

# THE LINK *Linking Hearts and Minds with Christ*

## Pastor's Message

Our mission is to **invite** all people to **celebrate** God's presence, **grow** in God's grace, and **serve** God's People.

*Jesus answered, "I am **the way** and **the truth** and **the life**. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

— John 14:6

**J**esus is the way! For those of us who are Christians, we believe that Jesus is the one through whom we gain access to the Kingdom of God. Jesus invites us all into a relationship with Him for the rest of eternity.

Unfortunately, there are other voices seeking to distract us from paying attention to Jesus' invitation. If Jesus is "the truth," then the other voices are "lies."

Here are some common lies that keep us from believing "the truth."

- ☹ I am not lovable.
- ☹ I will be loved if I... (am perfect, successful, do better, achieve more)
- ☹ People don't like me.
- ☹ I am a bad person.
- ☹ God doesn't love me.
- ☹ I am not good enough.
- ☹ I deserve to be criticized.
- ☹ I am not smart enough.
- ☹ I don't matter.
- ☹ God doesn't forgive me.

Whenever these lies creep into our mind, we become broken and beaten down with doubt, despair and depression. If we start believing that these lies are true, we are tempted to give up and quit—much like many of



the people that Jesus encountered in the Gospels.

Maybe you have given in to some of these lies and are doubting yourself. Join me for a minute and let's take a look at what the truth looks like. The Bible says that the truth about you is:

- ☺ I am Jesus' friend. (John 15:15)
- ☺ God loves me enough to sacrifice His Son. (John 3:16)
- ☺ God lives in me. (Revelation 3:20)
- ☺ God chooses me and makes me holy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)
- ☺ I am part of Christ's body on Earth. (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- ☺ I am forgiven and cleansed of all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

**YOU MATTER TO GOD!** And, if you matter to God, then you matter to those who consider themselves members of God's Kingdom. In God's Kingdom, what God wants done, gets done!

The next time that you begin to listen to the lies that creep into all of our lives, remember THE TRUTH. God loves you! God forgives you! You are created in God's image! Your eternal life with God has already begun AND will continue on forever!

REMEMBER, no matter where you find yourself, you are right in the middle of God's grace, surrounded by His love and forgiveness, ALWAYS!

Under Grace,

Pastor Steve

### MASTHEAD IMAGE

Our neighboring port city of Redondo Beach is home to many great beaches, shops, restaurants, attractions, an awesome pier, as well as a few folks from our own congregation. Here we see Redondo's King Harbor at sunrise.

If you have a panoramic scene of interest you'd like to submit for consideration as a LINK masthead, send it to [DSnow@alcrpv.org](mailto:DSnow@alcrpv.org).



## Student Summer Fun at Ascension

Each week we'll have *maximum* awesomeness in store. From cruising to Catalina to putting the "pain" in paintball, you won't want to miss a single adventure! For any questions or to RSVP, contact TJ at [TSpaeth@alcrpv.org](mailto:TSpaeth@alcrpv.org) or 817-676-2985.

 <b>1</b> Wednesday	 <b>Beach Bonanza</b> Noon to 4 pm.....\$5 + FOOD	 <b>9</b> Thursday	 <b>Gable House Bowl</b> 6 pm to 8 pm.....\$25	 <b>23</b> Thursday	 <b>Catalina Cruisin'</b> 7:30 am to 8 pm.....\$75 + FOOD	 <b>30</b> Thursday	 <b>Paintball Blitz</b> 10 am to 6 pm.....\$60
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## ALC People

**Pastor Steve Gilbertson**  
Interim Pastor

### STUDENT MINISTRIES

**TJ Spaeth**  
Director of Student and Family Ministries

**Chris Anderson**  
Kids Rock! Ministry Director

### OFFICE STAFF

**Mary Whitman**  
Office Manager

**Dave Snow**  
Graphics and Media

**Brian Beck**  
Custodian

### WORSHIP

**Faye Schwartz**  
Director of Worship and Music

**Dr. Joanne Althouse**  
Organist

**Mike Minjarez**  
Worship Leader

**PRAYER WARRIOR**  
Deanna Yu

### PRESCHOOL STAFF

**Darlene Kurt**  
Director

**Karyn Luetje**  
Administrative Assistant

### HEAD TEACHERS

**Analisa Carrillo, Tracy Gillis, Cathy Hamilton, Ginalyn Magat, Tammy Porter**

### CHURCH COUNCIL

**Julie Botzong**  
President

**Rick Viersen**  
Vice-President

**Lisa Munoz**  
Secretary

**Paul McLellan**  
Treasurer

**Bob Anderson**  
Facilities

**Keith Vint**  
Business Administration

**Sandy McElroy**

**and Edward Zalewski**  
Members-at-Large

### CALL COMMITTEE

**Betsy Anderson, Mike Dunton, Sandy Haffey, Marie Kausen, Lisa Meliota, Faye Schwartz and Ed Zalewski**

## Preschool News

by Darlene Kurt  
Preschool Director

All of the year-end activities at the preschool are now in the past. We had a wonderful turnout of parents for our last music classes in our three-year-old program. The children played percussion instruments, as instructed—either allegro (fast) or adagio (slow) rhythms, and either forte (loud) or piano (soft) sounds. They also played tambourines to “The Wheels on the Bus,” while making appropriate motions. We demonstrated how the students were given a chance to experiment on an electronic keyboard and then we ended with movement songs, including dancing with a parent.

Our year-end celebration for our “graduating” four/five-year-olds was another huge success. Starting at least two weeks prior to this event, the children had been practicing daily. What they like best about Ascension is shared during the ceremony and there’s lots of singing. Joyful voices shared, “Jesus Loves



Me,” “Who Is The King of The Jungle,” “This Little Light of Mine,” “Hallelu, Hallelu,” “He’s Got the Whole World In His Hands,” and our finale was, “God Bless America.” We invited the parents, grandparents and guests to join in while the students walked down the center aisle of the sanctuary waving American flags.

Our annual four-week “Summer Fun” program this year started the week after our regular school year ended. Themes included travel/vacations, Native Americans, patriotism and God’s creation of the deserts and beaches. We also had nature hunts for bugs and butterflies, water/wet fun, daily prayer time, art, music, and gymnastics. Ascension’s annual patriotic parade has always been a great way to kick off the 4th of July weekend.

Our registration for next year is under way. If you know anyone, or meet anyone interested in finding a high-quality Christian preschool for their child or grandchild, please mention us. We can meet with prospective parents all summer long. Call me at 310-373-6083. DKurt@alcrpv.org is my email. ■

## 2015 Benevolence Disbursement

by Jim Faulk  
and Betsy Anderson  
Benevolence Committee

This is the second in a series of three articles to describe the organizations that have received Ascension’s benevolence gifts during 2015. The Benevolence Committee has determined the disbursements based on local, national and global needs – this article deals with the national needs. \$12,000 of our total Benevolence of \$38,000 has been sent to national entities.



**Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ** (\$1,000) is an association of congrega-

tions and individuals who are free in Christ, accountable to one another, rooted in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and working together to fulfill Christ’s Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

They believe, teach and confess the gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the priesthood of all believers for God’s mission in the world.

# PART 2



# NATIONAL

LCMC started to evolve in 1999 in response to the ELCA’s adoption of “Called to Common Mission” which many felt was in violation of our Lutheran Confessions. Today LCMC has grown to over 700 congregations in North and Central America.

**Samaritan’s Purse** (\$4,000) was first founded in 1970 to meet emergency needs in crisis areas around the world through existing evangelical mission agencies and churches. The founder was Bob Pierce who was an evangelist with the World Wide Ministry of Youth For Christ.

Bob Pierce died of leukemia in 1978 and a year later Franklin Graham became the President and Chairman of the Board of Samaritan’s Purse. Through over 34 years of earthquakes, hurricanes, wars and famine, Franklin has led the ministry in following the example of the Good

**Continues on back page ►**

## May Treasurer’s Report

Financial Summary	May		Year-to-Date	
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted
Weekly Offerings	\$35,521	\$41,700	\$163,094	\$185,300
+ Other Income	\$4,401	\$4,170	\$23,505	\$22,985
= Total Income	\$39,922	\$45,870	\$186,599	\$208,285
- Expenses	\$44,259	\$37,581	\$208,471	\$200,901
= Net Income	-\$4,337	\$8,289	-\$21,872	\$7,384
<b>Mortgage Balance = \$62,069</b>				



THE LINK



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AND PRESCHOOL

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**July, 2015**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**◀ Benevolence Disbursement Continued**

Samaritan all across the world. The mission of Samaritan's Purse is to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

Some program categories include children's ministries, crisis and disaster responses, health and medical ministries, feeding programs and retreats in Alaska for veterans and spouses dealing with the effects of war.



**The Pathway Home (\$3,500)**

is a program started in 2008 to help veterans and their family members cope with the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), traumatic brain injury and other post-combat mental health challenges. It has helped more than 420 warriors and 180 of their family members in dealing with, and overcoming, the effects of war.

The program is only supported by private grants, donations and fundraising efforts to provide free services such as dental work, financial and/or legal advice, massage therapy, yoga and much more. They inspire residents to realize that they are valued members of a community which wants to take an active role

in helping them rebound from their difficult war experiences. This is the essence of the true homecoming that these heroes need and deserve.



**The Salvation Army's Red Shield Center (\$3,500)**

is an evangelical part of the universal Christina Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

The local Youth & Community Center serves more than 4,000 children and their parents each year, and is known in its Pico-Union neighborhood as an "oasis for families." The primary focus at the Red Shield is to guide and mentor young people and strengthen families by providing quality educational and recreational programs in a positive and safe environment that encourages personal growth.

The Red Shield sets high standards in Los Angeles with programs designed specifically for at-risk kids and their parents. Some of the special programs offered at the Center include: aerobics, aquatics, ballet, computer lab, karate, learning center, sports and teen club. ■

**◀ Call Committee News Continued**

still reviewing the new applications coming in.

The call committee wants to assure you that we are looking for candidates that meet the educational requirements (Masters of Divinity), are strong biblically-based preachers and have a background in the Lutheran faith. In addition, we are looking for someone to fit in well with the culture of Ascension. This congregation has been blessed with members who genuinely care for and support each other, regardless of any of our differences. We are looking for someone that will push us to grow our faith while maintaining our warmth and gift for hospitality.

In closing, we understand that some members are growing impatient with the process, but please remember that no matter how fast we want to go, the timing and the result are in God's hands. Ascension has enjoyed wonderful preachers in the past and we want to ensure that we move forward with the person that God has in mind for us, because we can be certain that He will continue to bless Ascension if we follow His direction.

**"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"**

**-Psalm 27:14 ■**