

Our Synodical Announcements

1. We pray for St Paul, Borehamwood and Pastor David Jackson.

2. ELCE Calendar

15-17 Feb	Youth Rally	Petts Wood
8 March	ELCE Finance Seminar	Cambridge
25-27 March	Barnes Conference (Pastors' Conf)	High Wycombe
11-13 April	ELCE Retreat	Offa House

3. Next Youth Rally

The next ELCE Youth Rally is on Feb. 15-17 (Fri – Sun) at Petts Wood. Forms are now available via email. Please see Pastor for more information.

4. ELCE Finance Seminar

Geared for treasurers and pastors and anyone interested in the financial side of things in the church and in the country (churches in the UK are registered charities), this seminar will be held in Cambridge Saturday, 8 March. See Pastor if you're interested.

5. A 'Plug' for the ELCE Retreat (11-13 April)

Each year the reports bring news of a very enjoyable weekend. If you'd like to get to know quite a few people in the ELCE and have a good time along the way then consider the retreat. The theme is "Christian Vocation". Cost is £95 per person (financial support is available so that people are not precluded from attending because of finances). More details on the table in back.

6. ELCE Paperwork

Copies of the minutes from Synod from Oct and also the minutes of the Executive Council (from Nov) are available. If you would like a copy, please see Pastor.

7. ELCE Worship Cte Request – what songs would you like to sing?

Now that the LSB is on its way, the ELCE Worship Committee is beginning work on an ELCE Supplement. The committee is looking for any songs not in the LSB but part of the church here in the UK – or ones that should become part of the church life here. Any suggestions to Steve Edge or Pastor. Thanks.

Want to know more about Ascension Lutheran Church?

Contact Pastor George Samiec – 01638 510024 or 07788837680 or
gsamiec@elce.fsworld.co.uk

Ascension Calendar ... a work in progress

Sunday	20 Jan	11:00am	Worship – Letton Hall
		3:00pm	Worship – Lakenheath Village Home
		6:30pm	Worship – Ipswich
Wednesday	23 Jan	6:00pm	Dinner → 7:00pm Bible Study – Manse
Sunday	27 Jan	9:00am	Worship – Brandon
Monday	28 Jan	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study – Beck Row
Thursday	31 Jan	6:00pm	Dinner → 7:00pm Bible Study – Manse
Friday	1 Feb	6:00pm	MasterPlan
Sunday	3 Feb	9:00am	Worship – Brandon
Wednesday	6 Feb	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday service – Brandon
Thursday	7 Feb	3:45pm	Confirmation
		6:00pm	Dinner → 7:00pm Bible Study – Manse
Friday	8 Feb	6:00pm	MasterPlan
Sunday	10 Feb	9:00am	Worship – Brandon



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH CAMP

(usually meeting at the Methodist Church, London Road, Brandon)

Second Sunday after the Epiphany – 20th January 2008

I spoke with Claire during the week and she was telling me about one of her History essays. It was on fascism in Germany and Italy. She knows the German side much better than the Italian and so has been reading more for the Italian part of the essay. Fortunately, one of her college mates is from Italy and so Claire has been going to her friend and asking questions inspired by her reading. Good idea I thought. Apparently her friend answered a few questions but not all that many and said to Claire "Look, I don't really know ... but I know someone who does" where upon she picked up her phone and rang her grandmother (in Italy!) and handed the phone to Claire and said, "Ask away!"

When I heard the story, Claire was still excited from the conversation. Grandma had lived through the very experience she was researching and her books (which were still the same) were now somehow more 'real'. Of course, that 'somehow' was the interaction with a living breathing person who brought the pages to life.

People seem to have always preferred the living witness over the written. In the early church the theory is that the Christians were quite worried when the last living Apostle John was left and wondered how their grandchildren might believe when all there would be left were words and no living eye witness. It is believed that John wrote his Gospel account to answer this issue. John's point: You don't have to see to believe; you don't have to have a living witness to believe; when you have the word, you have the living witness – Jesus(!) – who draws people to himself; who reveals himself to the world.

The response then for all Christians is the same as that of John – telling what we have 'seen'. This has always been the fundamental way that people meet Jesus – they are introduced – the word is passed on. John the Baptist witnessed Jesus at his baptism and describes him to others. Andrew spends time with Jesus because of John the Baptist's comment. He immediately goes and gets his brother Peter "We have found the Messiah!". God is not hard to find – though at first glance not instantly recognised – we tend to bypass water, bread and wine as too common – but the words of the Bible and his followers keep drawing people to the truth – God has died for us all – Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. What better good news is there?

Intercession topics ... a suggestion only ... Colossians 4:2

For the people of Mildenhall
 For those who move, relocate, make new starts
 For those who suffer tragedies
 For those who are trapped by lack of self control, who feel 'weak' and not in control
 For those who don't know Jesus
 For those who are walking in the valley of the shadow of death
 For those who are persecuted for the Christian faith
 For the people and churches of Guinea
 For the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan and the people of Sudan
 For the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana
 For peace and justice in the trouble spots of the world

Our Congregational Announcements

1. Welcome!

A warm welcome to you! May God guide you and assure you of his care.

Get into the Bible anyway you can!

For Families – Next study meets Wednesday, Jan. 23rd at the Manse – 6:00pm Meal; 7:00pm Study; 8:00pm Tea/Supper. We are studying Ethics.

For those interested in MasterPlan (a Bible overview course) – at the home of the Van Duser's (in recess for a couple of weeks) – next study will be on Friday, 1st Feb., 6:00pm. Concluding Chapter 29 – Power from on high – and beginning Chapter 30 – God's Spirit at work

2. Confirmation – Confirmation is shifting time and place! It is now Thursday at 3:45pm at the Manse. Next class: 7 February.

Celebrating Birthdays in January

4 Jan – Johnny Feibusch (Ipswich) 28 Jan – Sarah Van Duser
 5 Jan – Holly Walsh 31 Jan – Alaine Wilson

3. The next service at Ipswich is TONIGHT – commencing at **6:30pm** at St Luke's Anglican Church, Cliff Lane, Ipswich, IP3 0NU. If you know folk in the Ipswich area, please let them know!

4. Annual Meeting

The date we selected last Sunday is Sunday 2nd March – after church. If you are required to give a report, please start planning it now. Pastor would like it by 10 February please.

5. Just to let you know ... Pastor at Westfield House

Pastor's classes at Westfield House begin this term and will continue until May. He is teaching Tuesdays and Fridays.

Rosters ... need filling ... Thanks! ☺

	Pre-K SS	Usher	Acolyte	Lector	Coffee Host	Church Cleaning
27 Jan					Land	

Readings for next Sunday – 27th January – Third Sunday after Epiphany
 Isaiah 9:1-4 I Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-25

Pastor and Charlotte will be away Thursday to Saturday in Germany – visiting the Vickroys and participating in the baptism of Harmon Laatsch on Saturday. Should you require assistance, please contact Steve Edge 07909968197. If you require a pastor, please contact: Rev. Reg Quirk 01223 354331 (w) or 01223 276078 (h)

Lutheran Service Book

If you would like an order form, please contact Sheri. Ascension's order will be placed on January 28th, so please turn your forms and money in to Sheri as soon as possible. For any further information, please contact Sheri. Pew editions are £10.00 or \$21.00 per hymnal, INCLUDING shipping (based on a quote we received from Concordia Publishing House, and shipping to an APO address). Thank you for your help and support!



The financial side of things ...

Our financial year ends on 31st January. I have done some calculations and we are looking at a shortfall. Using best-guess work, the scene looks like this:

Current balance in Operating Account:		£ 400
Expenses to 31 Jan	£ 5860	-£5460
Offerings from on-line giving and US cheques	£ 1840	-£3620
Est of offerings for next 2 Sundays	£ 200	-£3420
Our shortfall estimate		£3420

We do have £3026 in our Futures Account but we are understandably reluctant to use it.

Please pray for wisdom how best to proceed and please give as you are able.

If you wish to financially support Ascension through **direct debit** then you need to inform your bank of your wish. Your bank will request our sort code and account number. Here it is ... Sort code: 208593; Account Number: 80609854

You may also support Ascension **on-line**.

Go to our homepage – www.ascensionlutherans.co.uk – and click on Support and follow the links. Please be sure to select Ascension from the menu of options and be aware that it can take up to 6 weeks for Ascension to receive your offering. This means that if you wish to give on-line to help right now, please let me know, so I can close the books as accurately as possible (and reimburse the Futures Account when your funds arrive).

Thank you for supporting Ascension! - Yvonne Van Duser, Treasurer