

This is
My Commandment,
Love

ONE ANOTHER
as I have
loved you.

John 15:12

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Sunday, August 25, 2024

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 2025

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.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “What’s a friend for?”

AS WE GATHER: Friendship is found in many parts of the Bible. When it is a godly friendship, it includes love, loyalty, and self-sacrifice. In 1 Samuel 18:1-5, we read about the deep connection between Jonathan and David. Jonathan shows how much he loves David by giving him his own royal clothing and armor, which demonstrates his humility and love. This theme is echoed in Colossians 3:12-14, where believers are called to “put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” True friendship involves compassion, kindness, humility, forgiveness, and reflecting Christ’s love. In John 15:12-17, Jesus defines the highest form of friendship, stating, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” Here, Jesus not only commands us to love one another as He has loved us but also lives out the ultimate sacrifice to die for our sins. At its best, friendship is like the love and connection that Jesus shows to us.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

From All That Dwell Below The Skies

(based on LSB 816)

Words by I. Watts/W. How, Music arr. J. Ringley

Barbara Conway, soloist

Glorify

Arr. Stan Pethel

Ensemble

Hymn Medley

Audrey Zeebuyth, violin; Barbara Conway, cello

WELCOME

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

LSB 803

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

△ Thou art giving and forgiving.
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are Thine.
Teach us how to love each other;
Lift us to the joy divine.

INVOCATION

P Friends, we have come to worship in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

P Dear Lord Jesus, we give You thanks today for the gift of friendship—especially with You. With hearts uplifted we would proclaim the words of the hymn...“Jesus! What a friend for sinners. Jesus! Lover of my soul...Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend! Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.” For, indeed, Jesus, You are the friend who sticks closer than a brother. You are the friend who made Yourself our servant in life that You might make us Your friends for eternity. You are the friend who laid down Your life on the cross that You might lift ours up in glory.

Lord, we thank You for the treasure of our earthly friendships and for our family in Christ here at Ascension. We pray that You would help us to go into the world to share Your gifts of forgiveness, life, salvation and an eternal friendship that is priceless. “Oh, what a friend we have in Jesus.”

C Amen!

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Claire Zeebuyth and Lily Hodges, Duo

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS OF SINS

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, one of the truths we know is that true friends do not support their friends when they do things that are harmful to themselves or destructive to others. God, as our true and best Friend, confronts us with this truth.

(A moment of silence for reflection on God’s Word and self-examination.)

C Merciful God, by our many sins we have been destructive to ourselves. We have been less than friendly to others. We have been hurt by the unfriendly behavior of others. Our friendships seem so fragile. Help us, as Your children, to put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony, that we may live in friendship filled with compassion, kindness, humility, forgiveness, and so reflect Christ’s love.

P God’s friendship to us is not fragile. It is a strong bond of unfailing love to us in Jesus Christ. By Jesus’ death and resurrection, He forgives us all of our sins against Him and toward those around us. 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.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, all good friendship simply comes back to You. Only Your true gospel gives us the kind of friendship for which we long—for which we have been made. We praise You for calling us and making us Your friends—for this life and the life to come. May we increasingly offer one another a taste of the friendship we have only in You, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are worshiped and glorified.

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

1 Samuel 18:1-5 (ESV)

¹ As soon as [David] had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ² And Saul took [David] that day and would not let him return to his father’s house. ³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴ And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

⁵ And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:12-17 (ESV)

¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER AND LOVE-IN-ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

Friendship With Jesus

A friend of Jesus! Oh, what bliss
That one so weak as I
Should ever have a friend like this
To lead me to the sky!

**Refrain: Friendship with Jesus!
Fellowship divine!
O what blessed, sweet communion!
Jesus is a friend of mine.**

A friend when other friendships cease,
A friend when others fail,
A friend who gives me joy and peace,
A friend who will prevail! **(refrain)**

A friend to lead me in the dark,
A friend who knows the way;
A friend to cleanse my sinful heart,
A friend my debts to pay. **(refrain)**

A friend when sickness lays me low,
A friend when death draws near,
A friend as through the vale I go,
A friend to help and cheer! **(refrain)**

A friend when life's rough voyage is o'er,
A friend when death is past,
A friend to greet on Heaven's shore,
A friend when home at last! **(refrain)**

SERMON
"DRESSING UP"

Pastor Jim Sprenkle
Colossians 3:12-17

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.)

A Trumpet Chorale

Attr. J.S. Bach, arr. F.T. Simpson

Handbell Choir

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P We are grateful, Lord, for Your friendship all the days of our lives. You have remained faithful at all times. You have renewed Your friendship with us again and again through Your word of forgiveness. Continue to keep us in Your friendship and with one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We thank You, Lord, for all the friends that have graced our lives through the years and who befriend us now. We pray that we might be trustworthy and faithful to those around us. Bless us as we share our faith in Christ together so our times of joy may be doubled and our times of sorrow diminished. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bless us, Lord, so we may model friendship in a world that so desperately needs connection. Bless the church in all its efforts to proclaim Christ as the Friend of all sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We ask Your blessings, Lord, upon all who are ill, those who mourn, and those for whom life is very difficult...May they be encouraged by Your faithfulness and ours. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We thank You, Lord, for Your gifts being celebrated this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Hear our prayers we pray, Lord Jesus, our precious Savior.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

**Our Father, which 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 debts
As we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

P A friend loves at all times,
C **and a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)**

P This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

C **Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:12-13)**

- P** And above all these put on love,
C **which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**
(Colossians 3:14)

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

- 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

(Please read the FYI for additional announcements and information.)

Brothers And Sisters In Christ

Sing Alleluia! Amen!
Let your prayers and your praises ascend.
Lift up your voices and sing
to our Lord God, our Savior and King!
Here brought together by grace,
we are gathered as friends in this place.

Refrain

**And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,
Lifting hearts, lifting hands, celebrating as friends,
And proclaiming the Lord, all our praises afford.
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Man walked alone and in need,
without faith, hope or promise or creed;
Wandering aimlessly lost
unaware of the staggering cost;
That God in His mercy would save
all His people from death and the grave. **(refrain)**

Lord, teach us how to proclaim
all Your goodness, Your love and Your name!
Lord, teach us how to forgive,
and in love, teach us Lord, how to live.
Raising our voices in song,
help us tell all the world we belong. **(refrain)**

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ." Words and music by Terry K. Dittmer. Copyright (c) 1983 by the author. Used with permission.

DISMISSAL

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AUGUST 25, 2024

† CHOIR IS BEGINNING SOON!

Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, August 29th at 7pm and continue each Thursday night through May. If you enjoy great fellowship and God's gift of singing, then please join us as we lift our voices to God in song!

† THE CHOSEN SEASON 4

The next watch party for episode 4 is on Saturday, Sept. 14 beginning at 10:30am.

† SAVE THE DATE LWML – SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Ladies of the Congregation and their guests are invited to attend an LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) planning meeting on Saturday, Aug. 31, in the Community Room from 10:00am-12:00pm. This casual meeting will include opening Devotion, prayer, and sharing ideas about the Mt. Hood Fall Zone Gathering to be hosted at Ascension this year. We will also talk about the theme and fundraiser for this year's LWML Sunday: "Ready to Serve" *Luke 1:38*

† THE LUTHERAN CHORAL ASSOCIATION

Performances continue this fall beginning Sept. 15 through Oct. 6. Looking ahead, there will be a Christmas/Epiphany concert on January 5, 2025.

The large ecumenical choir has members from dozens of churches and several denominations and has sung since 1938. Sue Thompson Armentrout directs the choir with pianist Karl Jurisons. There is no admission charge. A free-will offering will be taken.

The repertoire is broad, with music from traditional choral to down-home gospel, and tender to majestic, with a variety of talented composers.

† LWML MISSIONS

Want to take part in a gift of love to those all around the world? You can give to "Quilts Around the World". Donate any size fabric to this mission, all kinds are accepted, sheets too! Call Carolyn Gordon (503-674-6713) if you wish to contribute.

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Please e-mail: office@alcportland.org or call (leave a message if no one is here) 503-665-8821

† PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

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

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy – Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii (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 (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)

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

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Mike Fogarty, The Family of Carolyn Barendse, Karla Deal, The family of Bob Rekdahl, Jan Galberth, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Herb and Carol Hofer, Mae Smith, Gertrud Bublies, Alma Bangs, Marcia Bryant's relative (Ron), Kaye Beaulieu's Brother (Dick), Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), Mel Haggard, The Family of Mike Hatley, Esperanza Gutierrez' mother (Antonia), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Lorraine Haggard. *Home Bound.

† MILESTONES - SUNDAY, AUG. 25, – SATURDAY, AUG. 31

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS: None

BIRTHDAYS:

Andrew Freeman	Aug. 25	Bob Ritchie	Aug. 25
Randy Schroeder	Aug. 27	Carlyn Staudt	Aug. 27
Chad Zeebueth	Aug. 27	Brooklyn Spencer	Aug. 28

WEDDINGS: None

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., AUGUST 25 – SAT., AUG. 31

Sunday, Aug. 25	10:30am	Friendship Sunday
	12:00pm	Potluck Luncheon
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship w/ Communion
Wednesday, Aug. 28	11:30am	Watercolor Painting Class
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Aug. 29	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Begins!
Friday, Aug. 30	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Youth Group
Saturday, Aug. 31	10:00am	LWML Planning Meeting

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., SEPT. 1 – SAT., SEPT 7

Sunday, Sept. 1	10:30am	Friendship Sunday
	12:00pm	Potluck Luncheon
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Sept. 2	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 3	11:30am	Watercolor Painting Class
Wednesday, Sept. 4	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Sept. 5	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, Sept. 6	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Youth Group

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., AUGUST 25, 2024

	10:30am	
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	
Acolytes:	Caleb Zeebuyth	
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis Mike Adams	
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier Nancy Thomas	
Readers:	Bonnie Webber	
Altar Guild:	Wendy Hazen	
Flowers:	Wendy and John Hazen	
Counters:	Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson	
Sunday School	NO Sunday School	

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT, SUN., SEPT. 1, 2024

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Herb Hoefler
Acolytes:	NEEDED	NEEDED
Ushers:	Mike Adams John Aden Stan Chapulis	Bob Freeman Neil Zeller
	NEEDED	
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	John Hazen

PowerPoint: Jenny Schuldheisz Michele Sprengle
Greeters: Margo Bachhuber Christina Freeman
Elizabeth Alvarado
Readers: Randy Schroeder J. E. Knox
Altar Guild: Both Services: Barb Cochran
Flowers: Both Services: Noonan
Counters: Both Services: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier
Sunday School 9:45am: Carrie and Michele

Ascension Lutheran Church

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.

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