

# Community Update

Summer 2010



Welcome Ashley Family!



Elliot, Jeremy, Diana, Benjamin, & Jada

Read more quotes from Mr. Ashley's interview on page 2.

## School Administrator *Jeremy R. Ashley*

We look forward to Mr. Ashley beginning his service at St. Peter's on July 1. Here is some background information:

### Education

BA, Early Childhood Education -  
Concordia, Wisconsin - 2001  
MS, Educational Administration -  
Eastern Illinois University - 2009

### Record of Service

St. Paul Lutheran Church - WI  
Youth Director - 2001-2003  
St. John's Lutheran Church - IL  
Preschool Director - 2003-2004  
Lutheran School Association, Decatur, IL  
Teacher - 2004-2010

### Family Information

#### Wife:

Diana Bishop — married in 2000  
employed as an occupational therapist  
working with children in schools

#### Children:

Elliot, 5  
Benjamin, 4 (adopted from Thailand)  
Jada, 2 (adopted from India)

*"My wife and I try to have devotions together when possible. We have been involved in a bible study group that meets for fun, fellowship, and studying the Word. We love spending time with our children and talking to them about God, Jesus, and Bible stories they can understand. We pride ourselves on praying often as a family and encourage our sons to make up their own prayers."*

### Address

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Minneapolis, MN 55407  
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## Getting to know Mr. Ashley

Describe the mission of the church:

*"The mission of our church is to reach out to the rootless and share the Word with those who do not know about Jesus."*

We are both an Early Childhood Education Center and a K-8 elementary school. What do you bring?

*"I have experience both in the Early Childhood setting as well as the K-8 setting. I understand the unique issues and blessings that come with either program. Although they are two different entities, at the core they are founded on the same principles: educating and caring for the children in a way consistent with the Word of God. The unique challenges come not with offering the Christian education, but in how to turn this into a ministry that can help to bring as many people as possible to faith in Jesus Christ."*

Describe your understanding of team ministry and how you relate to the other members of a team:

*"Working as a team is an important part of teaching. Being able to share ideas/resources with other teachers is a wonderful way to improve the teaching strategies and styles of everyone involved. I believe much can be accomplished when working collaboratively toward a common goal."*

Describe your philosophy and approach to educational ministry:

*"My approach to educational ministry is to teach the children in a fun, interesting, hands-on way and integrate the Word and faith in every subject when possible. I feel children learn more in a safe and loving environment in which they feel comfortable having fun and asking questions. I think being able to integrate our faith into all curriculum is a wonderful blessing in an LCMS school."*

Where do you feel you could have a great impact?

*"Creating a safe, loving, inviting community within the school. I believe I could lead St. Peter's School in a way that would not only make current students and families feel like they made the right choice to attend St. Peter's, but also convey that message to families of children in the ECEC program and to unchurched families in the community. I enjoy working with children and helping them learn about the world around them, but I also take great joy in being able to tell others about the blessings a school such as St. Peter's has to offer both children and their families. I will thoroughly enjoy bringing new families into the K-8 program at St. Peter's."*



*The Ashley children on the steps of their new Minneapolis home*

What are the key components to a successful team ministry?

*"Communication and building relationships. Great things can be accomplished when a group of God's people are working efficiently and whole-heartedly towards a common goal. I feel I could build a positive place where every student has the opportunity to reach his full potential. When an entire team of Christian educators come together with united goals, anything is possible with God as the head."*

## Homebound Member Update from Norm Ruthenbeck, Visitation Pastor

**Bob Ewald** is gaining strength but isn't ready for visitors. He spends most of the day in his bedroom and has weekly Doctor visits. Vada is able to leave him for brief periods and has help during the week.

**Eleanor Barberee** was released this week from Park Health and Rehabilitation. In home therapy will continue. The Doctor and therapist think she could stay alone. Her son Dan has coming up this week, and he spoke of taking her to Texas for a while. Eleanor is ready for anything!



## The LCMS National Youth Gathering

*But these things are written that you may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in his name.  
John 20:31*

At the 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering, we'll be focusing on these words. We'll look at what WE BELIEVE and at what that means for everything we do.

We'll LOOK...

...and see the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

We'll LISTEN...

...and hear the words of the Word made Flesh whose words are spirit and life.

And we'll LIVE...

...because we have been given life in Jesus' name to love others as He first loved us.

Our anticipation and excitement grows as the LCMS National Youth Gathering approaches! From July 16th to July 22nd the St. Peter's youth group will be flying to New Orleans, Louisiana to participate in this gathering of thousands of people from all over the nation. The Youth Gathering includes small group studies, mass worship events, concerts, speakers, and a mass communion event on the last day.

We have anticipated the cost of this event to total roughly \$10,000, \$1,000 per person. Through all of our fundraising we have felt the power of our Holy Spirit through our congregation. We cannot thank you enough for all of your generous donations both now and in future fundraisers, and thank you to all who have helped plan fundraisers and are making this trip a possibility for our youth group. We look forward to providing you with further updates before the trip and plenty of pictures, and stories after the gathering!



Jenna Shockey



Abby Axelson

*"I'm hoping that through this awesome youth gathering that I can establish a stronger relationship with my Lord and Savior, and that I can learn how to better serve Him."*

- Jade Kolbo



Jade & Alex serving a meal

*"The one thing that I am looking forward to the most is having thousands of people gather from all over the nation to praise God. Having that many people singing praises to God always fills me with joy and a great sense of peace. I'm also looking forward to growing in my faith with my friends, and seeing how they grow in their faith as well."*

- Alex Wheeler



Thrivent has launched two new programs to give investors a voice in how funds are provided to various ministries.

1. **Thrivent Vote.** This includes two annual votes where funds are designated by the number of votes. In the April 19-May 21 voting, 150,199 members cast ballots, according to a Thrivent news release listing the fund distribution as follows:

LCMS World Relief and Human Care -- \$192,122  
 Lutheran Disaster Response -- \$147,242  
 ELCA World Hunger -- \$145,345  
 Habitat for Humanity International -- \$114,212  
 LCMS World Mission - \$112,315  
 Feed My Starving Children -- \$99,465  
 American Heart Association -- \$67,854  
 WELS Committee on Relief -- \$57,281  
 WELS Humanitarian Aid Committee -- \$32,987  
 Lutheran Malaria Initiative -- \$31,176

"LCMS World Mission gives thanks to God and, further, is so thankful for the support of Thrivent and its members who participated in this voting event," said Dr. Thomas R. Zehnder, LCMS World Mission executive director. "The support provided will further our ability to share the saving message of Christ."

Two Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries are receiving a total \$304,437 in funds resulting from the vote of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members on where to distribute \$1 million for charity. LCMS World Relief and Human Care, will also receive funding from Thrivent. Voting takes place on the internet. The second vote will be held in November.

2. **Thrivent Member Choice** is the second program where investors can allocate a specific dollar amount based on total individual policy value and other investments. Thrivent previously offered matching gifts. Under the new program, no matching donations are necessary to allocate between \$25 - \$500 to congregations and/or educational organizations.

St. Peter's will be hosting a 20 minute introduction to Thrivent Member Choice on **Sunday, August 29**, following the worship service. We want all Thrivent members to take full advantage of this opportunity to build the Kingdom of God and support St. Peter's efforts to spread the good news. Visit [www.thriventfinancial.com](http://www.thriventfinancial.com) to learn more and be sure to locate both St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Edina and St. Peter's School, Edina to designate your gift. We will provide computer access for those without internet connectivity. This is a great way to reach & serve our community.



## Dance Camp

June was a busy time with the building filled with smiling boys and girls. Miss Robbins held a Dance Camp with the theme of **CREATION PRAISE!**

Dawn glowed when she told about sharing the story of God's creation and salvation with some families from the community. She explained, "I'm sure this was the first time one little girl heard the good news. What a thrill!"

Dawn's energy is overflowing. Miss Robbins is our Kindergarten teacher at St. Peter's, chapel song & action leader, dance teacher in the community. Some recent efforts include choreographing a team for the opening worship at the National LCMS Youth Gathering and choreographing the musical this spring on Lion's Gate.

Three different age groups were part of a dance recital (pictured above) to showcase what they learned. It is great to see the bleachers full of supportive parents and other members!