



# “Love & Serve: God, Neighbor & Creation”

Over 400 people (including over 200 voting representatives) gathered at CLU June 1-2, 2018 for our Southwest California Synod Assembly to listen, learn and share ideas, examples and experiences about how we are called to “Love & Serve: God, Neighbor & Creation.”

In the plenary sessions, attendees were led in Bible Studies by Pastor Steve (“Water is Sacred”; Ezekiel 47: 1-12) and Pastor Peg Shultz-Ackerson (“She Came to Draw Water”; John 4:3-15). Videos, interactive responses, and information shared by speakers illustrated to the Assembly that relationships are the foundation of congregational and ministry vitality – we are Church together, sharing our love of God and our love for our neighbor.

Six workshops were held covering a broad range of important topics: Youth in the Church, Worship Liturgy, the Detention of Youth in Palestine, the ELCA’s draft Women and Justice Statement, Addition and Recovery and Interim Ministry. Reports shared financial information from both Churchwide & Synod perspective. Resolutions addressed the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the ELCA’s Ordination of Women as well as justice and respect for neighbors at home and abroad. The work of Synod Ministry Teams & Partners was shared at tables and displays in Lundring Center.

Ascension’s voting members: Cheryl Malseed, Carol Bjelland, Pastor Julie, and Pastor Steve.

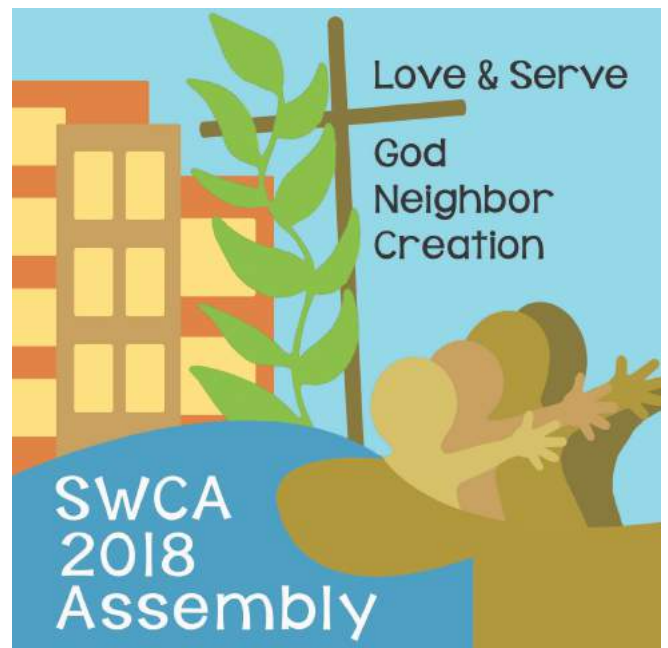
Other Ascension members in attendance: Karen Guetschoff, Louise and Paul Evenson, Mary and Howie Wennes, Pastors Melissa and Scott Maxwell-Doherty.

We congratulate Carol Bjelland who was elected to be in nomination now for the ELCA Churchwide Council.

Samuelson Chapel at CLU filled for the Assembly’s Festival Worship Service celebrating God’s Creation and our Native Neighbors. When worship concluded, Aztec dancers in native attire led the group from the Chapel, continuing the celebration of God’s Creation and our Native Neighbors.

The Worship Service’s Prayer of the Day re-capped the theme of the Assembly:

*“Creator, to you we give thanks for all you give us, and we ask for your guidance as we open our hearts and minds to you. Within this sacred circle, Jesus Christ is our center. In all we do, help us to speak with honor and respect to all people and to be open to the teachings we are given. As we walk our sacred journey, together with all of our relatives here, open our eyes to understanding. Give us the strength to see how to live with compassion, love and peace. For with your Spirit we can face the winds together. Amen.”*



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## MEMORIAL NOTES:

The memorial service for Ken Warkentein will be Saturday, June 16, at 11 AM at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Ken and Barbara were the first couple to be married at Ascension, at our original building on Conejo School Road, on June 24, 1951.

The memorial service for Anne David will be June 30 at 11 AM here at Ascension, in Pederson Hall.

Thank you for all the beautiful music,  
Howard Sonstegard!  
Blessings on your retirement,  
Howard and Vicki



Love,  
Your Ascension family



To all the singers and musicians and directors for bringing your gifts to share in our worship, for the many hours of rehearsing, and to the family members who support our music makers every day,  
Thank you!

## #ascensionmusic

Let's celebrate and make some joyful noise on social media! Please, let's share our images and thoughts with friends here, near and far. Post your photos and video from the special All Music Sunday proceedings on Instagram and Facebook and Twitter. The hashtag is #ascensionmusic. And be sure to check in on Facebook.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN  
CHURCH • SCHOOL • FOUNDATION

**LUNCH BUNCH**

Every Wednesday  
At Noon  
\$4.00

**Menu This Week**

We will meet at  
Mimi's on  
Moorpark Road  
Wednesdays at  
11 AM  
during sanctuary  
construction



For more than a decade, our altar has been graced by God's glorious flowers in beautiful array – a gift to Ascension by Jan's Flowers. Now we say a heartfelt "Thank you" to Jan, who is retiring from this ministry. We appreciate your generous giving of your time and artistic talent for all these many worship services and events. Your arrangements have been a blessing to us all.



Luke 12:27

*"Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these."*

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## MILK & HONEY

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES, JUNE 24 - JULY 22  
LITTLE LAMBS TO JUNIOR HIGH

We never stop learning and growing...why stop Sunday School when summer starts? Our summer series will be an outside hands-on experience for the children to learn in a different way about the Bible and what it means. It is not about paper and crayons, it is about rocks and dirt and life!



Join us on this journey starting on June 24th at the 9am service.

Please call or text Cori Hengst with any questions (323) 691-6083; office (805) 495-0406 Or email at [chengst@alcto.org](mailto:chengst@alcto.org)

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## Can You Help our Worship Behind the Scenes?



A new Altar Guild is being formed. This is an important opportunity to enhance the worship of Ascension, working behind the scenes to prepare for communion, tend to our eternal flame and carry out other important functions. If you have even a little interest, please make a note on your Connection Card, call the office or contact Pastor Paul Gravrock, director of worship, at [pastorpaul@alcto.org](mailto:pastorpaul@alcto.org).

Also: We are looking for a florist to continue the ministry of Jan Wagner, providing altar flowers for our worship services. If you have a recommendation or idea, please make a note on your Connection Card, call the office or contact Pastor Paul Gravrock, director of worship, at [pastorpaul@alcto.org](mailto:pastorpaul@alcto.org).

# Kudos to you, Graduates!

*In addition to last week's honorees, we're proud to congratulate these grads!*

## **Parker Krum**

Newbury Park High School

## **Caitlin Shaw**

Newbury Park High School



## **Sam Morton**

**Bachelor of Arts**

Music Production

**Bachelor of Arts**

Music

California Lutheran

University

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## *When Is Applause Appropriate in Formal Worship?*

A worship service is made up of a series of actions with the intent that, taken together, they create a seamless event of praise to God. The focus of all worship is God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and all of the aspects of worship, done by people, rightly have this single focus.

With this understanding in place, it becomes clear that applauding for any one element of the service tends to change the focus from the God who is being praised to the people who are doing the praising. When a choir sings or instrumentalists play, they are adding their sound to the congregation's praise. Anthems, songs, etc., are not performances; they are gifts of praise to God. To clap for these offerings of praise is therefore normally not appropriate. This is true even when the choir anthem, for example, is augmented with other musicians. An anthem or piece of special music is praise rather than performance.

Does this mean that applause is never appropriate? No, it does not mean this. What it does mean is that applause should not normally or automatically be given following special music any more than it would be given to the reader or the preacher or the ushers or the acolytes for doing what they do to the glory of God.

We have a practice at Ascension of applauding for the newly baptized, for those who newly join our congregation, or for "Milestone Ministry" recipients. We occasionally recognize a person or group for special service to our Lord through this congregation or in our community. This is appropriate. In these instances the applause is requested and does not interrupt the flow of the service. On these occasions we are lifting up individuals or groups as a way of offering thanks.



There will certainly be occasions when the Spirit calls forth applause, but to simply make it a practice to clap for musical groups is neither necessary nor helpful to the flow of our worship or to our focus on God, who is to be praised forevermore.

*Pastor Paul*

Director of Worship

# A Note of Gratitude

There aren't enough words to express "Thanks" to our Ascension Family for your prayers, cards, visits and calls during Dean's hospital stay and rehab. What a blessing you are! A special thanks to the members of the Eucharistic Ministry and Pastor Ron. – The Chandler Family



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## Sunday Morning Adult Education

**June 17**

**"How God Got Me Here"** Pastor Jack Ledbetter

*--Preacher, Professor, Poet--*



A personal visit with someone whom God helped find his niche through nature, teachers, music, a monk, and his college sweetheart to help him recognize his talents and to use them to the glory of God.

I am here because God worked through many people all down the line who suggested, urged, demanded and prayed me who I am and where I am. All of us are God's angels and have immense power through the universal, magnetic, and irresistible pull of God. We find our paths in ourselves and act out that pull or call in many ways, often without thinking about where this or that impulse or idea or desire comes from. But the God inside knows and urges us on into the light.

Like a mother giving birth, the earth and all creation waits, expects, groans in childbirth for each of us to take our first breath and begin to wonder who we are and why. Often it's a life-search, and blessed be the mothers, fathers, wives and husbands and children and friends who prayed us where we are. God be praised!

*Library, 9:00 and 10:30 AM*

**June 24**

**"Mental Health and the Church"**

As people of faith, how do we respond to friends and family with mental health challenges? Come learn about resources and help from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Ventura County with Deacon Lynn Bullock.

*Library, 9:00 and 10:30 AM*



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IT'S COMING.....

SAVE THE DATE: All Ascension Picnic, August 26



## IN NEED OF PRAYER

Our printed prayer list focuses on Ascension members and immediate family members. We do pray for people listed on the blue cards during church services and we do refer them to the Prayer Tree.

A name is added to this list only with the permission of the person or the person's family.

Prayer Notes and Care Notes are in the West Narthex and the library.

### Prayers of comfort for:

Nancy Coffman on the death of her brother, Norm  
Bill Munn and family on the death of wife and mother,  
Phyllis

### New prayers for:

Phil Norton, Don Norton's relative, for healing as he is hospitalized  
Terry Shepersky, for healing from surgery

### Continuing prayers for:

Bonnie Abbott	John Ernst
Connie Angress	Willis Moerer
Bonnie Bartlett	Chuck Mork
Dave Becker	Helen Nenne
Debi Bing	Cleo Sarff
Dean Chandler	Pastor John Wilker

### Prayer Focus:

For Howard and Vicki Sonstegard, as Howard retires as our director of music and they start a new chapter of their lives

For our Peru mission: Pastor David, Sister Emilia, the Pachacamac community (please pray for them each Wednesday at 6 pm, as they do for us, and for our Mission Peru 2018 trip)

### Prayers for our missionaries:

Tim and Roxanne Ault in Brazil  
Randy Stubbs in Tanzania

### Prayers for safekeeping:

Connor Braaten, USMC  
Scott Clark, U.S. Navy  
LCpL. Alexander Daley  
Tim David, U.S. Army  
Col. Karl L. Johnson, U.S. Army  
ET2 Patrick Maccarone, USN  
Scott Mochatel, U.S. Coast Guard  
LCJG Caroline Truesdell, USCG

*Please take this prayer list home and pray in the coming week for the needs expressed*

## Chemo Comfort Bags

Women's Ministry wants those needing chemotherapy to know they are not alone. Available thru the church office are chemo comfort bags. Just stop by and pick one up for family or friends – anyone you know who may be needing chemotherapy treatment at home or in the hospital. These bags (child, teen or adult bags available) have a variety of items designed to make the treatment perhaps more comfortable. We hope as they grab their comfort bag they will know that not only is God with them but we too are sending prayers for strength and healing.



ICCV  
ISLAMIC CENTER of  
CONEJO VALLEY

Please join us for our

# Family of Abraham Picnic

June 30th 2018  
12-4pm  
Food served 1-2:30pm

Conejo Creek North  
Lakeside, behind Main Library.

1379 Janss Rd, T.O  
Please RSVP to  
FamilyofAbrahampicnic@gmail.com

PosterMyWall.com

# CALENDAR

## June 10-16

### Sunday, June 10

10:00 am      Worship Service – Music, Sanctuary  
11:30 am      Program and potluck, Pederson Hall  
7:00 pm      NA Women's Group, Library

### Monday, June 11

6:00 pm      Adult Children of Alcoholics, Modular  
7:30 pm      Sr. Luther League Bible Study, Dugout

### Tuesday, June 12

6:30 am      Men's Bible Study, Sidestreet Cafe  
9:00 am      Christ Care, Founder's Hall Kitchen  
10:00 am      'In Touch' Prayer Team, Prayer Chapel  
6:45 pm      Narcotics Anonymous, Bethlehem Room  
7:30 pm      Small Group Bible Study, Library

### Wednesday, June 13

7:00 pm      Global Ministries, Bethlehem Room

### Thursday, June 14

9:00 am      Coffee Talk With Pastor Tim, Library  
7:30 pm      Men's Bible Study, Library

### Friday, June 15

12:30 pm      GriefShare, Library  
7:30 pm      CODA, Library

### Saturday, June 16

10:00 am      Alanon, Bethlehem Room  
10:00 am      Overeaters Anonymous, Library  
6:00 pm      Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary

## June 17-23

### Sunday, June 17 *HAPPY FATHER'S DAY*

9:00 am      Adult Ed. Pastor Jack Ledbetter, Library  
9:00 am      Worship Service – Traditional, Pederson Hall  
10:30 am      Adult Ed. Pastor Jack, Bethlehem Room  
10:30 am      Worship Service – Contemp., Pederson Hall  
2:00 pm      Christian Life Hour, Univ. Village Oak View  
7:00 pm      NA Women's Group, Library

### Monday, June 18

6:00 pm      Adult Children of Alcoholics, Modular  
7:00 pm      Stephen Ministry, Library  
7:30 pm      Sr. Luther League Bible Study, Dugout

### Tuesday, June 19

6:30 am      Men's Bible Study, Sidestreet Cafe  
9:00 am      Christ Care, Founder's Hall Kitchen  
10:00 am      'In Touch' Prayer Team, Prayer Chapel  
6:45 pm      Narcotics Anonymous, Bethlehem Room  
7:30 pm      Small Group Bible Study, Library

### Wednesday, June 20

10:00 am      Christian Life Hour, Senior Concerns  
7:00 pm      Church Council Meeting, Bethlehem Room

### Thursday, June 21

9:00 am      Coffee Talk With Pastor Tim, Library  
1:30 pm      Women's Book Club, Bethlehem Room

### Friday, June 22

12:30 pm      GriefShare, Library  
7:30 pm      CODA, Library

### Saturday, June 23

10:00 am      Alanon, Bethlehem Room  
10:00 am      Overeaters Anonymous, Library  
6:00 pm      Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary

## Make a Date:

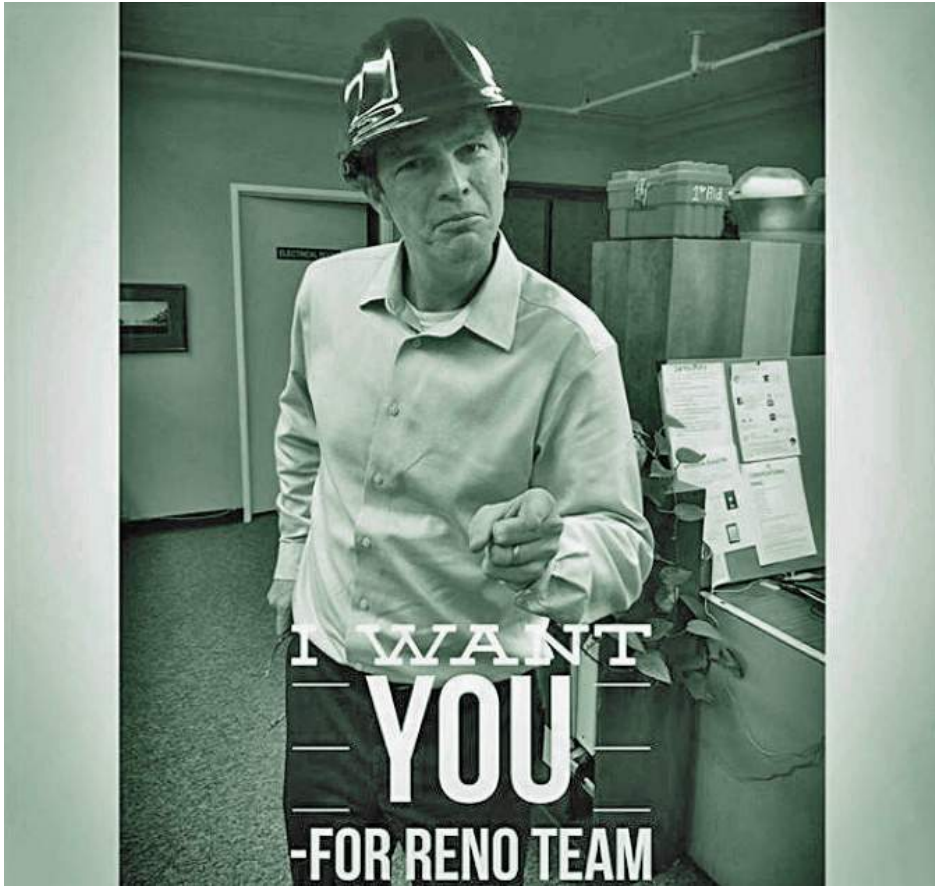
# *The Ultimate Garden Party*



Save the date for the ultimate garden party, Sunday afternoon, July 22, at 4:00 PM, at the home of Jack and Marcia Koenig, 29000 Tackaberry Court, Agoura Hills.

Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp will give a presentation on possibilities for our new church garden. Original poems by Jack Ledbetter. Top Napa wine with hors d'oeuvres by Gelson's, plus garden music. Sign up in the church office.





## RENO-VATION NATION

We're moving to Pederson Hall for the summer, as our sanctuary undergoes renovation. There is still a lot of prep to be done before the new pews and equipment arrive.

Can you lend a hand? If you can help -- a short time, or a longer time, or the whole time! -- we want you! You'll find different jobs scheduled for different times and days posted for signups.

Just go to our [ALCTO.org](http://ALCTO.org) website and click on this image at the bottom of the front page to check them out. Or, if you prefer, sign up by calling the office.

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## YOUTH PLEASE NOTE:

Our final National Youth Gathering meeting will be on Monday, June 11th at 6:30pm in the Dugout. Don't miss this mandatory meeting! Students registered for this year's Summer Tour and their parents are invited to this informational meeting where you will receive the final itinerary for our trip.



**Give by texting to  
(805) 360-5092**

*Use the number you wish to donate as message. Example 25.*



**CHILDRENS MINISTRIES**  
**DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE OLD CRAYONS!!**

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JUNE WE WILL BE COLLECTING YOUR UNWRAPPED, USED CRAYONS TO MELT DOWN AND MAKE NEW CRAYONS FOR PASTOR STEVE TO TAKE TO PERU!

FIND THE BRIGHTLY COLORED BOX THAT SAYS CRAYONS FOR PERU WHEN ENTERING PEDERSON HALL

**WE WILL HAVE A MELTING PARTY ON JULY 8TH AT NOON...LOCATION TBD**

questions? please contact Cori Hengst 323-691-6083 or [chengst@alcto.org](mailto:chengst@alcto.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# In God we trust.

*Weekly worship*

*Saturday 6 pm Country*

*Sunday 8 and 9:30 am Traditional*

*11 am Contemporary*

*Childcare at all Sunday services*

**Pastoral Care Emergency Line: (805) 405-7431**

*Give by text (805) 360-5092*

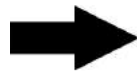
Exodus 15  
Psalm 150  
Revelation 4-5  
Luke 1:67-79

Ezek. 17:22-24  
Psalm 92:1-4,12-15  
2 Cor. 5:6-10, 14-17  
Mark 4:26-34

## ***Vacation Bible School***

July 23-27, 9 AM - Noon  
3 years old to 6th grade

Click on this image  
on the bottom front page  
of our website  
[www.ALCTO.org](http://www.ALCTO.org)  
for registration and  
volunteer info.



**June 24**  
Mal. 3:1-4  
Psalm 141  
Acts 13:13-26  
Luke 1:57-67

