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Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Washington

Ascension Lutheran Church worships in a graceful little chapel located just east of Tacoma, Washington. Three miles from the Tacoma Dome and almost within sight of beautiful Puget Sound, this group of 46 believers serves as a beacon of light in a notoriously un-Christian environment. Only 37% of people in western Washington are church members, making it the second most unchurched area in the country (behind only Portland, OR). In Tacoma, truly, "...the fields are ripe, and harvest's waiting."



plus ideas for congregational outreach, and is now in use among many of our CLC congregations. Over the years Ascension has tried a myriad of outreach methods, from canvassing, direct mail and media to online sermons, banner ads and internet radio. One constant is the ongoing effort to train members in personal

evangelism - e.g., the current "Friends Who Need Jesus" program encourages them to suggest prospects from among their acquaintances who might be particularly open to approach with the Gospel at this time.

Ascension began in the early 90's as an outreach effort of Redemption of Lynnwood. In 1992 they organized and called a full-time servant. In 1995 Ascension called Pastor Paul Naumann, who continues to serve the group. By the grace of God and with the assistance of the members of the CLC, in 1998 Ascension purchased 5 acres of property along Waller Road, a main north-south arterial. There was a large house already on the property to serve as a parsonage. In 2003 a 1400' sq. chapel was built and dedicated to the spread of Christ's Gospel.

Ascension has had slow but steady growth over the years. In 2006, eager to expand its outreach and unable to find resources, Ascension developed its own. "The Tacoma Outreach Menu" is a collection of 120-



Every congregation has problems, but most wish they had Ascension's problem - not enough parking! Within the last month Ascension completed a much-needed expansion project that doubled the size of the church parking lot and added extensive landscaping to further adorn the ministry of the Gospel. Three adults are currently in instruction and, with the prospect of six more people possibly becoming members in the

near future, Ascension may soon have more than fifty souls under her care for the first time. More saints to sing Christ's praises, and more hands for the work of spreading the net of the Gospel even further!

- Pastor Paul Naumann

Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School in Emmaus Milimani, Kenya

In 2009, Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Phoenix, AZ, began a Gospel partnership with a group of Christians in Emmaus Milimani (near Moi's Bridge), Kenya. During a visit to the United States in May, Anna Sagala of Kenya attended worship services at Holy Cross with her family. Anna expressed her delight in having found "a church that taught just as Martin Luther taught, because Luther was faithful to the Scriptures."

Pastor Maas met with Anna several times over the following months. One thing Anna shared was her sadness that so many children in her village were orphans due to Aids. Even before she traveled to the U.S., she envisioned how different the future of her village could be if these children were to be raised in the Christian faith—specifically the confessional Lutheran faith. In addition to having a Christian school, Anna also expressed the hope of having a Lutheran Church faithful to the Word of God in her village.

The brethren of Holy Cross agreed to join hands with the Sagala family in the endeavor of establishing a church and school at Emmaus Milimani. It started with Holy Cross sending school supplies for the children. Anna received CD's of Holy Cross worship services which were used for



worship in Kenya. Other religious material were also sent to provide spiritual nourishment.

A tent was used to begin with for those gathered around the Word of God. Later on, the Sagala family donated land and lumber from their farm to construct a church building. This structure with mudded walls not only served as a place of worship, but also as a school for the children.

Emmaus Hill School, which is now in its third year, has four grade levels (preschool, kindergarten, first and second grade). There are 3 full time teachers whose salaries (about \$40 a month per

teacher) are being covered by Holy Cross of Phoenix. For the 2010 school there were 107 students in three grade levels. Approximately 30 of the children are orphans. For the opening of the 2011 school year a two room school of wood and mud construction was erected with donated land and wood from the Sagalas. The roof of metal sheets were given by CLC Project Kinship, and members of the congregation supplied the labor to build it.

In the latter part of 2010, Holy Cross called Pastor Michael Gurath to serve as missionary to Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School in Emmaus Milimani. For close to six months Missionary Gurath led the worship services, conducted catechism classes (1 to 2 hours) after Sunday services, as well as adult instruction classes on Fridays, and also weekly Bible study. Missionary Gurath also served as instructor for one week a month at the Kenyan CLC Seminary in Chotororo near Kisii.

Missionary Gurath, who has been on a brief furlough in the United States, will be returning to Kenya this summer. Besides serving those in Emmaus Milimani, he will again be teaching at the seminary in Chotororo.

There are two men from the Emmaus congregation who will be attending this seminary. Jasper Juma Musakali will take a 2 year evangelist training course and Amos Otieno will attend the four year course in the hopes of serving as the future full-time pastor at Holy Cross in Emmaus Milimani.

