The September 2022 SPIRE

The Newsletter of the
Episcopal Church of the Ascension,
Sierra Madre, California

Upcoming Events

Please see the calendar on page 4 for an updated list of events.

FALL KICK-OFF
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

ONLY ONE SERVICE AT 9:30AM

FOLLOWED BY A STRUCTURED POTLUCK IN HAWKS HALL

FRIENDS IN DEED *

Please join in Ascension's monthly collection of specific "Gold Items" for Friends in Deed. For the month of September we will be collecting peanut butter and sunflower seed butter.

Look for the donation bin at the back of the church.

AUGUST 2022 Pledge Payment Snapshot

2022 Budget $210,000

YTD Budget:	$140,000
YTD Actual:	$136,422
Difference:	$-3,578

From the Rector

As September approaches, I once again have to ask myself - Where did the summer go?

Debbie and I were unable to get away for a number of reasons. As the summer began, we were hopeful our son Matt and his family would be able to get some leave and come to California; but the Navy had other plans. (Matt finally got home in mid – July and met his daughter!) In addition, a lot of time and energy was spent helping Debbie's mom get ready to move into a community situation. (As I write this article, plans are in the works for Fay to move to the British Home here in Sierra Madre for a thirty-day trial.) Oh, and did I mention we had a roofing project here on the Parish Hall?

Looking ahead, we have our Fall Kickoff on Sunday, September 11th with a single service at 9:30, followed by a Potluck in Hawks Hall. At the service, we'll be welcoming back the choir and commissioning them, as well as three new members of the Altar Guild. Our campus soon will have the cheerful noise of the Gooden students. And there is the Episcopal night at Dodger Stadium on the 23rd when Bishop Taylor will throw out the First Pitch. In October, it seems likely I will be travelling for the first time in years for the General Board of Examining Chaplains and for Episcopal Relief and Development.

Finally, let me repeat a word about Covid safety. We know that Covid is still part of our reality. We continue here at Ascension to follow Los Angeles County Health Department guidelines. Masks are strongly recommended at worship. In addition, many of us are testing regularly, even though we don't have any symptoms. I would encourage anyone and everyone to stay home if you're feeling unwell. (That's just common sense – Covid or not!) Keep Deacon Ed and me posted if you should become ill. (True of any illness – not just Covid…) I continue to pray that we'll get into a new normal that will feel safe and comfortable.

Father Michael+

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

We would like to remind everyone that you can now sign-up for altar flowers and sanctuary candles online through Signup Genius. You can also sign-up on the sign-up sheets in Hawks Hall.

****Payment should be made by CHECK ($40.00 for flowers and $15.00 for a candle) **payable to Church of the Ascension.** **** Please include a note giving the date that you signed up for and any dedication.

Here are the sign-up genius links:
Sanctuary Candles: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a4a628a7f94-sanctuary

Altar Flowers: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a4a628a7f94-altar

As the renovation of our home lingers on, I'm faced everyday with decisions ranging from the really easy to the very difficult. Like everything else in life, there are always choices to be made.

Each day we have many choices to make from the time we open our eyes in the morning to the time we put our heads on the pillow at night. We may not always realize it; but we are making decisions, conscious and unconscious, all day long. Some small, some big, some heavy, some just for fun, but all with consequences for ourselves and those around us.

The renovation process has caused me to look within myself and evaluate my choices. I started thinking that if it looks good and makes me happy, then it must be okay. It's about balance. I'm realizing that my external life and choices are often a reflection of my internal life.

We all strive to be at peace with ourselves, for our internal and external lives to be in sync. Imagine being in that state constantly. Perhaps that's what the saints and mystics knew was the secret to living a balanced and meaningful life.

I'm certainly not a saint nor mystic. I do know this though, that God always goes before me in any situation and that I can always draw strength from the faith I have that God is always there with me. Every time I acknowledge that, every time I make decisions in that light, I build confidence in my ability to choose the best way, to make the right decision. These are the moments when I have glimpses of my internal and external life being in sync and for the moment might imagine being a saint or mystic.

Be well, be blessed, be confident.
Deacon Ed+

SAVE THE DATE! SEPTEMBER 11
FALL KICK-OFF AND POTLUCK

On September 11 we will be having just ONE SERVICE at 9:30am to celebrate the kick-off of our fall programs. After the service we will have a potluck in Hawks Hall. Please save the date and help us celebrate the coming year!

Sign-up for the potluck on the bulletin board in Hawks Hall, or by contacting Lisa Wagner at 626-710-8909 or lisawagner069@gmail.com.

Sparkling Lemonade will be provided by the church.

Desserts will be provided by Lisa Wagner.

Please be sure your dish serves 8-10 people.

Please drop off your dishes in the kitchen before the service. Looking forward to seeing our Church families for fellowship and great food.

Peace, Lisa Wagner
Hospitality Hostess

IT'S HALLOWEEN TIME!!!!

Once again we will be distributing Halloween Candy on October 31!!!!!

Please bring candy donations (large bags of individually wrapped pieces) to church and they will be safely stored until the ghoulish night... thank you

MUSIC AT ASCENSION

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Mr. Robert L. Williamson
Organist-Choirmaster

The Choir Returns

As we approach the fall term and programming year, let us welcome back the choir. This season the choir will present a Choral Evensong (October 30th at 4:00pm), A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (December 11th at the 10:15am service), and a Candlelight Carols Concert at 9:00pm on Christmas Eve.

We hope you will join us for all of these events.

New Faces in the Choir

I would like to take a moment to welcome two new members to the Ascension Choir: Jamie Gorman and Lila Gorman. They are a mother and daughter duo from the same family, and we are so proud to add them to our musical ensemble.

Welcome Jamie and Lila!

Musicians for the Holidays

As we approach the Holy Feast days and holidays, we will need additional musicians for our services. I am asking for donations to be given to the music fund to assist with the incurred costs of the musicians. Your generous gift may be given in honor or in memorial of that special person or persons. The gift and names will be listed in the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service leaflet.

Soli Deo Gloria

*Our vision is that **The Episcopal Church of the Ascension** serves Christ today for those who will come to know Christ tomorrow.*

WORSHIP, FORMATION, PASTORAL CARE, FELLOWSHIP, OUTREACH, PRESENCE

25 E. Laurel Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024 ~ 626-355-1133 www.ascension-sierramadre.com

SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	2	3
4 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	5 8:30am Yoga/Hall Labor Day Office Closed	6 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets	7 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 	8 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum	9	10 10am Choir Rehearsal Hall
11 9:30am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* FALL KICK-OFF FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK *ONLY (1) SERVICE AT 9:30AM*	12 8:30am Yoga/Hall	13 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets	14 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hal	15 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	16	17
18 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	19 8:30am Yoga/Hall	20 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets 7:00pm Vestry Meeting Hall	21 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	22 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum	23 7pm Episcopal Dodger Night Dodger Stadium	24 2pm-5pm Piano Recital Hall Private
25 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	26 8:30am Yoga/Hall 6:30pm- 9:30pm Photochromers Meeting Hall Private	27 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets	28 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	29 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum	30	

Spire Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator