



... Your light shall rise
in the darkness and
your gloom as the noonday.

And

the LORD
will guide
you
continually.

Isaiah 58:10-11 (ESV)

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”

Sunday, Feb 8, 2026

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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: “WHY DO CHRISTIANS FAST?”

AS WE GATHER: In the stewardship hymn “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness,” author William Watkins Reid Sr. includes the thoughtful line “Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast” (*LSB* 788:5). The text, written in 1965, reflected a growing understanding of the need for service in Jesus’ name by all who had received His blessing. In the concluding stanza of the hymn, he also writes, “May thankfulness be days in service spent, reflection of Christ’s life and love and light.” In this Epiphany season, when we celebrate the radiantly expanding light of Christ, we are directed to find new ways to reflect that light into all the areas of our life. Paul says it simply and directly: “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone” (Galatians 6:10). Those opportunities are just waiting for us!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

“Rise, Shine, You People”

LSB 825



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.



Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
To all the world go out and tell the
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

“Rise, Shine, You People”, Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939–2021, alt., Tune: Dale Wood, 1934–2003,
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INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 66:1–3a, 4, 8; 40:5a; 111:3

P Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

C sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

- P** Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!
- C** **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”**
- P** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard.
- C** **You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!**
- P** Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
- C** **and His righteousness endures forever.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy. Humble yourselves, then, before God; confess your sins to Him and implore His forgiveness.
- C** **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed, I have continually transgressed Your Law. Too often I have sought the easy road of ignoring the needs of others and considered only myself and my wants. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**
- P** God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** As you believe, so let it be. 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.

Almighty God, You called us out of darkness into light so that we will show forth Your praise in all the world. Direct the discipline of our devotion to Jesus, our radiant King, as we live out our lives day by day to reflect Your glory through the working of the Holy Spirit in us; 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

Isaiah 58:3-11 (ESV)

³“Why have we fasted, and You see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and You take no knowledge of it?” Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’”

If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, ¹⁰ if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. ¹¹ And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 2:11b-16 (ESV)

^{11b} So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20 (ESV)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYERS AND LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

“Shine On Us”

Lord, let Your light,
Light of Your face shine on us.
Lord, let Your light,
Light of Your face shine on us.
That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night,
Let Your light shine on us.

Lord, let Your grace,
Grace from Your hand fall on us.
Lord, let Your grace,
Grace from Your hand fall on us.
That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night,
Let Your grace fall on us.

Lord, let Your love,
Love with no end come over us.
Lord let Your love,
Love with no end come over us.

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night,
Let Your love come over us,
Let Your light shine on us.

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SERMON **"A SPIRIT LED APPROACH"**

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Isaiah 58:3-11

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.)

"Blest Are They"

(11:00)

Words and music by David Haas
Ascension Choir

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Adult Confirmation

Karen Andreassen, Walt Driscoll, John Durocher, Jesse Reynolds,

Affirmation of Faith

Bob Freeman, Christina Freeman

Transfer

Wendy Colley, Myles Williams

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Give counsel and aid, O Lord, for Your people cry to You in weakness and in need. Bless and prosper Your Church according to Your purpose, that she may be salt and light, giving bold witness to the redemption You have provided in Jesus Christ and giving shape to Your love by showing compassion to all in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

- P** Bless our Synod, her congregations and schools, her pastors, teachers, deaconesses, musicians and all her faithful servants. Bless all preparations for the coming convention this summer, especially those gathering nominations for elected office. Send laborers into Your harvest and sustain those whom You have sent, that they may be faithful and steadfast in their work. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

- P** O God, give Your blessing to our homes, to husbands and wives, to the children in their care, and to extended family. Guide us to serve each other in love. Make our homes places of blessing and peace where Your Word is spoken, forgiveness is shown and love is demonstrated in word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

P Merciful Lord, give healing to the sick, relief to the suffering, comfort to the grieving and peace to the dying...According to Your will, deliver them from their afflictions, sustain them in their struggles and give them patience in their adversities. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Thank You, Lord, for Your goodness in giving us life, relationships and other joys to celebrate. We give thanks today for...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things we pray, O Lord, in confidence of Your mercy. Supply us with all things needed and beneficial to us and to our faith, and keep from us all things harmful, that we may rest our fears in You and be granted a clear conscience and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 15 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 SONGS +

“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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"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

LSB 411

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

**Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. **(refrain)**
- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **(refrain)**

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light". Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934–2025, Text: © 1970, 1975
Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we bless You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same; help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may grow daily and reach out with Your love in every situation. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

“God Is Light”

(tune: God Of Grace And God Of Glory – *CWM RHONDDA*)

God is light. We all can know Him.
All can see His face in Christ,
In His voice hear heaven's wisdom,
See God smile in human eyes,
Feel His power, taste His mercy,
Find a love that bleeds and dies,
Find a love that bleeds and dies.

God is light. We share His glory
And we live and love in Him.
We can walk in holy freedom
As He lives and grows within.
Lay aside your deeds of darkness.
Let eternal day begin!
Let eternal day begin!

God is light. Display His beauty!
Live a kindness all divine.
Prove His grace to all around you.
Love is still His seal and sign.
Share forgiveness. Show compassion.
Live His goodness! Let it shine!
Live His goodness! Let it shine!

“God Is Light”, Words by Ken Bible. © 2009 by LNWhymns.com. CCLI Song #5651913.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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† WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This week at 2:00pm, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, join us for lesson 4. See you then!

† LIFE SUNDAY AND AVA HEALTH DONATIONS

Sunday, Feb. 15 is Life Sunday, a special opportunity for our congregation to celebrate, honor, and support the precious gift of life. Through Feb. 15 the Human Care Board is inviting the congregation to give to Ava Health. Clothing and diapers sized newborn through 2 years are needed or give your monetary donation placed in the offering place marked "AVA HEALTH" in the *for* line.

† ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us for the Ash Wednesday Services on Wednesday Feb. 18 at 3:30 or 7:00pm. This is the kickoff of our Lenten Season.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The family of Barbara Schrader, The family of Jerry Bangs, The family of Mike Fogarty, Regan, Diane and 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, *Larry Hart, *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)

Attendance

Sunday, Feb. 1	8:30am	62
	11:00am	50
TOTAL		112

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS

January General Fund Tithes	\$ 34,088.50
January Expenses	<u>\$ 32,616.80</u>
Difference	+ \$ 1,471.70

DEDICATED OFFERINGS

<i>January Dedicated Offerings</i>	<i>\$ 1,916.83</i>
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ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., FEB. 8, 2026

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	Randy Schroeder
Ushers:	Jim Eckart Stan Chapulis	Matthias McInaney John Aden
Audio/Visual:	Teresa Osgood	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Tom Osgood	Michele Sprengle
Greeters:	Millie Edwards	Riki Neagle
Readers:	Joann Schulz	Mark Wheeler
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Virginia Jacobs	
Flowers:	Both Services: Sheryl Maier	
Counters:	Both Services: Lottie Guericke and Stan Chapulis	
Sunday School:	Katherine and Cynthia – Unit 2, Lesson 9	

ASSISTING NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Dave Oswald	John Hazen
Ushers:	Duke Sheppard Bryant Sheppard	Bob Freeman James Freeman
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	J. E. Knox
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	Rosemary Knox
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier	Margaret Hubbard Esperanza Gutierrez
Readers:	Sheryl Maier	Caleb Zeebuyth
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Debbie Rekdahl	
Flowers:	Both Services: Klara Schmidt	
Counters:	Both Services: Dave and Jan Oswald	
Sunday School:	Carrie and Michele – Unit 2, Lesson 10	

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., FEB. 8–SAT., FEB. 14, 2026

Sunday, Feb. 8	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship w/ Communion-New Member Welcome
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Feb. 9	1:00pm	Stewardship Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study at Beautiful Savior
Tuesday, Feb. 10	2:00pm	Women's Bible Study Lesson 4
	2:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 12	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, Feb. 13	6:30pm	Youth and Family Night

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., FEB. 15–SAT., FEB. 21, 2026

Sunday, Feb. 15 LIFE SUNDAY	8:30am	Worship w/ Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Feb. 16	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study at Beautiful Savior
Tuesday, Feb. 17	2:30pm	Confirmation
Wednesday, Feb. 18	3:30pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday, Feb. 19	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice

MILESTONES – Sunday, Feb. 8 through Sat., Feb. 14

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Neil Zeller Feb. 8

BIRTHDAYS:

Bryant Sheppard	Feb. 8	Eli Deal	Feb. 9
Sharon Stanley	Feb. 9	Christina Freeman	Feb. 12
Virginia Jacobs	Feb. 12		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

John and Carolyn Haase Feb. 14, 1970



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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.”

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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