



Connections

Newsletter of Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas • June/July 2019

“CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY TO CHRIST!”

Pastor's Desk

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Independence Day is just around the corner. Americans from one end of the country to the other will celebrate with parades, picnics, and barbecues filled with food, fun, fireworks, and last but not least—*freedom*. But nothing in life is free. Even a BOGO (Buy One, Get One) dinner means the restaurant is willing to take 50 percent for two meals. But you are still paying the restaurant something. And, most likely, they're still making a profit from the deal.

Anything valuable in life usually comes with an expensive price tag—and *freedom* is no exception. Whether it is our freedom to choose our place of worship, freedom of speech, freedom to vote during elections, freedom to travel across borders and state lines, or the freedom to pursue the career of our choosing, our freedoms are costly.

We are indebted to our nation's forefathers and those who fought and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today. The American Revolution started with fifty-six wealthy men who had everything to lose. They put everything on the line for a country that didn't even exist yet. These 56 men could have easily paid what-

ever new tax was being demanded by their King in 1776. They could have easily lived out their lives in comfortable serenity. But they didn't. They chose liberty over security. When they signed the *Declaration of Independence*, they weren't just declaring their freedom—they were signing their own death warrant. They pledged their lives, their families, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. And most of them paid the costly price!

Our spiritual liberty was not cheap, either. We owe our spiritual freedom to our Savior Jesus Christ, who paid for it on the Cross of Golgotha. Jesus is the only way for us to find spiritual freedom from the enslavement to sin. To know Christ is to know true freedom. Jesus Himself said, “If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and *the truth will set you free*” (John 8:32).

God's sacrifice for us was not measured by financial expense or political cost. When Jesus came to earth,



He sacrificed His untold glory and splendor in heaven to live and walk among us. He endured more physical and emotional pain in His final days than we can ever imagine. He experienced the spiritual pain and punishment of being separated from His Father while He hung on the cross. He paid for our sins with His shed blood.

While we should always be grateful to the men and women who sacrificed so much for the political freedoms we experience today, our overwhelming thanks should be directed to God for the greatest sacrifice of all—His only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Whatever blessings of political freedom we experience in this world cannot be compared to the spiritual freedom that Jesus gives us. The daily liberties we treasure on this earth are fleeting, but our true freedom in Christ will last... *for eternity*.

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By Kim Bestian
Director of Children's Ministry

May 26 was Sunday School teacher and helper Appreciation Day! God's Word teaches us that we are to be thankful and say the words—*thank you*. (Luke 17:11-19) The Ascension Sunday School children, with the help of their parents, did just that! We give thanks to God for supplying faithful servants who have a passion for sharing Jesus with children. Grateful hearts of love, encouragement, and appreciation go a long way in motivating our ministry leaders, such as Sunday School teachers, to continue in their service to the Lord and others. *Thank you* to all of you who participated! Thank you to all of our Sunday School teachers and helpers!

Our beloved Mrs. Wanda Melendez has stepped down from her role as Sunday School Head Coordinator. She has faithfully served in this position for the last five years and before that many more years, and now would like to spend time traveling with her husband. We thank her for her time, energy, and the dedication she has given to the Sunday School teachers and helpers, and most espe-

cially the children. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!" Be watching for her to still serve special places in children's ministry.

Fear, Love and Trust—Following God's Commandments is the theme for Summer Sunday School. It begins June 2 and runs through August 25, 9:15-10:15 a.m. The children will

study the Ten Commandments. All ages meet together in the Children's Christian Education Wing of the church for Bible lessons, crafts, snacks, songs, etc. Be sure to bring your children and their friends when you are in town. We have lots of great teachers lined up! Moms and dads can continue to attend the Sunday morning Bible class with pastor at the same time. Sunday, August 25th is Rally Day! Watch for more information to come!

Fifth grader, Helen Christman, was our guest violinist, Sunday, May 19, as she played *Jesus Loves Me This I Know* in both worship services. She and her family have now moved to the Denver area. Please continue to keep her and her family in your prayers. They will be missed, but we are thankful to have had the time to grow in God's Word and express that faith together.

With summer having already arrived, the Kid's Corner of the church library is ready for your kids to come and find some wonderful summer reading. Mrs. Jean DeWitt, our children's librarian, works hard to keep the books in good order for your youngsters to easily and readily find

the books, DVDs, and CDs for check out. Please be sure to help your child insuring the books are kept in good order for the next child who comes along looking, too. Books are in alphabetical order on the shelves, but in order of subject in the binder on top of the bookshelf. If a book is pulled out, help your child to place it in the *return bin* if you don't want to take it home. That way it gets properly re-shelved. Thank you!

We could still use a few more boxes of plain Cheerios for our *Treats for Tots* in the worship prep center. If you are so able, please drop a box off in the Children's Ministry office. Thanks!

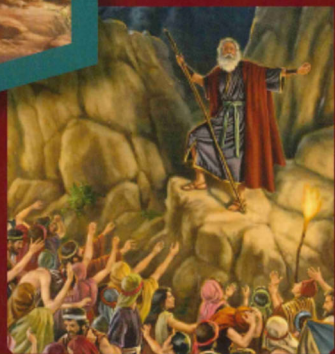
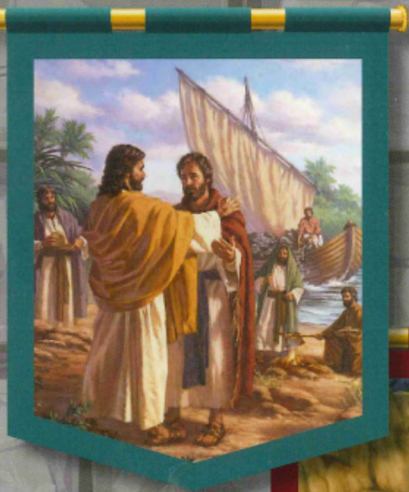
Get ready for **ROAR!** Life is Wild—God is Good! Friends and Family Night Vacation Bible School **June 3-6!** Meals begin at 5:30 p.m. Kidvid Cinema will be held in the sanctuary at 6:20 p.m. with VBS Openings at 6:30 p.m. Invite your friends and family! There are still openings to volunteer, too. Pastor Bestian will lead a video sectional for adults and teens. See you there!

Do you like scrapbooking? There are many pictures to be placed into scrapbooks from the last four years of children's ministry. Talk with Kim Bestian and let her know your interest. This summer, a time will be set up for a *scrapbook party* in the fellowship hall to accomplish this task with others interested. Come have some fun and share your talents!

Summer Sunday School

Fear, Love & Trust

Following God's
Commandments



June 2 – August 25, 2019

9:15 – 10:15 am

Children's Christian Education Wing



Ascension
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Little Bit O' Yeast



I'm sure you've read, or vaguely remember hearing a sermon regarding this warning Jesus gave to His disciples:

"Be careful...Be on your guard ... against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Mark 16:6

Did you wonder what exactly was Jesus talking about? What is the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees? His disciples sure were asking questions like those, and a couple more.

Well, I'm going to help you understand what the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees in the 21st Century is. I'll tell you right now, though, these yeast packets are going to be a little hard to see as such, and that's because the world and the Enemy has done such a good job of kneading the yeast into everything.

Choices – you may have thought to yourself, or even heard it being said out loud; the choices you make don't really matter when you're a teenager. This is the time for you to explore and discover who you are and what you are capable of doing. Once you reach the adult age, which you're so anxious to do, you'll go the route of

ful of what you say and do, exercise self-control when temptations of all kinds come your way, and turn to God every chance you get in every way that is available to you.

Friends – your friends are the center of your world when you're a teenager. You base the way you dress on them, the way you behave outside of your circle on how they behave, even make some of those choices mentioned above based on what they think or say. I'm here to tell you that most of those friends you have in middle school and high school, the ones who pull you away from your family or your faith, or your plans for a future, by leading you astray... you're not going to be seeing them five or six years down the road. It's actually very rare to still have high school friends in your life by the time you're 21. So don't let your friends de-rail your life, even if y'all have promised to be friends for life. In the end, your friends are not your life, Jesus is, and He alone can carry your life into everlasting glory.

Church – I'm sure there's many Sunday mornings where you just want to sleep in, so you grumble and you pout when your parents drag you to church. Why do you have to go to church now, as a teenager? Can't they just let you be and you'll eventually go to church when you're older? After all, church is always going

responsible and dutiful. You're swallowing yeast, my friend, if you believe this. Every choice you make, no matter how small or big, will ripple far into your life. So with that in mind, make the choice now to learn to be mindful of what you say and do, exercise self-control when temptations of all kinds come your way, and turn to God every chance you get in every way that is available to you.

to be there. Well, I'm here to tell you that's not true. We may be living in the land of freedom, a freedom that has been fought for by brave men and women, but we're in a whole different plane of existence. By we, I mean Christians, and by plane of existence, I mean a spiritual world, one where a war is being waged. Soon, outright persecution of Christians will take place in this land of freedom, one supported by the government. It's already happening – just search for news on government and Christianity and you will see I'm speaking the truth. So now's the time to come to church, now is the time to study your Bible, to memorize your verses, to be of service, to immerse into the fellowship...pretty soon, those precious privileges we believe we have will be taken away by a world who hates us because it hated Jesus first.

I'll stop here because I don't want to leave you feeling weighted down. I want to remind you of something... you need to be on your guard but know you don't stand alone. No, friends of mine, we never stand alone when we stand on Jesus. I can guarantee you, so far as placing my life on this truth, Jesus will always stand with you. When your choices reflect Jesus but are shunned by the world, He is standing with you. When your friends turn on you because you have Jesus in the center of your world and model your behavior, words and actions after Him, He is standing with you. And when you're at church, even on those days you want to sleep in, and you praise Him with joy and gladness, He is standing with you.



Greater Things

2019 Youth Mission Trip!

Furthering the Kingdom of God through simple acts of kindness!

Ask Luz for more information!

2nd Payment of \$150 to be made by June 23



Thank you to all Youth who helped with VBS 2019!

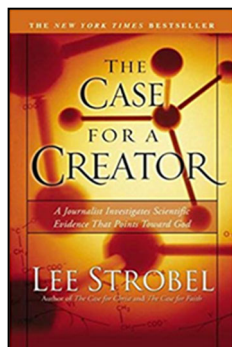
Attention All Youth!

We would like to hear what you would like to do this summer...

Giant trampolines?
Movie Nights?
Skydiving?

Share your ideas with Luz and let's see what we can do!

Teens Bible Study Series



God's Word states, "In the beginning..." Science teaches evolution without a beginning...

We are delving further into Scripture and science, where our youth will encounter the mind-stretching discoveries from cosmology, cellular biology, DNA research, astronomy, physics, and human consciousness presented as astonishing evidence in Lee Strobel's *The Case for a Creator*.

June 2019



Sundays

9:15 - 10:15 am

Continuing

The Case for a Creator

June 2 (Sanctuary)

June 9 (Gazebo)

June 16 (Gazebo)

June 23 (Gazebo)

June 30 (Gazebo)

Contact Info:

Luz M. Soto, DYM

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Board of Christian Education

After last month's *Church Library Open House*, this room eagerly waits for you to come and make wonderful use of Christian resources this summer. You will find topical books, Christian help, Christian fiction, concept books, Bible story books, educational guides, devotional books, DVDs, CDs, Bible studies, Bible reference books, and so forth, for all ages—children, teens, and adults to check out and use. Past copies of Lutheran periodicals and newspapers are also available. A three-ring binder is accessible for the Kid's Corner (children's part of the library) resources and another one for the adults and teen section of the library. All books are shelved in alphabetical order. The binders have listings in category by subjects. The *check out* and *return* sheets are on the table by the door, along with plastic bins to hold returned books or books you took off the self but changed your mind about checking out.



A very special thanks to everyone on the Board of Christian Education, Jean DeWitt, and Martha Allder for all their hard work these past years. They have spent a lot of time and energy preparing for this ministry to be available to you. We also thank Susan Hjalmsquist for the new library sign, Dave Epperson for painting the library door *blue* and the trustees for their stamp of approval for painting the door! The Board of Christian Education decided the door should be painted because it was very scarred and dirty looking. They chose the color blue for various reasons. When we think of *Ascension*, we think about when Jesus left this earth and told us to go make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28) He promised to be with us always. Then He ascended into heaven and clouds covered Him from view. He is coming back in the same way He left! Therefore, *sky blue* is very fitting for Ascension Lutheran Church here in El Paso. Our church library holds many resources to help us go make disciples, too!

Blue is an inviting and peaceful color. If anyone asks you where the church library is, you can tell them to look for the blue door! The nursery door has been a light royal purple for a couple of years. It was painted that color to remind us God's youngest *princes and princesses* (sons and daughters of the King) are welcome in this room. It also reminds us to take extra special care of His little ones who are important and precious to Him. Colors play a unique part as reminders in the church!

Kim Bestian has written a little poem for our special dedication of the church library. Enjoy!

Our Ascension Church Library

Find the blue door
Way down the hall.
It leads to adventure
And knowledge for all!
Grow in God's Word,
And read books that will nourish.
Check out and take home
For your faith to flourish!

May God bless all who use this special ministry provided by our congregation! Feel free to come and explore this room during church office hours of the week as well as Sunday mornings. Church office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY **VACATION** BIBLE SCHOOL



JUNE 3-6, 2019
6:30 - 8:15 PM

Dinner will be served at 5:45 PM

For **more info** or to **register**, go online to **www.ALConnect.faith** or call the Church Office at **(915) 833-1009**.



Ascension
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Stewardship Board Invites You to Serve with Ysleta Mission



ASCENSION! WE INVITE YOU TO BE A PART OF “CHANGING LIVES THROUGH SIMPLE ACTS OF KINDNESS” – this is actually the mission statement of the Ysleta Lutheran Mission.

Pastor Bestian suggested that our Stewardship Board become involved with the Ysleta Mission Food Bank. Our Board discussed this, and felt that we, as a congregation, could be “good stewards” by volunteering our time at this Food Bank.

We have set a Friday and Saturday in June (the 14th and 15th) to participate in the Ysleta Lutheran Mission Food

Bank.

Friday is when they set up the food in preparation for distribution. Saturday is when people arrive (200 to 300) in order to receive food for their family needs. Please know that this is done in a well organized plan, and the volunteers will be given specific directions for distribution.

A volunteer can plan on helping from 1, 2, or 3 hours – whatever fits into your schedule. Luz Soto, Ascension’s point of contact for this project, assured us that if one has trouble standing for a period of time, there are areas where one can sit and be a part of this project.

Food is always needed. Luz suggested canned soup and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, cereal, pinto beans, rice or other items would be appreciated to add to their supply.

You will find a signup sheet on Ascension’s board near the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, someone from our Board or the point of contact for YLM (Program Director, Elvira Viramontes), can answer them—or will find the answer you need.

Ascension’s Stewardship Board: Barb Spott, Brad Voge, Brett Moravec, Jan Schlak and Gisela Lichon

Board of Christian Service



Ysleta Lutheran Mission
Human Care

The Board of Christian Service will **collect paper products for Ysleta Lutheran Mission and Opportunity Center on alternating months.** Paper towels, paper plates, napkins, toilet paper, etc are suggested donations—please be generous! Items can be placed on the appropriate table in the Fellowship Hall.

LWML National Mission Grant Goal Met!



The
Lu-

theran Women's Missionary League (LWML) met their 2017-2019 mission grant goal of **\$2,075,000** and actually **EXCEEDED it by \$97,373.76!** To God be the glory!! A grand total of \$2,172,373.76 was raised through mite box contributions during this biennium from Lutheran women (and men!) all across America to fund 22 mission projects throughout the world to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Mission grants include a Christian Eldercare Home in Haiti, Christian Hope thru Mass Media in Egypt, and Mercy House for Women and Children in Flint, Michigan. For a complete list of all mission grants please visit the Missions tab at www.lwml.org.

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the mite box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" - offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and imple-

ment the LWML program.

Times and Mite Boxes Change

Mite boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Districts still retain 75% of mite offerings for the work of the LWML at that level. National mites fund over \$2 million in mission grants each biennium and the Rocky Mountain District funds \$78,500 in mission grants each biennium.

LWML @ Ascension

Here at Ascension Lutheran Church our LWML group encourages all women of the congregation to participate in feeding their mite box to help fund mission projects within our Rocky Mountain District and nationally. We meet on the second Saturday most months from September thru May at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for Brunch & Bible Study. Extra mite boxes can be found in the Fellowship Hall on the LWML wall (behind the coffee cart); please feel free to pick one up. Is your mite box full? Turn in your monies to Anita Werner, ALC LWML Treasurer.

Our first meeting of the fall is Saturday, September 14 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome!



Treasurer's Report

Approved Council Minutes are sent to Ascension members with the Friday e-mail when they are received by the Church Office. Please call 833-1009 to request a copy of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: 2019 Income & Expense Statement [April]

		April	YTD	Budget
Income:	Offerings	\$26,000.34	\$ 99,464.23	\$ 100,100.00
	Other Income	\$ 4,293.33	\$ 19,587.17	\$ 17,279.64
	Total	\$30,293.67	\$ 119,051.40	\$ 117,379.64
Expense:		\$34,442.69	\$ 126,290.31	\$ 128,704.60
Raise The Roof				
	Donations - 2019	\$ 6,064.00	\$ 24,739.46	
	Total 2017-2018		\$ 124,992.00	

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Family Bible Hour: Pastor Bestian will continue the study on the Book of Acts Sundays at 9:15 a.m. All members & friends of Ascension are encouraged to attend.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Saturday Breakfast and Bible Study: This group will resume meeting in the fall every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at the church.

Tuesday Night : This group meets every Tuesday at the church at 6:00 p.m. The current study is, "Noah: The Man, The Ark, The Flood"



Ladies' Bible Study

Woman-to-Woman: This group will resume meeting in September on Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. at the church.

Tuesday Evening: Tuesday evening Ladies Bible Study is a video based study of *Hebrews, The Nearness King Jesus* by Lisa Harper. They meet at 6:30 p.m. at the DeMartelaere home. Remaining session dates are: June 11, 25; July 2. For more information contact Anita Werner at (915) 494.2335.

Thursday Morning: The Thurs. a.m. Bible study finished their study of Ecclesiastes. They will not be meeting during the summer, but will begin a study of Hebrews in the fall. Starting date TBA.

Another resource available to you can be found at www.lhm.org.
You will find the Lutheran Hour daily devotions at this website.

Continued from Page 1—Pastor's Desk

In the first week of July you will probably hear these Lee Greenwood lyrics: "I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free." People who live in the United States are proud of their revolution, their freedoms, and their rights as listed in the first ten amendments to the Constitution. It is worth noting that there is no corresponding "Bill of Responsibilities" to go with the *Bill of Rights*.

Our Christian identity, however, does indeed come with a Bill of Responsibilities. We are simultaneously free men and women, and yet, servants to all. "Though I am free and belong to no man," St. Paul writes, "I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible" (1 Cor. 9:19). Our spiritual freedom from sin, death, and hell gives us a great message, the gospel message, to share with others who are still trapped in guilt and fear. As Jesus Christ, Lord of all, made Himself a servant to all, we are called to do the same.

America's political revolution was a great leap forward in the development of democracy. As Christians speak and live the gospel of Christ, we can help to bring about an even greater form of government—the kingdom and lordship of Jesus Christ. ✠

Caring for Venezuelan Lutherans



"I am an oncology patient and also am diabetic," said Mercedes, who attends a Lutheran church in north-eastern Venezuela. "I have no source of income other than my social security pension, which is not enough to buy both food and medicine." Right now in Venezuela, millions of people like Mercedes and other members of the Lutheran Church of Venezuela are being impacted by the unprecedented humanitarian crisis plaguing their country. Many families are una-

ble to meet their basic needs.

As malnutrition escalates, so does sickness. Diseases formerly considered preventable, easily managed or even eradicated now run rampant in a country where hospitals are not receiving the basic supplies and medicines they need to operate.

Responding to these dire needs, a partnership between Lutheran church bodies - with support from the LCMS regional missions office—is bringing relief to people in Venezuela.

After hearing firsthand stories about the current situation from Venezuelan refugees, the leaders of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile worked through the Venezuelan government's stringent regulations and began sending medications to their brothers and sisters in Christ nearly 3,000 miles away.

In July 2018, LCMS World Relief and Human Care Disaster Response provided a grant of \$9,500 to the Chilean church to help send even more medications. Following the arrival of the most recent shipment, Lutheran

congregations in Venezuela were able to distribute medicine to 630 people.

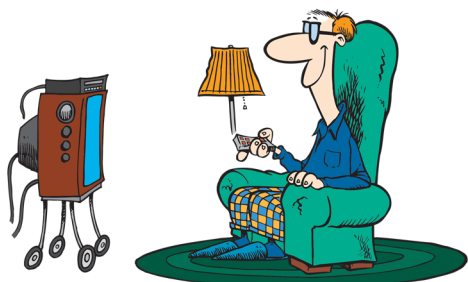
Most of these medications—all from which come from a government-approved list of drugs that can legally be brought into the country—went to help people manage chronic, life-threatening conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and epilepsy.

One person who benefited was a man who has been struggling with an infection after a failed surgery to rebuild his digestive tract in November 2017. "Thanks to you, he received colostomy bags with their bases, adhesives and gauze in this shipment, and now he can even walk to the church for services," said the man's sister-in-law.

Mercedes also was able to receive the medications her doctor prescribed for her treatment. "My brethren, I pray to God for you," she said. "I do not have the words to express my appreciation."

Source: LCMS World Relief and Human Care Sharing Newsletter.

"Worship Anew"



There is a TV program called "Worship Anew" and it's produced by Lutheran Ministries Media which is based on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary Indiana. It can be seen via satellite on DIRECTV Channel 377 Sundays at 9:30a.m. MST. That channel is the Total Christian Television (TCT); if you don't have DIRECTV, it may be on your TV provider's listing. Check this program out when you are unable to attend our Sunday services or video tape it and view during the week.

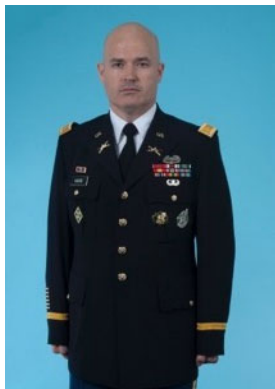
Men's Resources



The Lutheran Hour Ministries has a website specifically for you!

The website has specific devotions, Bible studies, discussion groups, etc. for men. Check this out at lhm.org/men. You will need to register and create a password; there are no fees to be a part of this resource.

Member Spotlight— Promotions, Graduations & More!



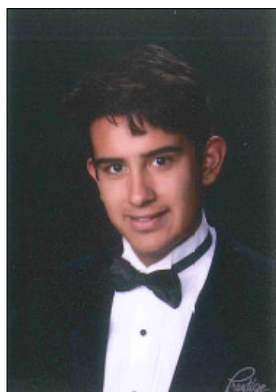
Major **Kevin Kahre** has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Congratulations, Kevin!



Kirsten Moravec, graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with a minor in Nutrition. She is currently applying for jobs in cardiac rehabilitation, fitness, and other health-related fields.

Congratulations again to Ascension's graduates!

Jonathan Sotero, son of Steve & Leticia Behl, graduated from Franklin High School and will attend the University of Texas at El Paso to study law enforcement.



Isaac Yturralde, son of Raul & Dawn Yturralde, graduated from Valley City State University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a dual concentration in Finance and Management and a certificate in Spanish. He is employed as a loan assistant with USDA Rural Development's Rural Housing and Rural Utilities Services.

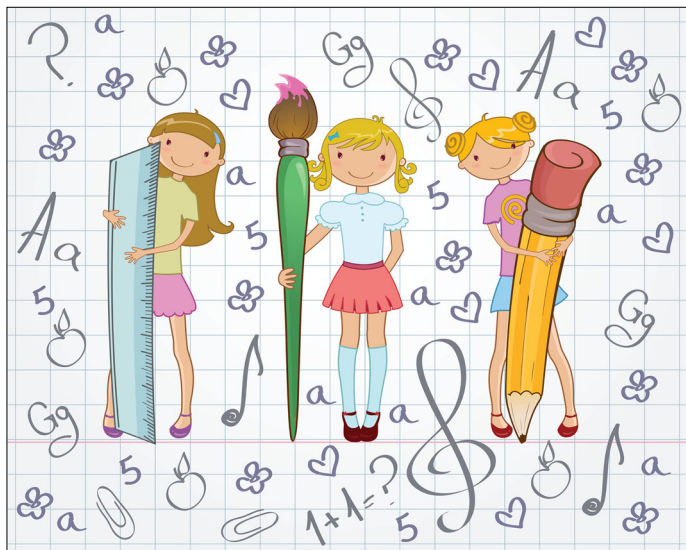


Becca Brady, daughter of Marjy Brady, promoted to LT in the Navy and received her MD. She is going to the Naval Hospital in San Diego for Intern year and Residency for ENT. (5 yrs)

Our member, **Michael Kelly**, was interviewed by Sara Sanchez for the May 5-11, 2019 issue of *El Paso Inc* for an article titled "El Paso Readies for Census". Mike is the Vice President of Programs at the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation. He indicated that an incomplete census could result in less federal funding for things like health and human services. Mike indicated that, "El Paso stands to lose a lot of money if we do not get people filling those forms out . . . The U. S. Constitution calls for everybody in the boundaries of the U.S. to be counted. It is not a count of citizens it's anybody within the boundaries of the United States." The article indicated that the fewer people who fill out the forms can have far reaching effects in such areas as Congressional districts, public school funding and other Federal funding allotments.

[Based on this article and the importance of having an accurate census count, be sure that you encourage others and yourself to complete the forms.]

Stewardship Minute—What's on God's Refrigerator Door?



If you are a parent or grandparent or even just an admirer of a young child, your refrigerator door may be the showcase of one or more paintings or drawings. To a visitor, that work of art may be just a mass of scribbles, but to the one who loves the child it is a masterpiece. We love the gift because of the person who made it and gave it to us. It is precious to us because it was a gift from the heart. The motive of the child was pure and loving.

Perhaps our gifts to God are similar. We're such amateurs, such babies. God could accomplish His work so

much more efficiently by Himself. Our works, even if monumental by human standards, are just scribbles if God would judge them in relation to His ability. Because He loves us, though—and loves us far more than a parent or grandparent loves a child—He looks at our works with eyes of love. He sees our hearts and knows we are motivated by love and faith, and He is pleased. He is so pleased that, if He had a refrigerator, He'd use it to display our works done for His glory.

God has given us gifts to use for this purpose—to glorify Him by serving others. In 1 Peter 4:10 we read, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."* God has seen to it that each of us has something to offer. He gives us the privilege of serving and then provides all that we need to do so.

Just as the budding art student improves with the help of a teacher and with appropriate tools to create his work, so does God teach us through His Word how to fulfill our purpose and how to improve our service. So also He gives gifts of time and money and talents and then His Word and Sacrament to strengthen us for service.

PrayerTime



PrayerTime takes place every first Sunday of the month. Please join us as we each pray silently for the many prayers received in the church. You may come to the altar or pray in the pew as well. **The next PrayerTime dates are June 2 & July 7 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

Ronald McDonald House



Please save the aluminum pull tabs from canned drinks and bring them to the kitchen area. They are used by the Ronald McDonald House to provide a home away from home for hundreds of families with seriously ill children.

Ysleta Lutheran Thrift Store



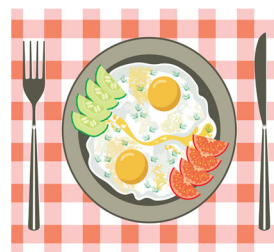
Remember that you can donate used clothing and other household items to the Mission's Thrift Store, the proceeds of which go to help the work of the Mission. You can put your donations in the container located in the Fellowship Hall; the Ysleta Mission staff will pick up the donations.

Prayer Chain



Prayer Chain of Ascension is composed of congregational members who have agreed to pray for members and non-members concerns. Prayer requests can be sent to Olga Sullivan (phone chain—581-1450) or Jan Schlak (e-mail chain—oveja6925@aol.com), and they will activate the Prayer Chain. Contact Olga or Jan to be a part of the prayer chain ministry via phone or e-mail. **If you would like your request to be spoken at the Altar on Sunday morning, please call the church office at 833-1009.**

Mercy Meals



These volunteers bring meals to families of Ascension who need assistance. The church office will get in touch with the group's leader when they hear of a home that needs assistance. If you have a need, please call the church office at 833-1009.

Altar Care Committee



Looking for a way to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a meaningful way? Being a part of the Altar Care Committee is very rewarding. We insure that the Altar is prepared for all services so that our Lord is glorified by a proper Altar setting. In signing up for Altar Care, you will be given instructions both personally and given a handout. You may sign up to work with someone already dedicated to the month, either 8:00 a.m. service or the 10:30 a.m. service. Anyone who would like to serve the Lord in this capacity may contact the Church Office at 833-1009.

Altar Care for June

8:00 a.m.: Gisela Lichon/Kathy Kiphart

10:30 a.m.: Judy Pozzerle/Barb Spott

Premier Designs Jewelry

Marjory Brady, Consultant

(915) 799-7898

marjybrady.mypremierdesigns.com

Luz M. Soto

Professional Writing Services

(915) 219-1686

luzsoto07@gmail.com

Taylor Kahre

Dandelion Bay Clothing Boutique

(812) 760-3393

DandelionBay.com

Keri Howell

Young Living Essential Oils

(915) 345-1095

Firefly180@msn.com

M & J's Babysitting

Certified by the American Red Cross

Melissa and Jessica Hankele

Melissa Cell: (915) 252-7371

Jessica Cell: (915) 252-7065

Sold On El Paso!

Team of Keller Williams Realty

Kevin & Robyn Cooper, Realtors

(915) 229-5995

We help families get the best value for their home, whether buying or selling.



Please e-mail the church office at alc6520@swbell.net you would like your business listed here.



At-a-Glance

Church Calendar of Events

June 2

11:30 am Board of Youth Ministry
5:00 pm PrayerTime

June 3

VBS Starts

June 9 (Communion Sunday)

9:00 am Board of Christian Service
11:30 am Board of Evangelism

June 11

Board of Stewardship

June 12

9:00 am Board of Preschool

June 13

3:00 pm July Calendar updated due in office
7:00 pm Board of Elders

June 15

9:00 am Board of Christian Education
10:00 am Board of Children's Ministry

June 16 (Communion Sunday)

Holy Trinity
Father's Day

June 20

LWML Convention Starts
6:30 pm Ladies Night Out (Ardovino's)

June 30

4th of July Celebration Sunday

Summer Weekly Events

Sun: Worship @ 8:00 & 10:30 am
(Communion on June 9 & 16)
Family Bible Hour @ 9:15 am

Tue: 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study, church
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study, Wade home
6:45 pm Boy Scouts

Wed: 10:00 am Weight Watchers Meeting

**If you're not sure or don't have a schedule already,
please call the church office at (915) 833-1009 to verify
if a specific event is being held that week.*



Our Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Brian R. Bestian

Director of Children's Ministry:

Kim Bestian

Director of Youth Ministry:

Luz Soto

Preschool Director:

Marhel Cueva

Music Director/Organist:

Ruth Ann Ostergren

Office Administrator:

Lynn Burchfield

Tender Care Nursery Attendant:

Haleigh Gonzales

Custodian:

Gail and David Regalado



Our Sunday Schedule

Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship: 9:00 a.m.

Family Bible Hour: 9:15 a.m.