



Now the  
birth of  
**Jesus  
Christ**  
took place  
in this way.

Matthew 1:8, ESV

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"  
Sunday, December 21, 2025



## + PREPARATION +

### THEME: “NOTHING TO FIGURE OUT”

**AS WE GATHER:** Though Matthew is already telling of the birth of Jesus Christ, it is not yet the account we look forward to hearing on Christmas Eve. But this one, lighter on details, is heavy with the promise Jesus’ birth fulfills. This Sunday, we hear of Joseph’s own angel visit, of the name that shall be given to this child, and of His birth to save His people from their sins. All of this is prefigured in the voice of the Advent prophet Isaiah and framed in the essential message of the church by the words of Paul. Each of the readings appointed for today remind us that God has it all figured out, and even though it all unfolded in time before us, it was appointed by God from the beginning of time. As we remember again all that happened, we also happily remember that God still has it all in hand and that Christ is not only the fulfiller of the past but also the author of the future.

### PRELUDE

**“Gesu Bambino” (Baby Jesus)**

(11:00)

music by Pietro Yon

**Audrey Zeebuyth, violin**

### WELCOME

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain      Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord’rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. **(refrain)**

- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. **(refrain)**
  
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **(refrain)**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln;  
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt., Text: Public domain

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTiON Psalm 130:7; Philippians 1:6

**P** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

**C** and with Him is plentiful redemption.

*Silence for self-examination.*

**P** Holy and gracious God,

**C** I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Love is the greatest of all the virtues on the Advent wreath and encompasses Jesus' entire purpose for being on earth (1 Corinthians 13:13). Not surprisingly, the Bible has a lot to say about love. God is love (1 John 4). People know we are Christians by our love (1 Corinthians 13:1). Love sacrificed God's Son for our sins.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 gives us several characteristics of love: it's patient, kind, it does not envy, etc. We cannot walk with Christ without it, and we cannot have the Christmas story without it. Also, you'll notice that in the center of the Advent wreath is the large white candle known as the "Christ" candle. It is larger than the others and centered in the wreath to show that Christ is the reason for the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love that we have, and that He is the Light of the world. Jesus is the reason for the season!

*(The Advent candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE are lit.)*

**"Peace, Peace, Peace"**

(tune: Still, Still, Still)

Hope, hope, hope - The light of Christ is hope.  
In all our darkness Christ is shining,  
Leading upward, faith refining.  
Hope, hope, hope - The light of Christ is hope.

Peace, peace, peace - The gift of Christ is peace.  
We walk with God, our past forgiven.  
All in Him is life and heaven.  
Peace, peace, peace - The gift of Christ is peace.

Joy, joy, joy - We praise You, Christ, with joy!  
Our peace, our hope, our love and treasure,  
Highest calling, deepest pleasure!  
Joy, joy, joy - We praise You, Christ, with joy!

Love, love, love - The heart of Christ is love.  
On all who come He pours His presence,  
Life and love in holy essence.  
Love, love, love - The heart of Christ is love.

"Peace, Peace, Peace", Words by Ken Bible, Music: Traditional Austrian Melody; arr. by Ken Bible, © 2006 by LNWhymns.com. CCLI Song #4663940.

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, all our plans come to nothing, but we daily live with fear and disappointment. Grant to us hopeful hearts, that knowing You have kept Your Word and delivered up Your only Son to be our Savior, we may live in peace and confidence, assured that You will bring all things to their perfect end in Christ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and to the end of the ages.

**C** Amen.

## **SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## **+ THE WORD +**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 7:10-17 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And He said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the Boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE READING

Romans 1:1-7 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through Whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with Child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,  
and they shall call His name Immanuel”  
(which means, God with us).

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And he called His name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## PRAYER/LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

### “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

LSB 900

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee  
Bow in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,  
To the maiden mother told,  
Kneeling in her lowly cell,  
By the angel Gabriel.
- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth  
To the fallen of the earth  
For the promise that it gave,  
“Jesus shall His people save.”
- 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,  
Given to the holy Child  
When the cup of human woe  
First He tasted here below.
- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.

“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”, Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt., Text: Public domain

### SERMON “TRUST HIS PLAN”

Pr. Jim Sprengle  
Matthew 1:18-25

### APOSTLES' CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)*

### **“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**(11:00)**

with additional words and music by D. Gokey and H. Bentley  
**Alexa Sprengle, solo**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For faith to rejoice in the promise of the Father kept in Christ, for an end to worries and fears, and for peace to rule our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the courage in the face of danger and confidence in the face of doubt, knowing that God will keep us as His own possession, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this congregation and the church across many nations, called by the Spirit and sustained by the means of grace, that we may not fail to tell the story of our Savior’s birth nor the promise of His name, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peoples and leaders of all the nations, that in every place they may know justice and be free to worship the Lord without fear, and for an end to violence and war, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all those who protect us in this and every place, for the emergency workers and disaster relief personnel, and for those who watch on our behalf in the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For generous hearts that those in poverty and need may be supplied from the abundance the Lord has granted to us, and for our tithes and offerings to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For families and homes, especially those alone in this holy season of our Savior's birth, that we may love and serve them, extending Christ's compassion to all those around us, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For God's mercy to the sick, His relief to those who suffer, His presence with the grieving and dying, and His peace to those troubled in mind or spirit...let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who celebrate this week...let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all those who travel and those whose celebrations may be missing loved ones, that the Lord may at last bring us together in His presence on high, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Come to the aid of Your people, O Lord, and defend us against all our enemies of body and soul, that at the day You have appointed, we may rejoice in Your presence together with those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest in peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and the Spirit You are one God, one Lord, now and to the end of the ages.

**C** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

(8:30am service, please turn to page 14 for the benediction)

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

We believe in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness of all our sins.  
(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available on the cup return table.)

## PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

**+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +**

**“Agnus Dei”**

- 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**
  
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

“Agnus Dei”, Text: Stephen P. Starke

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

LSB 621

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
Comes our homage to demand.**
  
- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.**
  
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light, descending  
From the realms of endless day,  
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish  
As the darkness clears away.**
  
- 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
“Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”**

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt., Text: Public domain

## “O Living Bread from Heaven”

(tune: The Church’s One Foundation)

- 1 O living Bread from heaven,  
How well You feed your guest!  
The gifts that You have given  
Have filled my heart with rest.  
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,  
Oh, cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing,  
With praises overflows.
- 2 My Lord, You here have led me  
To this most holy place  
And with Yourself have fed me  
The treasures of Your grace;  
For You have freely given  
What earth could never buy,  
The bread of life from heaven,  
That now I shall not die.
- 3 You gave me all I wanted;  
This food can death destroy.  
And You have freely granted  
The cup of endless joy.  
My Lord, I do not merit  
The favor You have shown,  
And all my soul and spirit  
Bow down before Your throne.
- 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened  
With heav’lly food, while here  
My course on earth is lengthened,  
To serve with holy fear.  
And when You call my spirit  
To leave this world below,  
I enter, through Your merit,  
Where joys unmixed flow.

“O Living Bread from Heaven”, Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt., Text: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** for His steadfast love endures forever.

**P** O Lord, God Almighty, everlasting Father, we pray You to open our hearts to Your Spirit that we may enter into the holy contemplation of our Savior's birth with sins forgiven and hearts at peace, knowing that He who moved time and eternity for us and our salvation will preserve us in all uncertainty and fear and bring us to the perfect fulfillment of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with the Father and the Spirit are one God, now and even to the end of all the ages.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(See the FYI in the back of the Bulletin for more information.)

### “Savior of the Nations, Come”

LSB 332

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

"Savior of the Nations, Come", Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973; (st. 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain, Text (sts. 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God!

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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"Angels We Have Heard On High", CCLI Song # 7138373, Danny Gokey | Hank Bentley © 2019 Better Than I Found It; Capitol CMG Paragon; Songs By That Dog Will Hunt, For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

**† CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO SHUT-INS**

Anyone who wants to participate can gather TODAY after 11:00am worship service, we'll then go to various homes and care centers to sing to our shut-ins. Our time ends when we gather at Fairlawn at about 4:00pm.

**† THANK YOU FROM PASTOR JIM AND MICHELE**

We would like to express our thanks for the great turnout at our Christmas open house! We loved having all of you at our home!

**† CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR PASTOR AND STAFF**

There is a small white envelope in your church mailbox labeled "Staff Gift." This annual tradition gives you an opportunity to express your appreciation to Pastor Jim and the staff of Ascension for their faithful service throughout the year. If you would like to participate, please place your gift in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or drop it in the offering mail slot by the office door before December 24. Be sure to use the provided envelope or clearly mark your contribution as "Staff Gift." Thanks, from your Board of Elders

**† INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ALTAR GUILD?**

We are seeking new members to join our Altar Guild—as a member, you will participate approximately one time per month in meaningful activities such as setting up communion, rotating the colors for paraments and banners, and decorating the altar to reflect calendar changes throughout the church year. We warmly invite you to become a part of our team. Interested? Contact Margo Bachhuber or Virginia Jacobs for details.

**† THE LUTHERAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION**

This 60-voice non-denominational choir will present its annual Christmas/Epiphany concert on Sunday, January 4 at 4:00pm at Peace Lutheran Church (2201 N Rosa Parks Way, Portland, 97217). They are directed by Sue Thompson Armentrout, with Karl Jurisons, accompanist. The concert is open to all. There is no admission charge; a free will offering will be collected.

**† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

Regan, Diane, Ed and Ingrid (friends and neighbors of Cynthia Jacobsen), Barbara Lewis, Carlyn Staudt, Marla Graber, Joann Schulz, Chenery Whittier's son (Aaryan), Heather Gulde, Riki Neagle, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, Jerry and Alma Bangs.\*Barbara Schrader, \*Larry Hart, \*Mike Fogarty, \*Mel and Lorraine Haggard.  
\*Home Bound.

## † PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)  
Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy, Kaneohe Bay HI (nephew of Merci McInaney)  
Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)  
Colton Wright, Navy – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)  
Tyler Young, Navy – Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).  
Bradley Zeller, Army – Fort Lewis WA (grandson of the Zeller's)  
Kyle Zeller, Army – Deployed to Poland (grandson of the Zeller's)

## † WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will resume our Bible Study on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, with lesson 4. See you then!

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## ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., DEC. 21, 2025

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	8:30am	11:00am
<b>Elder:</b>	Dave Oswald	Wyatt Brown
<b>Ushers:</b>	Mike Adams Rich Bartell	Marcus Young Paul Walter
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Stan Chapulis	J. E. Knox
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Debbie Rekdahl	Rosemary Knox
<b>Greeters:</b>	Sheryl Maier	Esperanza Gutierrez Margaret Hubbard
<b>Readers:</b>	Peggy Hall	Caleb Zeebuyth
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: Barb Cochran	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services: Karen Zahursky	
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Dave and Jan Oswald	
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Carrie and Carolyn	

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## SERVANTS CHRISTMAS EVE WED., DEC. 24, 2025

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	7:00pm
<b>Elder:</b>	Randy Schroeder
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis <b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	J. E. Knox
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Rosemary Knox
<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Jan Oswald and Karen Zahursky
<b>Counters:</b>	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

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## **SERVANTS CHRISTMAS DAY DEC. 25, 2025**

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	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	John Hazen
<b>Ushers:</b>	Rich Bartell
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Jan Oswald and Karen Zahursky
<b>Counters:</b>	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

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## **ASSISTING NEXT SUNDAY, DEC. 28, 2025**

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	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Randy Bryant	Bob Ritchie
<b>Ushers:</b>	Duke Sheppard	Matthias McInaney
	Bryant Sheppard	John Aden
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Wanda Cassetty	John Hazen
<b>Greeters:</b>	Nancy Thomas	Sue Lewis
<b>Readers:</b>	Jim Eckart	Carlyn Staudt
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: Virginia Jacobs	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services: <b>NEEDED</b>	
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Bob and Elaina Ritchie	
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Hana and Gina	

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## **EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., DEC. 21 – SAT., DEC. 27**

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<b>Sunday, Dec. 21</b>	8:30am	Worship w/ Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
	7:00pm	C-101
<b>Monday, Dec. 22</b>	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 24</b>	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight
<b>Thursday, Dec. 25</b>	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship
	All Day	Church Office Closed
<b>Saturday, Dec. 27</b>	8:00am	Iron Men Fellowship

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## EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., DEC. 28–SAT., JAN. 3, 2026

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<b>Sunday, Dec. 28</b>	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship w/ Communion
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
	7:00pm	C-101
<b>Monday, Dec. 29</b>	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 31</b>	7:00pm	New Year's Eve Worship
<b>Thursday, Jan 1</b>	All Day	Church Office Closed
	6:00pm	NO Praise Team
	7:00pm	NO Choir Practice

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## MILESTONES – Sunday, Dec. 21 through Sat., Dec. 27

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### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Linda Tatum	Dec. 21	Brayson Pardue	Dec. 24
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### BIRTHDAYS:

Jerry Bangs	Dec. 21	Brandy Webber	Dec. 21
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### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Doug and Chenery Whittier	Dec. 23, 2023
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## Attendance

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Sunday, Dec. 14	8:30am	50
	11:00am	76
Advent Midweek 3 Dec. 17	3:30pm	24
	<u>7:00pm</u>	<u>23</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>173</b>

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## GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS

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November General Fund Tithes	\$ 42,820.52
November Expenses	<u>\$ 32,231.03</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>+ \$ 10,589.49</b>
Year-to-Date General Fund Tithes	\$ 186,794.75
Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 171,627.16</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>+ \$ 15,167.59</b>

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## DEDICATED OFFERINGS

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November <b>Dedicated Offerings</b>	\$ 13,803.75
Year-to-Date <b>Dedicated Offerings</b>	\$ 41,947.37



1440 SE 182<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97233  
Office Phone: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://www.alcportland.org)  
Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## **Our Mission Statement:**

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## **Our Vision Statement:**

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”*

he members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God's witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

## **STAFF**

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