situation. This has allowed CFC to serve 230 children who have been reunited with their family, without DCS involvement. God has blessed with a 98% success rate in providing a safe alternative to child welfare custody. The smiles on the faces of these two girls is because gifts to Christian Family Care helped provide a Mom in a domestic violence relationship with child care in the home of a CFC family, to secure a job, and an apartment, and to be reunited with her dear girls.

Christian Family Care has offices in Phoenix, Tucson, and Prescott. Tucson office:

6063 W Grant Road, Tucson, AZ 85712

520-296-TALK (8255) [cfcare.org](http://cfcare.org)

(Information provided by Ascension Beautiful Feet Life Team - A Lutherans for Life Team. Call Joan or Warren Braun to join the Team in promoting Sanctity of Life, 544-0339.)

✈ Do you have an abundance of airline miles? The Arizona South Circuit in the English District is coordinating a Life Convocation to take place January 18, 2020 at Faith Lutheran Church and your miles can help bring national speakers to our event. Please contact 742-2882 if you have questions.



We will be having a celebration to honor Pastor Jim Thelen's 30 years of pastoral ministry and to give them blessing as they move forward. Saturday, June 8 following the 5pm service. This is a potluck, please bring a main dish or side dish/salad. Dessert provided.

## Praise the Lord!

Giving Thanks for Donors who have adopted keys on our new organ. Thanks to our musicians at the Hymn Sing and general donors, from the original cost \$26,971 bill, we now owe only \$7441.75. You can still become an investor in the music of Ascension. Make a gift in honor of a father, graduate, or confirmand. Take a look at the updated bulletin board in Grace Hall and add your name to a key.



**It's finally here!** The Yard Sale will be held Friday, June 7 9am - 4pm and Saturday, June 8, 10am - 4pm. If you have items to donate, contact Derek at 520-297-3095.

**REMEMBER** donated items should be sellable and in good condition. The event is intended to raise money to reach campus kids for Christ. Before donating an item, consider whether or not you would purchase it. If not, there may be better places to dispose of the item.



# SUMMER CAMP



Ascension Lutheran Church and School are holding camps for ages 3-4 through the preschool and children 5 years-old (by June 1, 2019) through children going into 6th grade in the fall of 2019. For more information, contact the church office at 520.297.3095.



Their contact and biographies will be available in a few weeks at the welcome desk. Stay tuned and seek them out for a personal welcome.

Lora M Burton  
Alex Cumps  
Kay Donahue  
Ruby Erickson  
Shannon Hedin  
Kathryn Hagen  
Gerald G Kroninger (Jerry)  
Rev. Gerald J and Lynn Kuhnke  
Jason Willhoite  
Richard J. & Deborah Brettfeld (son Richard C. Brettfeld)



# 66 YEARS

From June 7 through June 23 Ascension will be collecting food for Gospel Rescue Mission. Leave your donations in the designated bins. Questions, contact Jan or Jeff Soderstrom: [jansod@bellsouth.net](mailto:jansod@bellsouth.net).

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