



# Ascension Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH | MAY 2018 |  
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## Ascension Celebrates the “Forgotten Festival”

May 10th marks a day in the Church year that is often overlooked. Sadly, Ascension Day has become a “forgotten festival,” overshadowed by the more popular festivals like Christmas and Easter. But it is a significant day! Ascension Day is when we celebrate Jesus, after His resurrection, ascending to the Ancient of Days, the Father. It is the day He takes His place at the right hand of God to rule and reign over all things. It is the Day He is crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

So what does that matter to us as Christians in today’s world? Remember Jesus told His disciples that unless He ascends to the Father, he cannot send us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. With no Holy Spirit in our lives,

how would we have the ability to live out our faith? How would we have the strength to get through this life, overcoming sin, death and the devil? Without the Holy Spirit, how would our eyes and ears be opened to understand the Holy Scriptures? How would we be able to forgive as we have been forgiven?

This month, here at *Ascension Lutheran Church*, we honor this important feast with a special service at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 10th. Please come and join your brothers and sisters as together we celebrate this day in our church year, the reign of our King, Jesus!

### Mark Your Calendar



- May 10 - 7 p.m.  
Ascension Day Worship
- May 12 - 1 p.m.  
John Rempert Memorial
- May 13 - 9:45 a.m.  
Mother’s Day Brunch  
(between Worship services)
- May 15 - 6:30 p.m.  
Board of Fellowship;  
7:45 p.m. Board of Lay  
Ministers
- May 17 - 6:30 p.m.  
All-School Musical
- May 18 - 6:30 a.m.  
Men’s Breakfast
- May 19 - 9 a.m. Hour of Prayer
- May 20- Day of Pentecost

## Six Young People to be Confirmed in Worship Service on June 3rd

Six confirmands, who are now completing the study of the Holy Scriptures, the catechism and the Lutheran faith will be publicly confirmed on Sunday, June 3, in the 11 a.m. service at Ascension. The church and school family and friends are encouraged to attend in support of these young people.

The goal of the confirmation process is to engage children and youth in the life-long journey of faith, including participation in the body of Christ (the Church).

**Left: Eighth-grade students at Ascension Lutheran School have the opportunity to learn the teachings of the faith in their Religion class, led each week by Pastor Michael.**



## Ascension Remembers a Faithful Saint, John Rempert

Long-time Ascension member, John Rempert, went to be with the Lord on May 3. John started attending Ascension in 1956, and his wife, Audrey, began attending with him when they were married in the Parish Hall in 1963.

Over his years with Ascension, John served as Treasurer and on the building committee when the current sanctuary was first being planned. He has also served as a trustee in the church.

John is survived by his wife, Audrey; his son, Ken; two daughters, Cindy and Roxanne; three grandsons and one great-grandchild. The memorial service for John is on May 12 at Ascension.



## Ascension LWML News...

In the narthex of the church, there is a table displaying information about the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. On that table are small mite boxes and one large Mite Box. We welcome all members of the congregation to participate in this worthwhile project.

When you contribute, do you know where your mite box offerings go? For every dollar contributed to the Mite Box, approximately 50% goes to district projects, 25% goes to national projects, 12% goes to Quarterlies, and the remainder is used for operating costs

From 2016 to 2018, \$150,000 was distributed to 16 different projects in our Pacific Southwest District, including \$10,000 to Pacific Lutheran High School Scholarships. Carol Woods will be attending the LWML District Convention in June and will be helping

by Carol Woods, Ascension LWML President



to select the projects for the next two years.

National projects for 2018 to 2020 were selected last June at the Al-

buquerque, New Mexico LWML convention. Over \$2 million will be dispersed to 22 projects. All funds will come from your mite box contributions.

We appreciate your participation in the mite box ministry!

If you would like more information about the LWML, go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) [for national news] and [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org) [for district information].

## Living Our Lives as a New Creation in Christ

Our amazing God has created the universe to proclaim His Glory! Psalm 19:1 says: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Spring is another amazing way in which God created the world to point to His marvelous works, in fact, the most marvelous work of all; the death and resurrection of the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. As we watch the leaves die and fall from the *tree* to the *ground* during the Winter months, we are reminded of the cold, dark, reality of sin and death. But when Spring comes, there is Resurrection and New Life!

Life as a Christian is to be lived in newness of life. We are not to live in accordance with the dead flesh, but in accord with our *new heart*, created by faith in Christ Jesus. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17).

Worry, anger, fear, jealousy, envy, covetousness, immorality, all these things and everything like them belong in the Winter, before we came to faith in Christ. It is Spring-Time! All things are new! We are now free to love God with our whole heart! And to love others as ourselves! What was not possible without God is possible with Him (Matthew 19:26)!

It is time to live as the creations in Christ Jesus that we are. We have not been given a spirit of timidity, but of love, power and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). With our renewed spirit and the help of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to live in Spring-Time!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: GETTING TO KNOW ORGANIST ITICHAJ "ITCHI" TIEMSANJAI



Itichai "Itchi" Tiemsanjai was born in Harbor City, lived in Hawthorne until his family moved to a home in Gardena and he has lived in that home ever since. His parents are devout Buddhists, his older sister is a Roman Catholic and his younger sister is undefined; Itchi is a new Lutheran.

Itchi is currently the Organist at Ascension, starting the position last fall. He is in training to become a Manufacturing Engineer and aims to work in Aerospace. Itchi enjoys tinkering in his home shop (machining, welding, ceramics, etc.), making long-distance international contacts on his Ham Radio and riding his motorcycle.

Itchi said the Lord has guided him through a journey of faiths (while keeping him safe). "When I was 13 my parents forced me to become an ordained Buddhist monk. Woe to me when I found out what was in store for me." After that experience, Itchi left the Buddhist faith and studied under various faiths thereafter, coming to the knowledge of Jesus Christ in high school and being baptized at age 22. He was involved with Rolling Hills Covenant Church on the Peninsula but left when he heard about the organist position open here at Ascension. He soon became a member and was confirmed here earlier this year.

How did Itchi get involved in playing the organ? He says it all started in the second grade when his teacher taught him to play the recorder. "That plastic flute started it all for me," he said. "I started playing the piano during the fourth grade, and while a sophomore in high school I visited the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo." From there, he started playing the Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ in high school, while learning to fix, maintain, and repair the instrument under careful direction. He has traveled to nearly every coast of the United States to play on various theater organs. "God has been very gracious to me," he says. "He's opened doors for me, He's kept me safe from the hairy ones, and in trusting Him, He has opened this door for me to stay here at Ascension."

# WE CELEBRATE MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 1 Maria Ballard  
May 2 Maria Wiechmann  
May 3 Logan Frederick  
May 4 Renae Falldorf  
Becca Itow  
May 7 Sandra Schneider  
May 8 Norb Huber'  
May 9 Charlotte LaPointe  
May 10 Nico Koehler  
Jim Nelson  
May 11 Skye Pelletier  
May 12 Breanna Abram  
Seth Abram  
Megan Morrow  
May 13 Kristina Koehler

May 18 Ryanna Ginger  
Tad Sugiyama  
May 22 Kaitlin O'Malley  
May 25 Ashley Anderson  
May 26 Robert Schneider  
May 27 Albert Calderon  
Sam Clark  
Tina Ginger  
Rachel Schell  
May 28 Cathy Rohweller  
May 31 Zachary Schell

## ANNIVERSARIES

May 24 Jeff & Leah Garren  
May 26 Tom & Linda Parker

## ASCENSION PRESCHOOL NEWS

By Tammy Simpson, Preschool Director

It is hard to believe that this is one of our last newsletters. Our preschool year is winding down and many of our preschoolers will be off to kindergarten in the fall. The curriculum for the month of May will revolve around finishing our unit on growing (please see our photo of our new dinosaur and fairy gardens), and enhancing our memory and recall skills by revisiting much of what we have learned and done this school year. This will be a great time to see what resonated with each student, what were their most-liked activities and maybe even find some topics to explore deeper.

We thank you for your support throughout the year.

