



*“Bethlehem*

out of you will come...  
one who will be  
ruler over

*Israel”*

Micah 5:2 *NIV*

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”  
Sunday, December 22, 2024

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Welcome** to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

**NURSERY AVAILABLE** We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

**For those wishing to commune at the Lords Table with us today:**

The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23–30). Thus, attendance at the Lords Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christs body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of ones sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament; and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins. (*Grape juice is available for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*)

**Para aquellos que desean participar en la Santa Cena con nosotros hoy:** *La práctica luterana de la comunión intenta evitar que una persona coma y beba el juicio de Dios sobre sí mismo (1 Corintios 11:23–30). Por lo tanto, la asistencia a la Cena del Señor implica un compromiso de cuatro niveles con Cristo. Creemos que los comulgantes deben: (1) ser bautizados como cristianos; (2) aceptar la presencia real del cuerpo de Cristo en el pan y Su sangre en el vino; (3) confesar y arrepentirse de sus pecados y confiar en que Dios ofrece el perdón completo de esos pecados en este Sacramento; y (4) compartir la unidad de fe, doctrina y práctica entre los que comulgan. Aquellos que desean comulgan con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. (El jugo de uva está disponible para aquellos que no beben alcohol, y hostias libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición.)*

## + PREPARATION +

### THEME: “THE HOUSE OF BREAD”

**AS WE GATHER:** On the Last Sunday in Advent, our attention fully turns to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. In just two days, on Christmas Eve, people around the world will celebrate this event. The Gospel proclaims that all the Old Testament promises about the Savior are about to come true. At the moment the angel speaks God’s Word to Mary, the promise from Hebrews 10:5 — “a body you have prepared for Me”—is fulfilled as Jesus is conceived in her womb. But how does the prophecy about Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) connect to a poor girl in Nazareth? As we celebrate the Christmas Day, this question ties closely to the meaning of Bethlehem, which means "House of Bread," and its connection to the Lord’s Supper.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

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

John 1:5, 9; 3:16; Psalm 36:5–9

**P** We light the fourth Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** The fourth Advent candle has been known as the angel candle and the candle of love. As our Advent season soon ends, we await the angelic message of the good news of a Savior. We have come to know the love of the one true God this season and always as we have prepared to celebrate His birth. We know God’s promises come to fruition in Jesus, who later made known His Father’s love in His being born into this world; in His life, ministry, teaching, preaching, healing; and ultimately in His dying and rising. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

- C** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- P** Guided by the light of love, we respond with the psalmist: “Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.
- C** Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.
- P** How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
- C** They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.
- P** For with You is the fountain of life;
- C** in Your light do we see light.”

**Light A Candle For All To See** *(Four Advent candles are lit.)*

Words and Music by Lloyd Larson  
**Ascension Choir and Congregation**

**CANTOR** Light a candle for all to see.

**C** Light a candle for all to see.

**CANTOR** The King shall come for you and me.

**C** The King shall come for you and me.

**CANTOR** Gift of love: Emmanuel.

**C** Gift of love: Emmanuel.

**CANTOR** And with us He shall ever dwell.

**C** And with us He shall ever dwell. Emmanuel: God with us, King of kings and Lord of lords! Come fill our hearts with Your love and reign forevermore.

I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. I will declare that Your steadfast love stands firm forever, that Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. *(Psalm 89:1-2)*

The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."  
(*Jeremiah 31:3*) "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." (*John 3:16*)

**CANTOR** Light a candle for all to see.

**C** Light a candle for all to see.

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**C** And with us He shall ever dwell.  
Emmanuel: God with us,  
King of kings and Lord of lords!  
Come fill our hearts with Your love  
and reign forevermore.  
  
Emmanuel: God with us,  
King of kings and Lord of lords!  
Come fill our hearts with Your love  
and reign forevermore.

## INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*(Silence for reflection and confession)*

**C** **Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to be born in our flesh, to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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

Micah 5:2-5a (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for Me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore He shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of His brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the  
LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And He shall be their peace.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:4-10 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. <sup>5</sup> That is why, when Christ came into the world, He said to [the Father], "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But You have given Me a body to offer. <sup>6</sup> You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. <sup>7</sup> Then I [Jesus] said, 'Look, I have come to do Your will, O God-- as is written about Me in the Scriptures.'" <sup>8</sup> First, Christ said, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were You pleased with them" (though they are required by the law of Moses). <sup>9</sup> Then [Christ] said, "Look, I have come to do Your will, [Father]." [So, Jesus] cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect. <sup>10</sup> For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 1:39-45 (ESV)

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

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

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

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

**PRAYER AND LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**LSB 361**

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!



3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

O Little Town of Bethlehem, Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93, Text: Public domain

**SERMON**  
**“THE HOUSE OF BREAD”**

Pr. Jim Sprengle  
Micah 5:2-5a

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**☐ 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.)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the church, for the people of God, and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Lord, Ancient of Days, we look forward to celebrating our King, who was promised to be born in Bethlehem, among the small clan of Judah. He fulfilled the old covenant and brought life and grace through the new covenant we now live in. We await our King's return, when He will restore what is broken and bring eternal life and light. Be with us as we near the end of this Advent season, preparing and rejoicing in our everlasting King, who has come and will come again. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Ever-present King, we lift up those who have been placed in authority over us in our community, state, nation, and world. Guide and direct their decisions that they be pleasing to You and for the benefit of all, including the marginalized, the voiceless, and the outcast. Where there is violence and warfare, grant peace. Where there is distress, bring stability. Where there is terror, bring comfort. Where there are opportunities for us to bring compassion and concern through our voices and actions, compel us to do so faithfully. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** King of grace, the one sacrifice needed on our behalf has been given in Jesus, who was born into this world to take upon Himself our sin, burdens, and shame. In the new covenant of grace You have established through Him, help us through Your Spirit to remain faithful to You in Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty King, Your ways are not our ways nor are Your thoughts our thoughts. In days of doubts and despair that arise, in cases of confusion, and in times of trial and tribulation,

remind us of Your kingdom in which we have been called and Your eternal kingdom to come. Be with those who struggle and suffer in any kind of way... Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** King of all creation, we give You thanks for Your goodness and for that which You have blessed us with. We rejoice with those who celebrate this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (sung)**

*(tune: "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns")*

Our Father who in heaven art,  
All hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done,  
Throughout this earthly frame,

As cheerfully as 'tis by those  
Who dwell with Thee on high;  
Lord, let Thy bounty day by day  
Our daily food supply;

As we forgive our enemies,  
Thy pardon, Lord, we crave;  
Into temptation lead us not,  
But us from evil save;

For kingdom, pow'r and glory, all  
Belong, O Lord, to Thee;  
Thine from eternity they were,  
And Thine shall ever be.

**(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 upon request.)*

### **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**

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

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

**C** Amen.

## + DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

### **Lamb of God**

LSB 550

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod,  
And to become the Lamb of God.

**Refrain**     **O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

- 2 Your Gift of love they crucified,  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud,  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **(refrain)**
- 3 I was so lost, I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod,  
And to be called a lamb of God. **(refrain)**

Lamb of God, Text: Twila Paris, 1958, Text: © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission:  
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## Be Unto Your Name

We are a moment, You are forever,  
Lord of the ages, God before time,  
We are a vapor, You are eternal,  
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

### (Chorus)

**Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,  
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain,  
Highest praises, honor and glory  
Be unto Your name, Be unto Your name.**

We are the broken, You are the healer,  
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save,  
You are the love song we'll sing forever,  
Bowing before You, blessing Your name. **(chorus x2)**

Be Unto Your Name, Gary Sadler | Lynn DeShazo. CCLI Song # 2177476© 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music  
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## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Psalm 136:1

- P** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** for His steadfast love endures forever.
- P** We thank You for the new covenant You have established, given  
and shed in the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for  
the forgiveness of sins. Help us serve You humbly, love You with  
all our hearts, and love our neighbors as ourselves.
- 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.)

## My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

- 1 My soul rejoices, My spirit voices—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
For God my Savior has shown me favor—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
With praise and blessing,  
Join in confessing God, who is solely  
Mighty and holy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
His mercy surely  
Shall rest securely  
On all who fear Him,  
Love and revere Him—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
- 2 His arm now baring, His strength declaring—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
The proud He scatters, their rule He shatters—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
Oppression halted; the meek exalted.  
Full are the hungry;  
Empty, the wealthy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
Here is the token  
All that was spoken  
To Abr'ham's offspring  
God is fulfilling—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

My Soul Rejoices, Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955, Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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

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**† FROM THE HUMAN CARE BOARD**

Donations for adult Christmas stockings at my Father's House will end today. Thank you for continuing to support My Father's House.

**† JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY!**

We are gathering in the church narthex around 12:30pm and plan to finish by 5:00pm. Let's share the hope and joy of Jesus, the REASON for the SEASON!

**† NEW YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

All young adults are welcome to attend a Bible Study each Monday night at 6:00pm.

**† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

Sue Lewis and her family, Herb and Carol Hoefer, Barb Cochran and her family, Pastor Ruberto and his family, Riki Neagle, Carolyn Gordon, Mike Fogarty, Karla Deal, The family of Bob Rekdahl, Jan Galberth, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, Ed Hubbard, Alma Bangs, Marcia Bryant's relative (Ron), Kaye Beaulieu's Brother (Dick), Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), Esperanza Gutierrez' mother (Antonia), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Larry Hart, \*Mel and Lorraine Haggard. \*Home Bound.

**† PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY**

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)

Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve, Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

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 Neil and Deb Zeller)

Kyle Zeller, Army – Ft. Hood TX (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)



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**ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., DEC 22, 2024**

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	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Randy Schroeder	Bob Ritchie
<b>Acolytes:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	Stan Chapulis <b>NEEDED</b>	Paul Walter Marcus Young Matthias McInaney
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Michele Sprengle	Laura Potter
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rosemary Knox
<b>Greeters:</b>	Nancy Thomas	Carrie Graham
<b>Readers:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	Carlyn Staudt
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: Karen Zahursky	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services: <b>NEEDED</b>	
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier	
<b>Sunday School</b>	9:45am: Carrie and Michele – Christmas Lesson	

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**ASSISTING IN CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24, 2024**

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	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Randy Schroeder
<b>Ushers:</b>	Paul Walter
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Stan Chapulis
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Jan Oswald and Virginia Jacobs
<b>Counters:</b>	Dave and Jan Oswald

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**ASSISTING IN CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25, 2024**

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	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	John Hazen
<b>Ushers:</b>	<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 Virginia Jacobs
<b>Counters:</b>	Dave and Jan Oswald

† **MILESTONES – Sunday, Dec. 22– Saturday, Dec. 28**

**BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:**

Brayson Pardue	Dec. 24	Frances Rippon	Dec. 28
Mae Smith	Dec. 28		

**BIRTHDAYS:**

Kim Driessner	Dec. 28
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**WEDDINGS:** None

**ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT, SUN., DEC 29, 2024**

	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Dave Oswald	Herb Hoefler
<b>Acolytes:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jim Eckart	Marcus Young
	<b>NEEDED</b>	Matthias McInaney
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Wanda Cassetty	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Greeters:</b>	Sheryl Maier	Riki Neagle
<b>Readers:</b>	Carlyn Staudt	Herb Hoefler
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: Debbie Rekdahl	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services: Kysa and Steven Schaefer	
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Bob and Elaina Ritchie	
<b>Sunday School</b>	9:45am: Carrie and Michele – Vol 8. Ep. 2	

**EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., DEC. 22 – SAT., DEC. 28**

<b>Sunday, Dec. 22</b>	8:30am	Worship
<b>ADVENT 4</b>	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	12:30pm	Christmas Caroling
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship with comm.
<b>Monday, Dec. 23</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 24</b>	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 25</b>	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship
<b>Thursday Dec. 26</b>		Office Closed
	6:00pm	<b>NO</b> Praise Team
	7:00pm	<b>NO</b> Choir Practice
<b>Friday, Dec. 27</b>	5:30pm	<b>NO</b> Confirmation

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**EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., DEC. 29 – SAT., DEC. 28**

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<b>Sunday, Dec. 29</b>	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:30pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
<b>Monday, Dec. 30</b>	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 31</b>	7:00pm	New Year's Eve Worship
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 1</b>		Office Closed
<b>Thursday Jan 2</b>	6:00pm	<b>NO</b> Praise Team
	7:00pm	<b>NO</b> Choir Practice
<b>Friday, Jan 3</b>	5:30pm	Confirmation

**† OFFERING ENVELOPES – BEGINS JANUARY 5, 2025**

The 2025 offering envelopes are in the narthex. They DO NOT have a number pre-printed on them. You will fill in ALL of the information on the envelopes that is asked for on the envelope each time you give. Your new number will be the same as your MAILBOX number. It will not change again!

If you give online, you will now use your mailbox number as the account number on your check. Please try to change that at your giving institute. If you cannot add the number to your online account, we can do it from this end, but if you can it is super helpful.

Please pick up a letter beside the envelopes to explain all the steps and reasons we handle your donations the way we do.

Thank you for your faithful gifts. You are making a difference at this church and in the kingdom of our great God!

# Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd 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.”*

The 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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