



“Take heart;
it is I.
Do not
be afraid.”

Matthew 14:27B

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”
Sunday, August 9, 2026

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 on the cup return table.*)

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 comulgar con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. (*Hay jugo de uva para quienes no toman alcohol. Las hostias sin gluten están en la mesa de devolución de copas.*)

+ PREPARATION +

THEME: “A GOOD VIEW”

AS WE GATHER: The only way a sinful human being can dare to approach and worship an almighty God is if we also know that He is a God of mercy. God’s mighty power is known from the vastness of His creation, the stars and seas, light and darkness, tempests and storms (Job 38). “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10). Yet we are told, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13). “Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you” (Isaiah 30:18). This “almighty and most merciful God” (Prayer of the Day) showed both His might and mercy when He became aware of His disciples’ peril on a storm-tossed sea. Walking on water wasn’t the point. It was the Lord’s coming to save us in our fear and distress (Matthew 14). As the catechism says of God’s commandments, “We should fear and love God.” We can trust the God who has harnessed His wrath with His love. Greater love has no one than the God who joined us in our misery, took our sin upon Himself, and died our death but now is risen to save us from every evil that threatens us or makes us afraid.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life’s fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.

Chorus

**He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.**

Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His Promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast. **(chorus)**

For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight,
When He comes at last! **(chorus twice)**

He Will Hold Me Fast, CCLI Song # 7016161 by Ada Ruth Habershon | Matthew Merker., © 2013 Getty Music Publishing; Matthew Merker Music, For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com, CCLI License # 759893

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 34:4-8 (ESV)

P I sought the Lord, and He answered me

C and delivered me from all my fears.

P Those who look to Him are radiant,

C and their faces shall never be ashamed.

P This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him

C and saved him out of all his troubles.

P The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him,

C and delivers them.

P Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

C **Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Matthew 14:33

P No doubt our needs are known by the God of mercy, chief of which is deliverance from sin and fear. Aware of our great need for forgiveness and faith, we cry out to our Creator and Redeemer.

C **Lord, save me from my little faith, my doubt, my fears, my sin. I come to You now because You have promised to come to me here with Your saving grasp of power and mercy. Forgive me of my sin and give me help and deliverance from all my fears, that I may worship You with a pure heart and say, “Truly You are the Son of God” and my Savior. Amen.**

P The Lord your God has brought you out from the slavery of sin with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm of mercy by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. By His own command I announce to you as a called and ordained servant of the Word: I forgive you all your sins. Peace be with you, in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of 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.

God of might and mercy, by Your mighty power save us from all disaster, and by Your tender mercy guard us from all evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

Job 38:4-18 (ESV)

⁴[The Lord said to Job:] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb,

⁹when I made clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed limits for it
and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.

¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 10:9-17 (ESV)

⁹Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. ¹³For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33 (ESV)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. ²³And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ²⁸And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER/LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"

LSB 715

- 1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.
- 2 As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.
- 3 When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me, Text: Edward Hopper, 1818–88, Text: Public domain

SERMON
"HE CAN"

Pr. Jim Sprenkle
Matthew 14:22-33

CREED (sung)

“We All Believe in One True God”

LSB 953

- △ 1 We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav’nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.
- 2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary’s son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.
- 3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

We All Believe in One True God, Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.,
Text: Public domain

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 whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people, according to their needs.

For the holy church throughout the world: that she always have confidence of divine help from the Lord and that her pastors and ministers be faithful in their proclamation of God’s mercy and grace for all people, serving her members with love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.

- G** Lord, have mercy.

P For all who cry out to God for deliverance and help: that their petitions be heard by the One who reaches out to all to rescue from danger and destruction, who can save by the grasp of His mighty hand of mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our country and all the nations of the world: that leaders seek the ways of peace and freedom for the welfare and prosperity of the people they are called to serve, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who are sick or suffering illness or injury, all who are in any trouble, those who are lonely or afraid, and especially those who are in need...that the Lord give strength, heal, and comfort all who call upon Him, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those celebrating the blessings of this life, that they rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for His goodness...May we live each day full of gratitude and be content with what we have, giving thanks to the Lord, our life and our joy, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, we give thanks to the Lord. That we may be included in the fellowship of the saints in heaven now by faith in the Son of God and at last by God's mercy and grace when He comes again in glory, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

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 13 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 +

“One Bread, One Body”

(Refrain)

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. **(refrain)**

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. **(refrain)**

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all. **(refrain)**

One Bread, One Body. Text and music © 1978, 1989 John B. Foley, S.J., and OCP. All rights reserved.
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“When Peace, like a River”

LSB 763

- 1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain

**Refrain It is well (It is well)
 with my soul, (with my soul),
 It is well, it is well with my soul.**

- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. **(refrain)**
- 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **(refrain)**

- 4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. **(refrain)**

When Peace, like a River, Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt., Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, our Father, we thank You for the redeeming power of the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and for the unending mercy with which You grant to us the remission of our sins and eternal life in Your kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- 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.)

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth’s lamentation.
I hear the real, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

**No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heav’n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It sounds and echoes in my soul;
How can I keep from singing? (refrain)

What, though my joys and comforts die,
the Lord, my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather 'round?
Songs in the night He giveth. (refrain)

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am His!
How can I keep from singing? (refrain)

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AUGUST 16, 2026

† DECONESS HANA BRANDT COMMISSIONING-TODAY

Ascension will host a service of commissioning and installation today at 3:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend. A reception will follow the service.

† LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The choice for our next Ladies Bible Study beginning Tuesday, September 8 at 2:00pm in the Community Room will be “God’s Relentless Love” by Sharla Fritz. Each session will have a short video that accompanies it. This is going to be a great study! Get your book right away from Amazon or Concordia Publishing House. If you cannot get online, please call Michele and she will help you get your book.

† HELPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

During the month of August, the Human Care board will be collecting kid-friendly foods such as peanut butter, tuna, macaroni and cheese, pasta, granola bars and cereal for Food 4 Families, which serves underprivileged families in the Centennial School District. Please join with us by donating kid friendly foods in one of the collection boxes under the coat rack in the Narthex.

† FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY – ALL CHURCH WORSHIP

Join us Sunday, August 30 at 10:30am for our annual all church worship! A potluck lunch will follow in the Community Room. The church will provide chicken, drinks and dinnerware for all. The congregation is invited to supply mains, salads, sides and desserts! Invite your friends and family and plan to join us for worship, fellowship, food, and fun at Ascension’s annual gathering. Remember just ONE service that day!

FOOD NEEDS:

Check out the list in the narthex to sign up for items to bring! If you cannot contribute, please do not let that keep you from coming.

† IRON MEN DEVOTION

All men are invited. Saturday, Aug. 29 at 8:00am.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Jaimie Bailey, Heather Gulde, Carolyn Shore, Mark (a friend of the Bryant's), Chenery Whittier's son (Aaryan), Diana (sister-in-law of Randy Bryant), Riki Neagle, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, *Larry Hart. *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 – Fort Riley Kansas (grandson of the Zeller's)

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	John Hazen
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis-1 NEEDED-2	Don Brown-1 Matthias McInaney-2
Audio/Visual:	Teresa Osgood	Jae Evans – (Michele Training)
PowerPoint:	Tom Osgood	Alex Hodges
Greeters:	Millie Edwards	Sue Lewis
Readers:	Joann Schulz	Carlyn Staudt
Altar Guild:	Both Services:	Virginia Jacobs
Flowers:	Both Services:	Virginia Jacobs
Counters:	Both Services:	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier
Sunday School:	Sunday School:	Carrie Graham and Michele Sprengle

ASSISTING NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Dave Oswald	Randy Schroeder
Ushers:	Mike Adams-1 John Aden-2	Randy Schroeder-1 Marcus Young-2
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	J. E. Knox
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rosemary Knox
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier	Esperanza Gutierrez Margaret Hubbard
Readers:	Sheryl Maier	Michele Sprengle
Altar Guild:	Both Services:	Jan Oswald
Flowers:	Both Services:	NEEDED
Counters:	Both Services:	Dave and Jan Oswald
Sunday School:	Sunday School:	Audrey and Gina

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN. AUG. 9 – SAT., AUG. 15

Sunday, Aug. 9	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	3:00pm	Hana Brandt Installation
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Aug. 10	1:00pm	Stewardship Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study at Christ the Vine
Tuesday, Aug. 11	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Thursday, Aug. 13	6:00pm	Praise Team

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., AUG. 16– SAT., AUG. 22

Sunday, Aug. 16	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Aug. 17	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study at Christ the Vine
Thursday, Aug. 20	6:00pm	Praise Team

MILESTONES – Sunday, Aug. 9 through Sat., Aug. 15

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Danny Graham Aug. 14

BIRTHDAYS:

Cindy Reinert Aug. 13

Elaine Miller Aug. 14

Seydi Moreno Aug. 14

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: None

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS

July General Fund Tithes	\$ 31,603
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July Expenses	\$ 31,363
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Difference	+ \$	240
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DEDICATED OFFERINGS

July Dedicated Offerings \$ 129

Attendance

Adult Ed: Sunday, August 2 **31**

Worship: Sunday, August 2 8:30am 50

11:00am 54

TOTAL = 104



1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Office Phone: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: 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

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor
pastor@alcportland.org

Rev. Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor
rubastinoek@yahoo.com

Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator
bdhall1982@yahoo.com

Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator
office@alcportland.org

Sheryl Maier, Treasurer
treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty,
Council Secretary
alccouncil1440@gmail.com

Laura Potter, Property Management
alcproperty1440@gmail.com