



ASCENSION LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

CONNECTIONS

Connecting all people with Jesus

October 5, 2018 Issue

Come Experience the Power of Grace

MY BEST FRIEND

In order to enjoy God, we must view Him as a Person - - and not just any person. God is our Best Friend. Our mortal best friend plays an important role in our earthly life. There's nobody quite like your best friend - as proven by many scientific experiments on how a best friend impacts your life.

1. Best friends reduce stress. Spending quality time with your best friend can alleviate stress and make you feel better. Spend quality time in prayer with God.
2. Best friends make you feel a sense of belonging. Being with your best friends affords you belonging to a greater community and improves your motivation, health and happiness. When you see your connection to others, you know that all people struggle and have difficult times. You are not alone. There is comfort in belonging to the family of God.
3. Best friends help you manage health issues. Health complications are frightening, but your best friend makes them a tiny bit easier to handle. Ask God to help you handle health challenges.
4. Best friends can help you live longer. Because friends have a healthy influence on your daily behaviors, they also push you toward better health and better life choices. God pushes you in the right direction.
5. Best friends urge you to practice more self-acceptance. We all have failures and we tend to beat ourselves down about them. A best friend lifts you up in spite of them. God lifts us up to eternal life.
6. Honest conversations with best friends can improve your wellbeing. Research shows that confiding in close pals can boost your health. Confiding in God can boost your physical and spiritual health.
7. Best friends make difficult challenges seem less daunting. Facing adversity? Call your best friend. A 2008 study found that having a friend by your side can actually make a hill appear less steep. *"...and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."*
8. Best friends call you out on your wrongdoings. Luckily, your BFF is there to gently remind you of what's right and wrong and get you back on track. Our shepherd gently guides us down the right paths.
9. Best friends improve your attitude at work. Having close friends in the office boosts job satisfaction and may keep you more engaged at work. Pull up a chair for Jesus next to your desk!
10. Best friends genuinely make you a happier human. Research shows that having a close buddy around can lift your mood exponentially. Having God in your life will bring you joy and happiness.





We Care and Pray for One Another

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Irene Ahl; Sharon Algar; Bill Amspaugh; Richard Ashbaugh; Keith Ashmore; Michelle Ashmore; Curtis Beaman; Linda Bennett; Carroll Boettcher; Maun Boettcher; Joel Bott; Heidi Buchholz; John & Joan Burns; Ralph Chambers; Linda Cirelli; Moose Creighton; Richard Dahl; Dianne Ewald; Rev. Bob & Elaine Feller; Harriet Feree; Cita Figueroa; Walt Goedecke; Richard Greene; Don Gremel; Bonnie Guiffre; Gizelle Hayes; Jane Heine; Evelyn Horst; Annette Idso; Monica Johnson; Donna Koelling; Doreen Leikel; Philip Lenharth; Nancy Maschhoff; Alice Masherella; Shirley Mattausch; Donna McCullough; Tom Mortson; Chris Murphy; Merrill Nelson; Tanner Nelson; Ben Petersen; Anne Pingo; Betty Plachy; Virginia Potter; Martin Radloff; Shirley Radloff; Antonia Rafter; Esther Riesen; Ila Schellpfeffer; Kelly Smith; Julie Stewart; Joyce Sutton; Bud Umphryes; Joe Wells; Eleanor Wood; Marie Wood; Pat Zanta; Claire

MILITARY:

Chris Bartels (contractor); Isaac Jackson; Tim Mace

ANNIVERSARY:

We praise God as we celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of Enore & Norma Frescura on September 25 (Carole Gray's parents).

NEEDS:

We pray for God to give patience & peace for family and friends learning to handle dementia & Alzheimers patients. We pray for a family member going through a mental health crisis. We pray for a daughter's health and for a son's college experience to be good.

WHERE IS THE CLEAN WATER IN ZAMBIA?

A new school for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students is being built near Kabwe, Zambia. The nearest water well is 1/2 mile away. The construction crew must walk 1/2 mile with their wheel barrel and water jugs, fill the jugs, then walk 1/2 mile back with the water filled jugs to make the bricks. When the school opens... the students would also have to walk 1/2 mile each way to the hand water pump. During October, we will be raising funds for the Tim Keller mission work to have a borehole (water well) dug near the school site. Our goal is to have drilling completed in early November, before the rainy season starts in Zambia. We are targeting approximately \$7,000 for the borehole. Donations can be given in two ways: by check payable to ITMI or payable to Ascension Lutheran (we will get the money to Tim). On either, note "Keller Borehole" in the memo line. Your donation will help both the building of the school and the ease these young students will have for clean drinking water right at their school.

MISSION MINISTRY GROUP Q3 SUMMARY

First of all, as you have seen reflected in the weekly bulletin numbers and the report from the Finance Committee, we began the third quarter looking quite good financially. As expected, the summer was hard financially. We are now in a difficult financial position requiring a freeze on all discretionary and non-budget spending until cash is above MMG policy minimum.

Additional Points of Action:

- Directed the finance committee to work with staff on a Reserve Study—a comprehensive study of our facilities and corresponding financial implications.
- Scheduled the Annual Voter's Meeting for Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 10AM.
- Scheduled two Voter's Information Meetings for Saturday, November 17 at 3:30PM and Sunday, November 18, 2018 at noon.
- Began work on the 2019 Work Plan. The Finance Committee is participating more actively this year as planned.
- Initiated the nominating process for available MMG board positions.
- Reviewed and offered feedback on Staff Goal Progress Reports.
- Began evaluation of ALCS policy-based board governance (Carver Model) as requested by the congregation a few years ago. We expect the report will be ready for this year's Voter's Information Meetings.

The majority of the fourth quarter, our time will be devoted to completion of the Work Plan, preparation for the Voter's Meetings, and the evaluation of our policy-based board governance. We plan to move forward with a Strategic Plan in the first quarter of 2019.

We are looking for three individuals interested in serving on the MMG. Additionally, we are looking for two people interested in serving on the Finance Committee. If you're not sure, but you are open to a conversation, please contact me at your earliest convenience. It's always a blessing when God stirs in the hearts of his people and causes them to step forward to serve!

Please keep each member of our board, each of our staff, and all those who serve God here at Ascension in your prayers. We continue to need wisdom to discern God's will as we deal with many challenging circumstances.

As always, I am readily available and eager for a conversation. The best way to contact me is at home: 520-888-9144. You can also contact me through email listed on the church website.

Your Congregational President, Noel Robinson

BLESSINGS FOR SAHUARITA CHILDREN

If you are attending the LWML Women's Rally at Sahuarita and would like to bless the local school children, they sure could use the following items: Copy paper (20 lb. white), scissors (round or pointed end), No. 2 pencils, highlighters, white index cards, crayons (24 count), compasses, assorted colors of construction paper, or any other school supplies.



LWML WOMEN'S "RALLY"—coming up Sunday afternoon, **October 21**. A "Rally" is simply a get together and we women love to get together, don't we? This time it is for fun, food, Bible study, and mission inspiration—which we need to encourage each other to Connect All People to Jesus. Speakers are Dawn Bunnow, Director of Young Life-Sahuarita and a representative from Lutheran Social Services. Call 219.1527 or email stultsruthann56@gmail.com to register. Cost is only \$7, payable when you get there. To Car Pool, meet in the front parking lot at 12:30pm for the drive to Crosspoint Church, Sahuarita. "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a Light to my path." Psalm 119:105

Ten Blessings of Loving Someone With Special Needs - Continued

Here are the next Five Blessings of loving someone with special needs, by Pastor Michael Salemink

6. They surprise. What a delight to witness in these exceptional people how God's goodness can't be limited by our expectations and familiarities!

7. They underscore the promises of paradise. When brokenness becomes more obvious, it highlights the comfort that comes from our hope in the resurrection to everlasting life in our Savior's new creation.

8. They prepare us to help others. Practicing acts of kindness toward the ones whose needs we can clearly perceive trains and shapes us for aiding everybody around us, especially the least of these.

9. They personify Christ. In the hurts and handicaps of individuals with disabilities, we encounter Christ Himself who incarnates heaven among us in humility. They draw us near to the Father whose power is made perfect in weakness - and not just theirs but even ours.

10. They blaze us a trail. Loving someone with special needs prepares us to face the days when our own frailties inevitably increase. Whether those frailties show up in injuries, or ailments, or age, we will have learned how to inhabit them with courage.

From Lutherans for Life, LifeDate, Fall 2018, presented by Ascension's Beautiful Feet Life Team

OCTOBER 13 6PM

Families First's Chuckwagon Roundup Bubb's Grubb Dinner and Auctions

Hundreds of items from gift baskets, crafts, custom jewelry, gift certificates from restaurants, theatres, railways, gardens, zoos and museums, salons, and much more!

Advanced tickets required, \$10 per person.

The Chuckwagon Roundup | Summer Institute of Linguistics
16131 N. Vernon Dr. Catalina, AZ 85739
http://familyfirstpcc.org/chuck_wagon_roundup

DO WE HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU!

The Opportunity of a Lifetime!

Ascension Blanket Circle has been making quilts to be given for those in need for over 50 years. We now have openings for those with willing hands to join us in this mission. It is a rewarding experience.

Our quilts are given to many organizations including: Gospel Rescue Mission, Aviva (foster care), GAP Ministries, Hands of Hope, Veterans Hospital, Lutheran World Relief, Habitat For Humanity, Teen Challenge, Families First, Community Partners, and many individual persons.

There are many opportunities and no experience is required, learn while doing. We need hands to:

Rotary cut blocks of fabric; lay blocks out in a pattern; sew blocks together into quilt tops; help put quilts together with batting and backing; tie knots with thread to hold layers together; sew around the quilt edges and sew on the label Iron fabric

This is not only a mission and a community service but it is also a fellowship gathering. Please consider joining Blanket Circle as we do this work lovingly to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ. For more information contact Francie Lee, 520 -909-7731.

Dress A Girl SEW-A-THON

November 3, 2018

7:30am - 3:30pm

**Oro Valley Church of the Nazarene
500 @ Calle Concordia**

REGISTER AT OVCN.ORG/EVENTS/SEWATHON BY **OCT. 26!**



HANDS OF HOPE GALA FUNDRAISING EVENT SAVE THE DATE, AND SIGN UP!

An evening of celebration is planned by Hands of Hope for **Thursday, October 11 at the TCC Grand Ballroom**. Many from Ascension attended the Gala last year and were wonderfully blessed with an evening of fellowship, inspiration and a delightful meal. The event cost will be underwritten by others. An opportunity to support the ministry will be given.

Contact one of the Ascension table hosts for more information or to sign up to be at their table. They are:

Harold and Ruthann Stults: 219-1527

Jo Riester: 730-0045 and Jennifer Jensen: 870-5554

Joan and Warren Braun: 544-0339

A well-located building has been donated to Hands of Hope for a new Clinic location. The Sonogram machines which Ascension helped provide last year will be moved to this new location. Come to the event to hear more.

Hands of Hope has been added to the Thrivent Choice Dollars approved list, effective immediately. We are now able to designate our Choice Dollars to this life-saving ministry.

Provided by the Beautiful Feet Team of Lutherans for Life

Whether you are far from your family, new to town, carrying some heavy burdens, or are an eager servant, **ChristCare Small Group Bible Study** incorporates the aspects of an Acts 2 community. There is a study and a community that is sure to equip you to go forth to serve the Lord with gladness. Call 742-2882 for more info or to learn more about the training that is offered for leadership.

Walk to End Alzheimer's act.alz.org

The Walk is the world's largest event to fight Alzheimer's. Join now and help raise awareness and funds for care, support, and research.

Join our team, Sharon's Joyful Noise, as we gather at Reid Park for the November 10 Alzheimer's Walk. It's a joyful way of attacking this insidious disease.

Call 742-2882 for more info or signup online at Alzheimer's Walk Reid Park 900 S Randolph Way Ceremony at 9am Walk at 9:30am. Join our team or donate online, click [here](#). Enter Team name **Sharon's Joyful Noise** with team captain **Jo Riester**.

Fall Fest is coming! Please join us by participating in this event by praying, donating candy, providing a trunk or treat vehicle, or making some chili for the Chili Cookoff. See Justin Wixon for details.



This is year 2 of our **outreach mission partnership with Twin Peaks Elementary School**. The snack drives are held in October and March for children whose parents cannot afford to send snacks to school with their children.

The first Snack drive began October 1. All snacks must be individually wrapped servings such as: boxed raisins, pretzels, goldfish crackers, animal crackers, fruit snacks, etc. Please do not buy anything with nuts in them, due to allergies. The school also requested NO fruit drinks.

Let us continue to share our blessings with the children at Twin Peaks. Collection bins are in the hallway by Grace Hall. Questions or more information, contact Carol Colton at 520-344-9649.

Bridge Prison Ministry Training Event

The Community Reentry Team (CRT) of Bridge Prison Ministries (BPM) held a one-day training event last Saturday attended by 43 individuals (seven from Ascension) interested in "Building the Bridge from Incarceration to Community".

There were presentations and printed training materials covering Visitation, Letter Writing, Meet-Me-At-The-Gate, Care Package, Mentoring, Housing, Employment, Community Resources and helping families of the incarcerated.

Lunch was provided by Thrivent Financial Services and served by volunteers of the CRT and the Ascension Thrivent Action Team. BPM and the CRT are grateful to Ascension for providing the facilities.

If you have interest in learning more and joining those who are helping men and women transition into the community with success by assisting with housing, care packages/hygiene products, resumes, mentoring, counseling, support groups, Bible studies, and church participation, please contact Joan and Warren Braun, 544-0339, warrenbraun@gmail.com.



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